

Chardon Schools to Place Bond Issue on November 5th Ballot

June 18, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – The Chardon Local Schools Board of Education voted unanimously last night to place a bond levy on the November 5 ballot that would build a new school building for grades 6 through 12.

The new school would be constructed as two separate spaces with age-appropriate divisions and shared areas. The bond issue is necessitated by our aging, inefficient buildings that disrupt and distract from the productive learning environment the District is trying to provide. Challenges in buildings throughout the District include:

- Leaking roofs that require buckets in hallways to catch water
- Classrooms too small to accommodate today's teaching methods
- Limiting electrical capacity that prevents teachers from using technology our students need for the jobs of today and tomorrow
- Outdated fire, safety, and security measures
- Less than full accessibility for students and visitors with disabilities

Additionally, the State of Ohio reviewed our District's buildings and concluded that they are beyond repair and no longer suited for today's education. According to the State's thorough analysis, the cost just to renovate our buildings to minimum standards would be nearly equal to the cost of building new schools.

"We are proud of our academic achievements, but the quality of our facilities is holding us back and impacting our ability to keep up as education and technology continue to evolve," Board President Madelon Horvath said. "The District is committed to the responsible stewardship of public dollars, and it would be unfair to spend funds meant for education on costly Band-Aid repairs."

The estimated 4.99-mill bond issue would cost about \$15 more per month for a home valued at \$100,000, and would provide an up-to-date school building equipped for delivering today's education. The plan would also include essential renovations to the stadium that would allow the District to build on its current site without displacing any students during construction and would avoid unnecessary costs for temporary classroom trailers.

This bond issue will represent phase one of a two-phase process. Phase two will address a new pre-kindergarten-5th grade building at a later time.

“New schools are critical for our education, community and local economy,” Board Vice President Karen Blankenship said. “This solution to our problem of out-of-date infrastructure will create an environment that will allow us to continue providing the educational quality that is the hallmark of Chardon Schools.”

Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent

Michael.hanlon@chardonschools.org

440-622-6085

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