2021 BOND PROPOSAL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, Clawson Public Schools will ask voters to consider a bond proposal to generate dollars for current and upcoming district facilities needs. The following is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the proposal. For more information, please view the March 1, 2021 Board of Education Bond Proposal Presentation and the March 8, 2021 Bond Community Forum Q&A. Both videos can be accessed on the district website: www.clawsonschools.org/district/bond-proposal/. You may also contact Dr. Jacqueline Johnston, Assistant Superintendent Business Services, at *jackie.johnston@clawsonschools.org* or (248) 655-4409.

1. **Why are we considering a bond issue now?**

   There are specific challenges and opportunities that have led the Clawson Public Schools Board of Education to ask voters to consider a bond issue including:

   - Aging academic spaces: Lack of 21st Century technology, classroom and furniture
   - Pressing infrastructure replacement and upgrade needs: Over $45.9M in initial needs to ensure the educational environment is "Warm, Safe and Dry" for all students
   - Structural financial challenges: Loss of $2.8 Million in annual foundation allowance, due to declining population and enrollment
   - Significant underutilization of facilities: Current building utilization rate of 54% versus recommended rate of 85%

   With these challenges also come opportunities to ensure that Clawson Public Schools continues to be a vital district preparing learners to succeed today and every day:

   - Zero mill increase: Ability to generate $54.1 Million for facilities investments with no change to the tax rate
   - Re-imagining the future for Clawson: Equipping classrooms with 21st Century technology, classrooms and furnishings for the next generation of Clawson students
   - Right-sizing for efficiency and sustainability: Resetting to Michigan's recommended 85% building utilization; supporting current/projected enrollment while allowing room for growth and providing long-term structural stability and efficiency
   - Planning for our future today: If voters approve the bond in 2021, construction would start in spring of 2022 and complete in 2024

2. **What is the proposed millage increase and how much would it generate for the projects?**

   The proposal that will appear on the August 3, 2021 ballot for voter consideration is a 0 mill increase for a bond issue that would generate $55,935,000.

3. **How would this impact my taxes?**

   If the proposal is approved by voters, the $55.9 Million bond proposal will not change your current tax rate.

4. **Who developed this proposal?**

   A 45-member bond Steering Committee prepared this recommendation. The group was comprised of a cross-section of the community, including parents, business owners, school teachers, administrators, staff, students, city leaders, and school board members. The group met virtually on a bi-weekly basis from September through February, reviewing a comprehensive facilities study, facilities consultant recommendations, enrollment projections, input from two community forums and a survey of Clawson citizens. The Clawson Public Schools Board of Education reviewed and voted unanimously to move forward with the recommendation on March 15, 2021.

5. **How would the money be used for the bond?**

   The funds from this bond would be used to create a 21st Century learning environment, equipped with Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math (STEAM) labs and equipment to inspire and engage the next generation of Clawson students. It allows the district to right-size the building infrastructure to meet current and projected enrollment of 1,300-1,400 students. It allows the district to reduce annual expenses to the general fund by an estimated $840,000 annually. It would allow the core infrastructure to be updated, generating additional efficiencies and reducing the growing number of unplanned repairs and maintenance.

   A Central Campus would be created through renovations and additions to the current High School and Middle School for grades DK through 12. This bond would also allow for the creation of a full-service Early Childhood Center and administration building at the current Kenwood Elementary building. Schalm Elementary School and Baker Buildings will be decommissioned and the properties sold, eliminating the district's excess square footage, generating efficiencies and creating the potential for new residential development.

   Key Investments – At-a-Glance

   - **Infrastructure, Energy & Parking:**
     - Replace mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems beyond their useful life, to reduce unplanned repairs, increase efficiency and improve air quality district-wide
     - Replace roofs and exterior walls and make site repairs where needed
     - Refresh cabinetry, storage and bookcases in classrooms across the district

- **Safety & Security:**
  - Create secure entrances at each building, address ADA code and other life safety improvements across the district
  - Create Kindergarten and 1st Grade in-classroom bathrooms

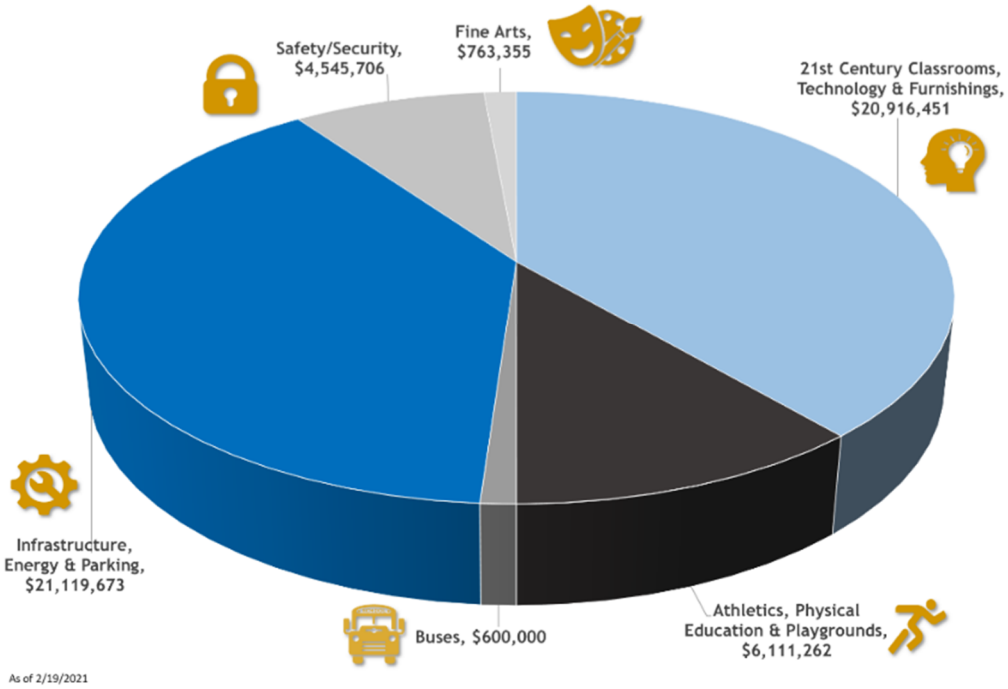
- **21st Century Classrooms, Technology and Furnishings:**
  - Create Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) labs and robotics spaces
  - Upgrade to 21st Century technology, equipment and furniture where needed across all buildings
  - Expand "Trojan Hall" at the high school to create project-based adaptable learning space
  - Convert "Hoosier Gym" to elementary classroom space
  - Consolidate buildings to a Central Campus, including a new 28,800, two-story middle school classroom addition
  - Create new full-service Early Childhood Center and Administrative Offices at the current Kenwood Elementary to meet growing demand for childcare and pre-school

- **Athletics, Physical Education and Playgrounds**
  - High School Gym addition of a 3rd cross court, hallway and dedicated athletic entrance for sporting and community events
  - Refresh playgrounds and create dedicated, grade-appropriate playground space, including hard courts at the Central Campus

- **Buses**
  - Purchase new buses, saving $88,900 in general fund dollars annually so that the funds may be spent instead on costs related to teaching and learning

- **Fine Arts**
  - Refresh the choir, band room and dressing room spaces and purchase needed instruments

Key Investments by Category



6. **Are the school buildings old enough to need this kind of work? What about previous bond projects?**

   Yes, much of the aged infrastructure is past its useful life and in need of updates or replacement. A feasibility report conducted in 2020 calls for the replacement of systems across the district. Kenwood Elementary and the Middle School are both more than 90 years old. Schalm Elementary and the High School are more than 60 years old. Some of the needed upgrades were completed during the 2014 bond. Funds from this bond would augment what has already been done to complete a refresh across the district.

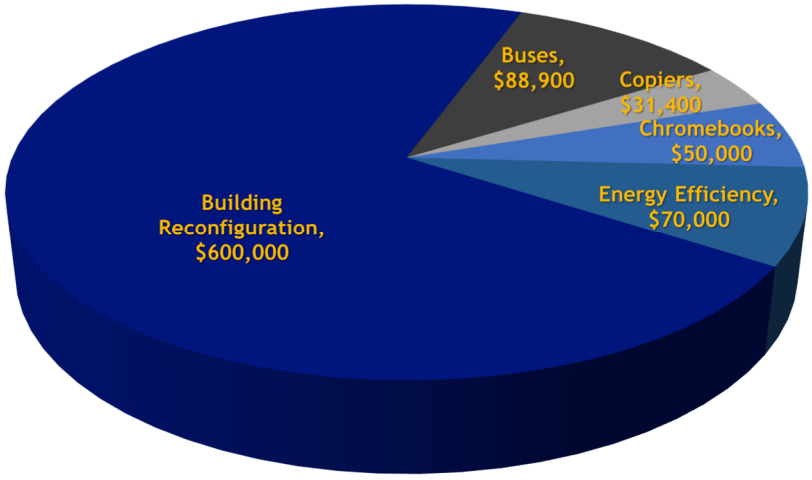
7. **Why does the plan close some buildings?**

   Given that the district has nearly twice the square footage needed to accommodate current and projected enrollment, it was clear from the beginning of the assessment that building closures would need to occur. After careful consideration, Schalm Elementary and Baker were chosen for closure due to the cost per square foot for renovation and the locations of the buildings – both in terms of the ability to create a Central Campus and the desirability of the properties for potential future development. This right-sizing will allow Clawson to achieve the optimal 85% building utilization level, accommodating the current and projected 1,300-1,400 student enrollment while still allowing room should growth occur in the future.

8. **How would this bond proposal reduce general fund expenses by an estimated $840,000 annually?**

   Areas of savings from the bond proposal are as follows:
   - Tapping bond funds for items like copiers, buses and chromebooks would generate an estimated $170,300 in savings.
   - The infrastructure upgrades would create approximately $70,000 per year in energy efficiencies.
   - The closure of two buildings would save the district an estimated $600,000 per year in building operations.

   These savings are in addition to the revenues expected from the sale of the buildings.



9. **What is the timeframe for the bond construction work?**

   If voters approve the bond on August 3, 2021, the final design, planning and procurement stage will begin immediately, with construction starting in spring of 2022 and completing in 2024.

10. **Would money from the bond proposal be used to pay district salaries and benefits?**

    No, school districts are not allowed to use funds from a bond for operating expenses such as teacher, administrator or staff salaries, routine maintenance, or operating costs. Bond revenue must be kept separate from operating funds and bond revenue expenditures must be audited by an independent auditing firm.

11. **If I rent a house, can I vote?**

    Yes, if you rent a house you can still vote. You must be a registered voter in the precinct where you are living and you must live within the Clawson Public Schools district boundaries.

12. How do I register to vote?

Visit Michigan.gov/vote to register online.

It is recommended by the Secretary of State to register by mail by July 19, 2021 to participate in the August 3, 2021 election. Individuals may also register in-person at your local clerk's office—located at 425 N. Main, Clawson, MI—through the day of the election, with the required documentation.

13. How is an absentee voter ballot obtained?

To receive an absentee ballot, contact G. Machele Kukuk, Interim City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofclawson.com.

14. Where and when will the vote occur?

Tuesday, August 3, 2021 is election day, but absentee voting can occur leading up to and on that date. All registered voters may cast an absentee voter ballot by mail. Voters may also cast a ballot at the polling location established by their municipality. If you have questions or do not know where you vote, please contact your city office. Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

15. What are the key dates leading up to the Tuesday, August 3, 2021 election day?

- Registering to vote:
  - The last day for voters to register by mail is July 19, 2021
  - Voters may register in-person through August 3, 2021 (election day) with the required documentation

- Absentee Voting:
  - Absentee voter ballots are available from June 19 until August 3, 2021
  - Contact G. Machele Kukuk, Interim City Clerk at cityclerk@cityofclawson.com

16. What is the ballot language? Below is the preliminary language (anticipated for approval by the Department of Treasury the end of April).

CLAWSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN

SCHOOL BUILDING AND SITE BOND PROPOSAL

This proposition will result in a zero (0) mill net increase over the prior year's levy.

Shall the Clawson Public Schools, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Fifty Five Million Nine Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars ($55,935,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of paying for the cost of the following projects:

- ☐ Preparing, developing and improving sites, including sites for school buildings and additions thereto, including the construction of new drives, parking lots and landscaping;
- ☐ Preparing, developing and improving sites for the construction and equipping of athletic fields and playgrounds;
- ☐ Constructing, erecting, equipping and furnishing a new Middle School facility;
- ☐ Remodeling, equipping and re-equipping the current Middle School building into an elementary school and constructing and erecting additions thereto for a secure vestibule entrance, main office and to connect the elementary school to the new middle school;
- ☐ Remodeling, equipping and re-equipping the Kenwood Elementary building to house early childhood instructional programming and administrative offices;
- ☐ Remodeling, equipping and re-equipping the current High School and constructing, erecting and equipping additions thereto, including to connect to the new middle school;
- ☐ Equipping and re-equipping all School District buildings, including equipping for technology; and
- ☐ Purchasing buses.

YES ☐

NO ☐

The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than thirty (30) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 2.22 mills (which is equal to $2.22 per $1,000 of taxable value) for a 0 mill net increase over the prior year's levy; and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of bonds is 6.15 mills annually ($6.15 per $1,000 of taxable value).

The school district expects to borrow from the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of that borrowing is $3,798,224 and the estimated total interest to be paid thereon is $1,088,441. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 10 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 9.02 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is $13,310,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately $785,714.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses).

17. Where can I get more information?

- *Please visit the Clawson Public Schools website at: https://www.clawsonschools.org/district/bond-proposal*
- *Contact Dr. Jacqueline Johnston, Assistant Superintendent Business Services at jackie.johnston@clawsonschools.org or 248-655-4409*

Kenwood Elementary School – Existing Photos

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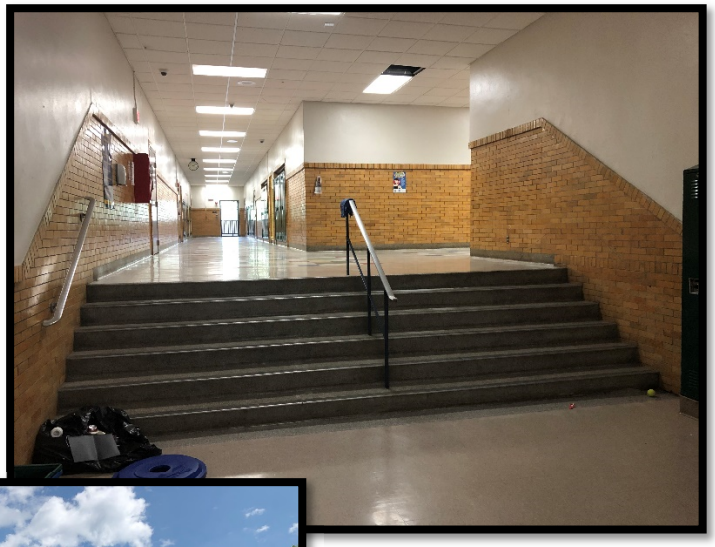
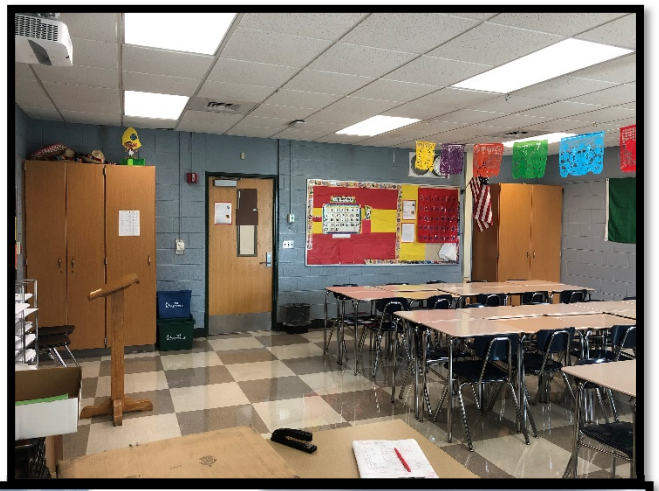
Schalm Elementary School – Existing Photos

Middle School – Existing Photos



High School – Existing Photos