

Dear Okemos Community:

Last evening the Board of Education voted unanimously to authorize the administration to file a preliminary application for a November 2022 bond of up to \$275 million dollars that would maintain the current tax rate for our residents.

As you are aware, a community steering committee worked over the last five months to develop a comprehensive recommendation to address significant needs identified as a result of numerous community listening sessions and formal facilities assessments. We are thankful for their commitment and hard work.

The Board's action last night included one change to the steering committee's overall recommendation, identifying the preferred location of the new elementary school for the Cornell community to remain on the current site (Cornell Road).

As you are aware, the bond proposal also includes building two new middle schools to replace Chippewa and Kinawa that share a state-of-the-art auditorium.

The bond proposal also incorporates smaller scale projects that will have community wide impact, including:

- Addressing critical facility needs and minor upgrades across all schools
- Construction of secure vestibule entry corridors at each school
- Addition of school space at Hiawatha
- Furniture replacement across the district (75% replacement)
- Student 1:1 computer device replacement through 2028
- Technology infrastructure upgrades
- Addition of performing arts space at OHS
- Relocation and construction of a new OHS tennis, baseball and softball complex
- Meridian Senior Center relocation and furniture replacement
- OHS cafeteria and kitchen expansion/renovation
- District bus replacement

The steering committee also affirmed that:

- needs identified outweighed those that could be met, and therefore, the district should identify and prioritize future projects for consideration in a master planning approach
- evaluation of the Montessori at Central should be the next large scale project for consideration

If you would like additional information regarding the aforementioned assessments and work of the steering committee, additional information is provided on our [website](#). Additional information regarding the bond proposal will be shared with the community once our bond application is approved.

We thank our community for its involvement throughout the process and for the opportunity this proposal would afford our students, staff and community.

John J. Hood - Superintendent