Snapshot of Ten-Year Facility Plan and August 8, 2017 Bond Proposal

At the March 27, 2017 Board of Education meeting, the Dexter Community Schools Board of Education approved placing a $71.7 million bond proposal on the ballot that local residents will have the opportunity to vote on Tuesday, August 8, 2017.

The scope of the proposal is based on what we believe are critical needs, not wants. The list of improvements (or project scope) and priorities contained in the plan has been shared and refined through a variety of initiatives over the past year including a comprehensive facilities study, many meetings with our teachers and support staff members, numerous public forums and extensive reviews and discussions at regularly scheduled open board meetings. As part of these focus groups and studies, we have discussed pursuing a sinking fund as an option to address costs such as repairs, which cannot be paid for with bond funds. At this time, we are not pursuing a sinking fund.

This informational handout is a representation of our planning efforts to date. We are still refining the specific details of the scope and will need final approval from the State of Michigan Department of Treasury including approval of our priorities, enrollment trends, and bonding capacity. With this in mind, the information shared here is general, subject to further refinement as detailed cost estimates are prepared after final approvals are obtained and we know more about our enrollment.

We’ve created this document as part of our on-going commitment to transparency. Decisions we make regarding this proposal will be premised on:

- The goal of maintaining the current school tax rate of 8.5 mills. (No tax rate increase over 2016 levels)
- Making recommendations based on what we believe are the very best interests of our students and the communities we serve.
- Aligning our planning with our district’s defined goals and comprehensive 2015-2020 Strategic Framework.

As we continue to further refine the details of our agreed-upon scope for our August 8, 2017 proposal, we will share with you detailed information and the rationale behind all recommendations.

If you have any questions at any point throughout our planning process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support and Go Dreadnaughts!

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D., Superintendent
Dexter Community Schools
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Current Plans - Dexter Community Schools
Ten-Year Facility Plan and Proposed 2017 Bond

New Elementary School
- New elementary school to accommodate existing and growing number of K-2 students
- Design will maintain the established school campus atmosphere
- Bates Elementary will be converted into additional space for Dexter’s Early Childhood Program

New Additions/Flexible Learning Environments
- New music room addition at Mill Creek Middle School
- Creation of flexible learning environments at all grade levels
- New secure entrance at Wylie Elementary School
- Robotics and Alternative Education learning spaces

Districtwide
- Mechanical, electrical and facility/site updates to aging infrastructure at or beyond its useful life
- Ten-year technology replacement cycle
- Electronic security enhancements
- Site improvements and minor land acquisition

Logistics/Transportation
- Improvements to parent drop-off/pick-up traffic flow to help address congestion issues at Wylie Elementary School and on Baker Road
- Purchase of school buses over the next ten years

Community Related Improvements
- Renovate Dexter Community Pool shower facilities to improve functionality
- Improvements to the Dexter Senior Center
- Upgrades to the DHS Center for the Performing Arts
- Relocations and additions to walking pathways around schools
- Increased student walkability and safety improvements between buildings
- Additional community arts facility access

District Athletic Improvements
- Upgrades to athletic fields and facilities
- Additional playing surfaces to meet increased community athletic facility demands
- Relocation of Mill Creek baseball diamonds to a site adjacent to Dexter High School