

# Saugatuck Public Schools **S** Preparing Students for Life

## MAY 7, 2019 BOND PROPOSAL

Planning for the future of Saugatuck Public Schools, the Board of Education is asking the community to consider a new bond proposal on May 7, 2019. If approved by voters, it would generate \$39,940,000 for improvements to Saugatuck Public Schools.



### WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF THE BOND PROPOSAL?

The proposal focuses on renovating and refreshing schools, and reimagining learning environments

#### If approved, the bond proposal would provide **RENOVATIONS** to aging building systems

- Updating core infrastructure systems that have exceeded their useful lifecycles including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and roof systems
- Improving safety and security with secure building entrances, new video surveillance systems, classroom door locking systems, and enhanced keycard access. Building infrastructure would include fire suppression systems, and ADA-accessibility upgrades
- Traffic and parking improvements at Douglas Elementary School

#### It would **REFRESH** the remaining portions of our buildings

- Updating aging finishes such as flooring, cabinetry, paint, and furniture as needed

#### It would **REIMAGINE** the district's learning environments

- Creating up-to-date classrooms and collaborative spaces for students, staff and community members
- Transforming outdated media centers into modern learning commons
- Enlarging lower elementary classrooms
- Constructing a new music and band suite at the Middle School/High School to support the growing program
- Modernizing science, art, and technology classrooms



## Why **RENOVATE** the schools?

Educational design and instructional methods have evolved over the decades, but most of the district's learning environments have not. Classrooms have not seen major renovations since they were originally built, with Douglas Elementary School originally constructed over 62 years ago and the High School over 45 years ago. Due to the age of these buildings, core infrastructure systems have exceeded their useful lifecycles. Over the years the district has made classroom additions to the schools – the Middle School addition to the High School nearly 20 years ago, and the Douglas Elementary addition nearly 10 years ago, but original infrastructure and classrooms were not updated during those times.

Modern learning environments support more collaborative and interactive teaching and learning styles that would better prepare our students for their future education and work environments. District programming has been enhanced, but the current buildings limit instruction and learning. These new collaborative spaces would also support our community's need for meeting spaces.

## What has changed since the previous bond proposal in 2018?

The Facilities Committee and Board of Education carefully reviewed input and feedback to develop a smaller proposal. Through conversations, meetings, and a post-bond survey, several adjustments to the bond proposal were made:

- Reduced the total project scope of the bond by 21%, from \$50.7M to \$39.94M
- Reduced the net impact to taxpayers from a proposed total debt levy of 4.76 mills in 2018 to a proposed total debt levy of 4.16 mills in 2019, a reduction of .6 mills
- Reduced the square footage of the proposed projects by eliminating the second story at the Middle School/High School
- Reallocated proposed new square footage at Douglas Elementary School into the existing learning environments
- Scaled back major renovations to each building

## What has stayed the same since the previous bond proposal in 2018?

The District is still utilizing the Human-Center Design Process and Guiding Principles that were developed as a part of the 2018 proposal. These important factors helped to inform project scope decisions:

- Improving safety and security throughout the schools
- Upgrading core infrastructure systems that have exceeded their useful lifecycles
- Designing integrated technology
- Creating collaboration spaces
- Improving air quality
- Increasing natural light
- Purchasing buses to replace the aging fleet
- Improving traffic flow, parking, and student drop-off and pick up
- Relocating District Administration to the Middle School/High School to increase operational efficiency, and demolish the Central Office Building

## Where can I find additional information?

Visit the district website for more information regarding the bond proposal.

Additional information will be provided at community forums. Forums are scheduled:

- Thursday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Douglas Elementary School
- Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Saugatuck Middle School / High School
- Tuesday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m. at Saugatuck Middle School / High School

More information will be made available as the election draws nearer. If you have further questions, contact Dr. Tim Travis, Superintendent, at [ttravis@saugatuckps.com](mailto:ttravis@saugatuckps.com) or (269)857-1444.

