



Superintendent's Office

Dexter Community Schools

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Dexter, MI 48130

Phone: (734) 424-4100 ext 1001

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January 12, 2017

Dear DCS Parents and Students,

The Dexter Community Schools Board of Education has always been a good steward of community tax dollars while providing a high-quality education and facilities for our students.

While creating our 10-Year Facility Plan, we use the following considerations:

- The instructional program provided for our students
- Life cycle of current mechanical equipment systems and facility components (i.e., boilers, HVAC, plumbing, roofs, etc.)
- Student enrollment projections and needed space
- Community expectations for our schools
- Options that provide the most flexibility at the lowest cost to our district and taxpayers
- Options for funding sources

Historically, DCS has planned facility maintenance, updates, facility needs, and usage approximately every 10 years. The last 10-year facility plan resulted in the 2008 Bond which provided necessary facility updates, buses, technology and other improvements to maintain our facilities (energy conservation, security improvements, playgrounds, playfields, outdoor athletic facilities, furniture, music instruments, lunch tables, etc). We are now working on the next 10-year window.

Meanwhile, enrollment and program needs continue to evolve. In 2008, the district offered half-day kindergarten, limited Young 5 and Preschool offerings, and new residential housing within the district had stalled. Over the past several years, our preschool offerings have greatly expanded to meet the needs of our community thanks to the generous donation of the Jenkins Early Childhood Learning Center. In addition, we are utilizing double the number of kindergarten classroom spaces because Michigan law changes required us to shift to an all-day kindergarten program and our families are choosing Young 5's to support early learning for their children. As a district, we are committed to small class sizes and research supports this commitment at the youngest grades. The result is a significant need for additional space for our youngest learners.

As part of this process, we will be hosting a community forum on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. at Mill Creek Middle School. If you are unable to attend, we will also hold a forum in February and have been scheduling regular updates from the facilities committee at each Board of Education meeting.

A few dates to remember:

- No school on Monday, January 16th to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Community Forum on 10-Year Facilities Plan – Thursday, January 19th at 7 p.m. at Mill Creek
- Half-day for students (high school exams) on Thursday, January 26th and Friday, January 27th
- State of the School District – Wednesday, February 1st at 7 p.m. at Mill Creek

Thank you for your continued support and Go Dreadnaughts!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher J. Timmis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Christopher Timmis, Ed.D.
Superintendent