

May 3, 2016 Bond Proposal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HISTORY AND FEATURES

1. What is on the May 3, 2016 ballot?

On May 3, 2016, voters in Waldron Area Schools will be asked to consider a bond proposal to implement improvements at each of our school facilities. This program focuses on upgrades to address health, safety, security, energy savings, technology, and accessibility issues within our facilities, as well as address classroom enhancements to respond to program changes. The total program cost is \$4.495 million.

2. How was this plan developed?

- The process originated with a list of priorities created by the School District based on specific and urgent facilities' needs.
- In September 2015, TMP Architecture developed a comprehensive Facilities' Needs Assessment in order to verify previously identified needs and address any additional facility infrastructure and program issues.
- Early October 2015, a Steering Committee was formed to analyze and prioritize the needs identified by TMP, including cost implications.
- Three steering committee meetings and one community meeting were held during the months of October and November, culminating in a recommendation to the Board of Education on November 17, 2015.
- The Board of Education unanimously supported moving forward with a May 3, 2016 bond election in the amount of \$4,495,000.

3. What are the features of the May 3, 2016 bond proposal?

Waldron Elementary School

- Remodel Library into collaborative space
- Architectural
 - Replace doors and windows
 - Replace toilet partitions
 - Reconstruct foundation wall

- Add exterior wall insulation
- Replace roofing
- Provide classroom furniture
- Technology
 - Upgrade network
 - Upgrade classroom projectors and audio
- Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing
 - Replace air handling units, piping and controls
 - Domestic piping replacement
 - Connection to natural gas
 - Upgrade fire alarm and lighting
 - Provide multi-purpose room sound system
- Site work
 - Replace playground surfacing
 - New LED sign

Waldron Middle / High School

- Remodel media center and science lab
- Architectural
 - Replace doors and windows
 - Replace toilet partitions
 - Replace gym floor
 - Replace vinyl flooring
 - Reconstruct foundation wall
 - Replace roof
 - Provide classroom furniture
- Technology
 - Upgrade network
 - Upgrade classroom projectors and audio
- Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing
 - Replace boilers, air handling units, piping and controls
 - Replace domestic piping
 - Replace storm and sanitary piping
 - Install water conditioning
 - Replace water meters
 - Provide gym sound system
- Site work
 - Replace asphalt paving
 - Resurface track
 - Install portable bleachers
 - Replace football field lighting

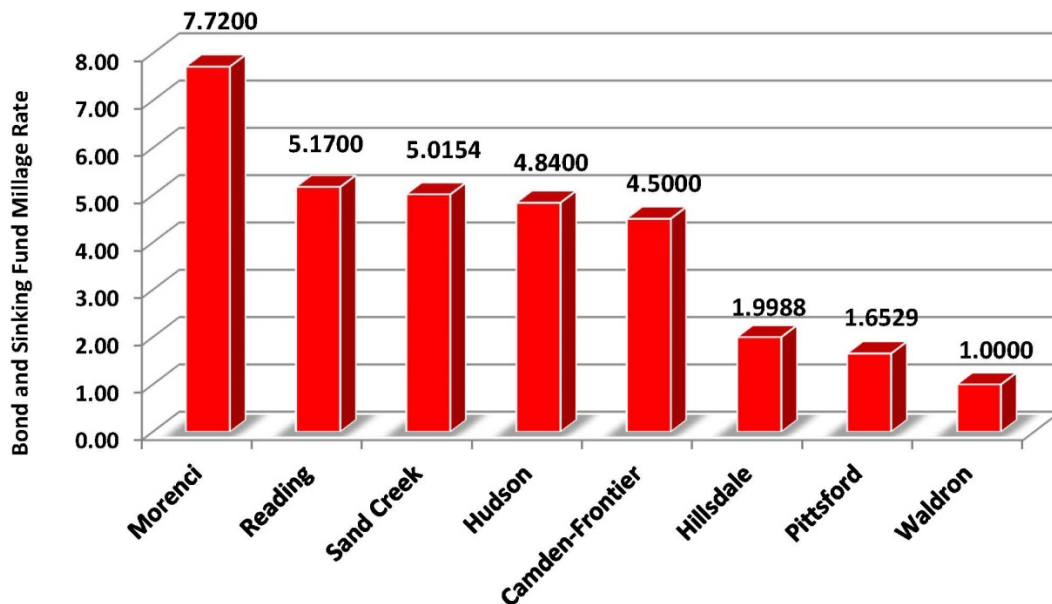
4. Why are the improvements needed?

Waldron Area Schools had not undergone a comprehensive study of its school facilities and grounds since the construction of the Elementary School in 1974. As noted in detail in the Facility Assessment Report, various systems and building components are past their useful life or will be nearing the end of life in the next 1 to 3 years. Also identified were items not in compliance with current building codes or areas not adequately supporting 21st Century Learning standards.

5. How are neighboring districts addressing the aging condition of their school buildings?

Neighboring districts have experienced the same issue of aging buildings and outdated technology. Bond programs have been approved and implemented in our surrounding districts and new facilities, as well as improvements, are being constructed to improve their aging facilities. Waldron currently has the lowest millage support of all surrounding districts.

Millage Debt Comparison (Waldron & Surrounding Districts)



6. Why is it important to attract and retain students in the district?

Public schools in Michigan receive money on a per-pupil basis. That means that attracting and retaining students is critical and has a direct impact on the District’s operating budget. The District believes that the quality of our programs and facilities plays a role in both of these areas.

If approved by the voters, the bond program would upgrade facilities and classrooms to support 21st century teaching and learning, improve operational efficiencies, provide safe and secure environments for current and prospective students, and protect and maintain the community’s past investment in our school buildings. Parents have choices regarding where their children will receive an education. It is the intent of the District and the Board of Education to maintain quality programs and facilities in order to attract and retain students.

7. Why is the design of the building and layout not complete?

Cost! The detailed design of a building program is costly and will not be completed for practical/financial reasons unless the bond issue is approved by the community. Conceptual plans for the projects have been developed in order to estimate construction costs. If approved by the voters on May 3rd, detailed design and implementation of the projects would take place following election day.

8. What is the plan to keep facility improvement disruptions to a minimum?

Work at our school facilities would be scheduled so it does not interfere with day-to-day operations or pedestrian safety. As the program commences, the construction schedule would be reviewed and coordinated, on a regular basis, with the superintendent and key building leaders. While the summer construction season would be utilized for a majority of the work, if work is ongoing during school days, there would be clear separation between construction and ongoing operations through barricades and fencing. Safety is paramount and would be the key factor in determine the construction sequencing.

FINANCIAL AND ELECTION INFORMATION

9. What is the estimated cost of the program?

The bond proposal is \$4,495,000. To raise this bond amount, a millage increase of 4.75 mills is necessary.

10. How much would the proposal cost the average taxpayer?

<i>Market Value of Your Home</i>	<i>Taxable Value of Your Home</i>	<i>4.75 mill Annual Increase</i>	<i>Estimated Monthly Increase</i>	<i>Estimated Daily Increase</i>
\$30,000	\$15,000	\$71.25	\$5.94	20¢
\$50,000	\$25,000	\$118.75	\$9.90	32¢
\$70,000	\$35,000	\$166.25	\$13.85	46¢
\$90,000	\$45,000	\$213.75	\$17.81	58¢
\$110,000	\$55,000	\$261.25	\$21.78	72¢

To estimate your specific tax impact, a homeowner can use the following calculation:

$\frac{1}{2}$ of Home Market Value traditionally equals its Taxable Value. For instance, for a house market value of \$50,000, the tax increase would be calculated on $\frac{1}{2}$ value, or \$25,000. The calculation: $\$25,000 \times 4.75$ (millage increase) / 1,000 = an annual tax increase of \$118.75.

11. Can I deduct these property taxes on my income tax return?

Property taxes may be deductible as itemized deductions on your federal income tax return if you itemize. You may also be eligible for the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit on your Michigan income tax return. Please consult with your tax preparer.

12. What exactly is the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit?

The Michigan homestead property tax credit is a method through which some taxpayers can receive a tax credit for an amount of their property tax that exceeds a certain percentage of their household income. This program establishes categories under which homeowners or renters are eligible for a homestead property tax credit.

Please consult with your tax preparer to determine if you are eligible for this important and valuable tax credit.

13. Economically, is this a good time for a bond proposal?

Current interest rates on school bonds are at or near historic lows. The district will have to pay a smaller amount of interest to bond holders for the bonds than it would at another time should rates hold, thus maximizing taxpayer dollars.

14. Can money from the bond program be used to pay for salaries and benefits?

No, it is against state law. Bond dollars cannot be used for operation expenses such as employee salaries, repairs, maintenance, or energy costs. Bond program funds must be accounted for separately from general operating funds.

15. What are the key dates leading up to the May 3, 2016, bond program election?

Final day to register to vote is Monday, April 4, 2016.

Final day to vote absentee is Monday, May 2, 2016. Ballots must be received by this date.

Election Day is Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

16. Please explain what bond program money can cover and what it can't.

Bond proceeds **cannot** be used for the following items:

- Salaries and wages
- General operating expenses and maintenance
- Classroom supplies and textbooks

Bond proceeds **can** be used for the following items:

- Construction and remodeling of facilities
- Purchase of technology equipment
- Equipment and furniture
- Site improvements

17. Where and when do I register to vote?

To vote in the May 3, 2016 bond election, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by Election Day, a resident of Michigan, and Waldron Area Schools. Please visit your clerk to register to vote or visit any Secretary of State office.

You must be registered 30 days prior to an election to be eligible to vote. The official "last day to register" for the May 3, 2016 election is **Monday, April 4, 2016**. Printable voter registration forms are available on the state website, www.michigan.gov/vote.

18. What is the procedure for absentee voting?

Applications for Absentee Ballots are available:

- On-line at www.michigan.gov/vote
- In your school building offices
- At your City Clerk's office

Note: Once election ballots are available in the clerk's office, you can walk into your clerk's office, receive an absentee application, fill it out, and immediately be given your ballot to cast your vote.

19. Where do I vote?

All registered voters in Waldron Area Schools vote in their corresponding township - Amboy Township, Medina Township (Lenawee County), Wright Township, and Ransom Township. Polls will be open on May 3, 2016 from 7am until 8pm.

Amboy Township - Township Hall, 14840 Grass Lake Rd. (1/4 mile North of Territorial Rd.)
Wright Township - Wright Waldron Municipal Building, 112 E. Center St., Waldron, MI
Ransom Township – Ransom Township Hall, Mill St., Ransom, MI
Medina Township - Medina Township Hall, Lime Creek Road

20. How will the bond proposal appear on the ballot?

The following text will appear on the May 3, 2016 ballot regarding the Bond Program.

BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Waldron Area Schools, Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Four Million Four Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Dollars (\$4,495,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

remodeling, equipping and re-equipping and furnishing and refurbishing school buildings; acquiring, installing and equipping or re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; and developing, improving and equipping playgrounds, athletic facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2016 is 4.75 mills (\$4.75 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty (20) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 4.51 mills (\$4.51 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$0.00. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is approximately \$0.00. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

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

21. Who may I contact if I have additional questions?

You are welcome to call or email:

José N. Vera, Superintendent
jvera@wassd.org
Phone: (517) 286-6251

District Website at: www.wassd.org