Greenville Public Schools
Bond Proposal Frequently Asked Questions
Vote Date: November 7, 2017

1. Why is there a need for a bond proposal now?

Teaching and learning look much different today than when our buildings were constructed and renovated. Diverse student instructional needs have expanded and can be better supported with physical and academic environments that inspire 21st century learning.

This new proposal focuses on three key, district-wide areas: SAFETY, RIGOR, RELEVANCE

- **SAFETY** - By providing additional parking, safer parent and bus drop-off areas and upgrading secure building entrances.
- **RIGOR** - By preparing our students for both continuing education and the workplace in an ever-changing and diverse world through focused problem-based learning. New furnishings and new collaborative workspaces will help build upon the current skill base and allow students to be more competitive in the world of work.
- **RELEVANCE** - By providing upgraded facilities and equipment that add more real life skill-based programs focused on 21st century skills and experiences that support our community and set our students up for long term success.

In the fall of 2016, the Board of Education approved a District Strategic Plan, identifying our Mission (why we exist), our Core Values (how we serve) and our Identity (who we are). Following the Strategic Plan, the District embarked on a facilities assessment process. All buildings and sites were evaluated, providing both a snapshot of the District’s current facility needs and a look forward to the District’s anticipated needs.

This past May, over 3,400 residents turned out to vote on a school bond proposal. Though the proposal failed, we thank you for the valuable feedback received following the election. The Board of Education has carefully reviewed community feedback, and has drafted a revised smaller proposal that if approved by voters, would improve all school buildings and impact every student.

GPS operates four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. The middle school is the District’s most modern facility, having been built in 1976. All other GPS buildings were originally constructed over 50 years ago, with the most recent additions and other renovations occurring 20 years ago or more. The State of Michigan defines the useful life of a school building at 40 years. Our school building original construction dates are as follows:

- Baldwin Heights Elementary, built in 1949 (68 years old)
- Cedar Crest Elementary, built in 1949 (68 years old)
- Lincoln Heights Elementary, built in 1960 (57 years old)
- Walnut Hills Elementary, built in 1952 (65 years old)
- Greenville Middle School, built in 1976 (41 years old)
- Greenville High School, built in 1960 (57 years old)

Building specific project listings and renderings are on display at each school and online at [www.greenville.k12.mi.us](http://www.greenville.k12.mi.us).
2. How will the bond impact student learning?

Additional skill-based programs in the areas of Robotics, Construction, HVAC and Electrical along with upgrading the current Welding, Machinery and Construction programs will help train students for the world of work, especially in the skilled trades area.

New technology and infrastructure will enable students and staff to have easy access to innovative learning opportunities with updated equipment.

Renovated science labs will bring real life experiences to students, which will enable them to be engaged in more relevant learning that ties to this field of work.

Newly created collaborative learning areas will enable students to have more space for group work, collaborative learning and will shift learning from “sit and get” to “explore and engage”.

New classroom furniture will enable teachers to provide instruction that focuses on active learning and is proven to have a positive impact on student engagement. Instruction will focus on problem-based learning, collaborative learning, innovation and creativity. It will also allow for flexibility of classroom configuration and movement for individual students.

3. What safety improvements will we see with this bond?

- Improved drop-off areas and traffic flow to the schools with new parent and bus pick-up areas for Baldwin Heights, Walnut Hills, Cedar Crest and Lincoln Heights
- Secure entry for Cedar Crest
- Additional parking added at all elementary buildings
- Reduced energy usage through upgraded mechanical systems including lighting, heating and cooling systems
- Additional security cameras in all buildings
- Infrastructure upgrades in order to satisfy safety codes
- Playground equipment and surface improvements for accessibility and safety

4. How is this proposal different from the last bond proposal?

After listening to our community through individual conversations, key communicator meetings and a post-bond survey, we made several adjustments to the bond proposal:

- Reduced the scope of the bond by 11.2%, from $52.3M to $46.4M
- Reduced the millage from an approximate 1.4 mill increase to an approximate 1.2 mill increase
- Reduced the years of the bonds from 30 years to 20 years
- Eliminated new buses
- Eliminated track resurfacing
- Reduced the amount allocated to performing arts center
- Eliminated office relocations at Walnut Hills and Lincoln Heights
- Reduced the mechanical work at the High School

5. How was the community given an opportunity to provide input into the development of this bond proposal?

- Strategic Plan
- Post Bond Survey following the May 2017 Election
- Key Communicator Meetings
- Over 10 Public Informational Forums
6. Doesn’t another bond proposal just add to the length of time it takes to repay current debt from previous bond proposals? What about the refinancing of bonds that has been done in the last year?

All current bond debt must be paid off by 2031 according to state law. If the voters approve this bond proposal on November 7, it would have to be paid off by 2038. The refinancing of current bond debt does not lengthen the repayment schedule. It simply reduces the amount of interest on the debt, providing savings to taxpayers over the term of the repayment.

7. How can funds from a “Bond Proposal” be spent?

A “Bond Proposal” is how a public school district borrows money for capital expenditures by selling bonds. Proceeds can be spent on new construction, additions, remodeling, site improvements, athletic facilities, playgrounds, buses, furnishings, equipment and technology. Funds raised through the sale of voter-approved bond proposals cannot be used to support operational expenses such as employee salaries and benefits, school supplies, and textbooks.

8. How much money would the proposed bond generate?

If approved, this bond proposal would generate $46,440,000. These dollars would be spent gradually over the course of four years to provide for the continuing needs of our schools.

9. How will the bond proposal impact my homeowner property taxes?

It is projected that the debt tax rate would increase by approximately 1.2 mills. This equals approximately an additional $60 per year for each $100,000 in market value of your home.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MARKET VALUE</th>
<th>TAXABLE VALUE (1)</th>
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<th>MONTHLY TAX INCREASE</th>
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Greenville Public Schools / Counties of Montcalm, Kent and Ionia, State of Michigan November 2017 Bond Vote Estimated Change in Annual Tax Bill Calculation. (1) Approximately half of market value.

10. Is there a tax calculator that I can use to calculate the impact on my personal homeowners property taxes?

Yes. There is an on-line calculator available on the GPS District website at: www.greenville.k12.mi.us Click on Bond Proposal – Nov 2017 under Quick Links or under the District Tab.

11. Where can I find more information about this bond proposal?

- Visit the Greenville Public Schools website at www.greenville.k12.mi.us
- Like Greenville Public Schools on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GPSJackets
- Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/GPSJackets
- Attend an upcoming Public Information Forum
  - Monday, October 16, 2017 at 5:45pm
    Cedar Crest Elementary (622 S Cedar Street)
  - Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 9:00am
    Coffee with Superintendent Big Boy Restaurant (1500 W Washington)
12. How does the Greenville millage rate compare to other area school districts?

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<th>SCHOOL DISTRICT</th>
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13. Where and when will the vote occur?

Registered voters may cast a ballot at the polling location established by their city/township. If you have questions or do not know where you vote, please contact your city/township office. The election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Polls will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm.

14. Who can vote? When is the voter registration deadline?

Anyone over the age of 18 that lives within the Greenville Public School District can vote on November 7, 2017, if they are a registered voter. The voter registration deadline was October 10, 2017 for this upcoming election on November 7, 2017.

15. How is an absentee ballot obtained?

Absentee ballots are available to any registered voter who will be out of town on the day of the election, is physically unable to go to the polls, or is 60 years of age or older. Registered voters must complete and submit an application for an absentee ballot. Applications are available from your city/township office. You also may obtain an application online at www.mi.gov/sos. Click “Elections in Michigan” on the left side menu, and then click on “Information for Voters”. Absentee ballots are available through November 4, 2017.
16. If I rent a house, can I vote?  How will my taxes increase if I rent a house?

Yes, if you rent a house you can still vote. You do need to be a registered voter in the township you are living in. The millage is based on property taxes. As a renter, unless you are responsible for covering the property taxes, your taxes would not increase.

17. When will the construction take place?

The election will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. If passed, a portion of building construction would begin the summer of 2018 with some technology and classroom furniture coming during the 2017-2018 school year. We anticipate that it will take four summers to complete all of the renovations.

18. What improvements are being made to each building?

Please visit the district website (www.greenville.k12.mi.us) for lists and graphics of proposed building improvements. Click on Bond Proposal – Nov 2017 under Quick Links or under the District Tab.

19. Will money from the bond proposal be used to pay teachers’ salaries and benefits?

No. School districts are not allowed to use funds from a bond for operating expenses such as teacher, administrator or employee salaries, maintenance, or operating costs. Bond revenue must be kept separate from operating funds and must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

20. Given that the useful life of many digital devices is short, how is the cost of technology a bondable expense with a 20 year bond duration?

The laws that oversee the issuance of bonds by school districts require that shorter-life equipment, such as computers, will be paid off first. Under the proposed bond, payments are structured so that technology is paid off within five (5) years.

21. How will I know the funds will be spent the way they are supposed to be spent?

In the bond application it is clearly stated that (Pursuant to State Law), expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses. The submitted bond application was carefully reviewed by the Michigan State Treasury so the project must follow what is outlined in the application. An audit will be completed by the Treasury at the end of the project to ensure compliance.

22. Will the passing of the bond proposal have any impact on our current operational budget?

While funding from this bond proposal is independent of support the District receives from the State of Michigan for annual operations on a per pupil basis, the bond would have a positive impact on the annual operating budget. It would allow the District to reallocate operating funds that are currently being spent on aging facilities, mechanical systems and technology. The savings generated from new and cost efficient facilities will be redirected to student programs and resources.

23. What happens if the bond proposal is not approved by voters?

We will re-evaluate the proposal and seek additional input from the community for the next step. The District feels these are critical needs for our schools and students and will continue to look for ways to secure the necessary funding.
24. Where will the students go to school during the construction phase?

We are working carefully to lay out a plan for our students during the construction. We plan to address schedules, shared staff, and coordinate instructional spaces to assure the least amount of disruption as possible.

25. What are the key dates leading up to the November 7, 2017 vote?

- Absentee Voting: Contact your precinct; absent voter ballots are available until November 4, 2017.
- Vote Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017; polls will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm

Questions:
If you have additional questions, please contact Linda Van Houten, Superintendent at (616) 754-3686 or by email at vanhoutl@greenville.k12.mi.us.