

TRANSCRIPT OF OKEMOS PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL VIDEO

SLIDE 1

On May 7th, voters in the Okemos community will have the opportunity to decide on a comprehensive bond proposal. The following presentation provides community members with background information on the process used to develop the bond proposal, as well as details to what is included in the proposal so our citizens can make an informed decision this May.

SLIDE 2

In 2017, the Okemos public schools began an extensive and collaborative process to assess the current technology, security, capital outlay, transportation and facility needs throughout our district.

Two committees established by the superintendent and consisting of community members, parents, and staff, and the district's leadership council worked to identify specific needs across our district.

This two-year process included gathering data and feedback, community building tours, a community forum, public presentations and administrative and board discussions, resulting in the superintendent's recommendation to the Board of Education which was adopted last fall. In February of 2019, the Board of Education voted to call for an election resulting in this proposal for consideration by our voters.

SLIDE 3

As a result of the aforementioned process, a comprehensive listing of needs across our district was developed by the superintendent and shared with the Board of Education. District needs were identified as level 1 – level 2 and level 3, with those at level 1 being identified as the district's highest priorities. The Board of Education approved the superintendent's recommendation that moved forward only the highest priority needs of the district, totaling 24.9 million dollars.

If voters approve this ballot initiative, it would allow the district to meet needs through a bond, preserving the district's general fund for student programming. The next slides detail each area in the chart above so voters have an understanding of our highest priority needs.

SLIDE 4

The transportation area of the bond includes the purchase of 13 new school buses over the next five years, which would allow the district to gradually replace our aging bus fleet, as well as add new routes due to increasing student enrollments.

SLIDE 5

Security upgrades identified in the bond would increase security measures and replace aging systems across our schools. The highest priority security needs identified include additional electronic locks, cameras, radio communications, lighting, replacement of a police notification system, improvements to building public address systems as well as the purchase of barrier window film for external and internal windows that, when installed, inhibit entry through windows into our facilities.

SLIDE 6

Across Okemos, students utilize classroom technology daily, accessing instructional content to connect, create and innovate.

Classroom technology, technology directly connected to classrooms and student learning, accounts for nearly 2/3rd of the technology purchases in the bond proposal and includes the purchase of new devices for every student, and funding replacements for classroom technology like smartboards, projectors, document cameras and audio amplification systems when these items fail.

Replacement and upgrades to existing technology infrastructure identified in the proposal would secure our system, increase connectivity and improve access.

In addition, other technology related needs were identified to secure, monitor and maintain our bus garage and fleet, to replace aging portions of our auditoriums sounds and lighting systems, to replace athletic score boards, and school building's internal school clocks.

The Meridian Senior Center and Community Education would receive technology replacements and upgrades as a part of the bond proposal as well.

SLIDE 7

Air conditioning is another area of highest priority need addressed in the bond proposal. The installation of air conditioning would allow for better control of indoor temperature and humidity levels, which on hot days, impact student learning and engagement.

Currently, only the students attending Bennett Woods, Kinawa, and Okemos High School learn in air conditioned environments, whereas students that attend Central, Cornell, Hiawatha, and Edgewood do not learn in air conditioned environments. At Chippewa, some areas are air conditioned, and others, like the fine arts wing and science areas are not.

Providing air conditioned learning environments in all our classrooms across all of our schools, increases equity across learning environments for all students.

SLIDE 8

The bond proposal has a wide variety of facilities upgrades and renovations that would impact buildings across our district, and includes remodeling common area bathrooms, replacement of school fire alarm systems, replacement of CFL lighting fixtures with efficient LED lighting fixtures, development of improved traffic flow and parking lots at Cornell and Bennett Woods, reconstructing middle school tennis courts, adding storage and practice rooms for the fine arts program at Okemos High School, and the excavation of underground fuel tank with above ground replacements for our Transportation Department.

The district has estimated that installation of LED lighting would create an energy savings of an estimated \$80,000-100,000 per year.

SLIDE 9

Capital outlay budgets were significantly reduced in prior years during budget cuts resulting in many high priority needs across the district. Updating decades old furniture would allow for the creation of flexible learning environments where classroom space can be altered to meet the specific needs of our students, increasing levels of interaction and engagement.

A wide range of high priority needs identified across music and athletics are also included in the bond proposal— including the purchase of new musical instruments and athletic equipment, instrument storage lockers, and a concert shell at Chippewa.

For a detailed listing, please visit our website at www.okemosk12.net and look for the Bond Proposal link.

SLIDE 10

Since 2011-12, enrollments in our district have increased by over 550 students, resulting in high priority capacity needs at the elementary level.

To accommodate immediate enrollments and increase capacity at our elementary schools, four classrooms and one “special” or multi-purpose room would be added to Bennett Woods.

While immediate enrollments do not support a need for a whole additional elementary school, the Board of Education directed administration that should enrollments continue to increase significantly over time that the district engage in systematic, comprehensive and a transparent process that includes the collection of data, review of research, consideration of grade level reconfigurations, investigation of reopening Wardcliff, repurposing Edgewood, building a new school on a new or existing property, and adding additional classrooms to current facilities, and the development of models and challenges associated with each.

SLIDE 11

Property owners within Okemos have a local debt millage rate of 7 mills. This chart illustrates debt millage rates across area districts in 2017-18. Of the 14 different debt rates listed, Okemos property owners have the 4th lowest debt millage rate.

SLIDE 12

Estimated debt levy analysis shows that Okemos property owners would pay 7.0 mills through 2020-21 regardless of the outcome of this bond issue, as noted in the blue. If voters approve the bond proposal, in green, Okemos property owners would maintain 7 mills an additional three years while also extending the term of debt levy for 3 years.

SLIDE 13

For information on how to register to vote, identify your polling location, or to view the ballot proposal beforehand, please visit Michigan.gov/vote.

Please vote on May 7, 2019! Polls are open from 7am until 8pm.

SLIDE 14

If you have questions about the bond we encourage you to visit our website at www.okemosk12.net or email us at bond@okemosk12.net. Frequently asked questions and responses will be added to our website.

Thank you for your time! And remember to vote May 7th!