

## Ballot Proposal: May 7, 2019

Since October, 2017, the Okemos Public Schools has been engaging in an extensive and collaborative process to assess the current technology, security, facility and transportation needs throughout the district. In February of 2018, the superintendent presented a recommendation to the Board of Education that reflected the analysis and vision of the Technology, Security, Capital Outlay and Transportation Committee. The recommendation to the board included:

- **Capital Outlay** - Promote capital outlay purchases that will allow/promote flexible learning environments.
- **Personal Learning Devices** - Continue with district-provided personal learning devices for all K-12 students.
- **Transportation** - Purchase a total of thirteen (13) buses. This includes adding two (2) buses to our fleet and replacing eleven (11) buses over five years.
- **Air Conditioning** - Add air conditioning to locations where it doesn't currently exist. (Includes: Okemos Public Montessori at Central, Cornell Elementary, Hiawatha Elementary, Edgewood Early Childhood Center, Chippewa 7-8 School's fine arts wing and science area)
- **Purchases and Upgrades** - Purchase technology, security, capital outlay and other facility upgrades/renovations\* that represent areas of critical need.

*\*Note: Some of the critical facility upgrades/renovations were identified by the district's Leadership Council and presented to the Board in October, 2018.*

In October, 2018, the superintendent presented a recommendation to the Board of Education that reflected the further analysis and vision of the Facility Use/Site Committee (Part 2). The recommendation to the board included:

- **Elementary Capacity\*** – Add four classrooms and one specials classroom to Bennett Woods Elementary School to address elementary capacity issues.

*\*Note: Okemos Public Schools does not need to add a K-4 school to accommodate enrollments. Adding classrooms at an existing school, with minimal redistricting, allows the district to efficiently and effectively react to current enrollment trends over time.*

- **District Focus 2021 and Beyond**

Should enrollments continue to increase significantly over time, it is recommended that the district engage in a systematic, comprehensive, transparent and inclusive process that includes:

- Data collection – enrollment trends, neighborhood composition (children), other
- Review of research – educational programming and impacts
- Consider the following in the comprehensive analysis (not in priority order):
  - Grade level configurations
  - Build a new school - Powell Rd. property; Wardcliff property
  - Reopen Wardcliff
  - Repurpose Edgewood
  - Add additional classrooms to existing buildings
  - Make additional renovations to existing buildings

- Other
  - Develop models: assigning neighborhoods; consider various grade level configurations
  - Develop positives, challenges and associated costs
  - Engage in community conversations: educate and seek feedback

After considering the work of the committees, the superintendent’s recommendation, public feedback and the funding required to address these critical needs, on November 26<sup>th</sup>, the Board acted to pursue \$24.9 million through a six year bond term. This initiative would not increase the current millage rate of 7 mils, but instead will extend this millage rate for an additional three (3) years. In 2024-25, the millage rate would decrease to approximately five (5) mils.

This is both exciting and critical for the educational experiences of our students. You will be hearing much more about this important ballot initiative (May 7, 2019). Detailed information can be found on the district’s website ([www.okemosschools.net](http://www.okemosschools.net)).

	<b>Level 1 = Needs</b> (Must have, critical)
<b><u>Facility/Site Committee (Part 2)</u></b>	
Elementary Capacity	<b>\$3,538,107</b>
<b><u>Technology/Security/Capital Outlay/Transportation Report</u></b>	
Technology	\$9,704,700
Capital Outlay	\$3,144,410
Security	\$537,500
Transportation, Buses (13)	\$1,214,300
Air conditioning	\$2,175,000
Other	\$370,983
	<b>\$17,146,893</b>
<b><u>Leadership Council Recommendations</u></b>	
Additional facility upgrades/renovations <i>Includes but not limited to: fine arts, physical education, common bathrooms, fire alarm systems, parking etc. . .</i>	<b>\$4,215,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,900,000</b>