

WHITMORE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Facilities Plan 2003 Shaping the Future: A K-12 Solution

Introduction to the Facilities Plan

Scott A. Menzel, Superintendent

Beginning in the fall of 2001, the Whitmore Lake Board of Education began the process of gathering information for the purpose of future facility planning. This review was lead by the District Quality Committee (comprised of Board of Education members, building principals, teachers, parents and community members) with assistance from a local architect. For the next 12 months, interviews with staff were conducted to identify facility needs, community dialogue sessions were held including more than 170 participants, and existing buildings were analyzed by an architect and construction management team.

In October of 2002, the District Quality Committee recommended a future bond proposal to the Board of Education, and it was unanimously approved. This proposal included the construction of a new high school, renovations to the existing middle school/high school complex and renovations to the elementary. Subsequently, vision planning sessions were held with community members to bring focus and detail to the proposed facilities program.

The culmination of this tremendous community effort is a **June 9, 2003 School Bond Election.**

Facilities Plan 2003 is truly a K-12 Solution! This proposal will have an impact on every building and *every student* in the district as well as the community in general. The new high school will be located on the 77 acres owned by the district on Whitmore Lake Road (between Six Mile and Five Mile on the east side of the road). Additionally, significant renovations are planned to convert the existing middle school/high school complex into a more functional and energy efficient middle school. The elementary school will also receive significant improvements, including additional parking, drainage issues, roof repairs and heating and ventilation upgrades. The proposal that will be presented to the voters on June 9th reflects a comprehensive approach to addressing our facility needs both now and into the future and is necessary if we are to achieve our vision of “*providing each individual the inspiration to dream and the skills to achieve.*”

1. Why do we need to upgrade school facilities?

- Aging facilities
- Overcrowded facilities. We have seven portable classrooms in the district. Currently there are teachers in closets and storage areas that have been converted to classrooms.
- Drainage and parking issues at the elementary and additional infrastructure issues (heating, ventilation, roofing, etc).
- Losing 9th grade students. Our enrollment trends show a sharp loss of students at the 9th grade level; we believe this is due in large part to the limitations of our current high school facility. If we continue to lose students, we lose operational dollars the district needs to provide the quality and diversity of programs our students deserve. This trend cannot continue

2. How did we get to where we are now?

- Process of data collection began in the fall of 2001
- Review was lead by the District Quality Committee (comprised of Board of Education members, building principals, teachers, parents and community members) and a local architect
- Interviews were conducted with staff in the fall of 2001 and early 2002 to determine needs
- Board convened a community dialogue session in March 2002 - more than 170 individuals participated in this meeting, including parents, students, teachers, and community leaders
- Second dialogue session was held in April 2002 to summarize input and prioritize options
- Board met with core planning team in June 2002 to discuss procuring architectural support (Mitchell Mouat and TMP Associates), and construction management services (Barton Malow)
- District Quality Committee recommended a future bond proposal to the Board in October 2002, which was approved unanimously – program called for a new high school and remodeling of existing high school to a middle school and remodeling of the elementary school
- Community Vision Planning Sessions were held in November 2002 and December 2002 to collect additional data and finalize details of the future bond program
- On March 26, 2003, the Board unanimously approved Facilities Plan 2003.

3. Is the Board of Education behind these proposals?

The Board unanimously approved the recommendation for these proposals. The Board appreciates the time and energies of the Committee, plus the citizens, parents, educators, and students who have contributed to this public process. As always, the Board of Education is committed to quality educational programs and facilities for all students. It wholeheartedly supports this Facilities Plan.

4. What issues will appear on the June 9, 2003 ballot?

There will be three issues on the June 9th ballot. The first will be the “core” proposal. This will include the construction of a new high school and athletic facilities on the Whitmore Lake road site, remodeling of the current high school to convert it to a middle school, modifying the existing middle school into an early childhood development center and central administrative office, and facility and infrastructure improvements to the elementary school. This will also include money for technology, new buses, land purchase, furnishings for facilities, etc.

The second ballot item will be the construction of a competition size pool as an addition to the new high school.

The final ballot issue will be a recreational millage that will be used to provide funds to operate the pool as well as support other community opportunities for engagement with the school (e.g. maintenance of the existing athletic fields for community use).

5. How are enrollment projections calculated?

There are a couple of firms that develop enrollment projections for school districts in Michigan. We have chosen to work with Middle Cities Education Association. The projections are based on a number of factors, including the enrollment trends for the past five years, demographic data from the U.S. Census Department, new housing starts in the past few years within the school district, new business starts within the past few years, etc. The projections for the next five years indicate our enrollment will be between 1235-1250 which is essentially flat to slightly declining.

6. What are the features of Facilities Plan 2003?

Elementary School

- Replace roofing
- Repair heated sidewalk at main entry
- Connect Media Center to computer lab
- Replace carpet and ceiling tile
- Replace classroom heating and cooling units
- Add air conditioning in cafetorium
- Replace operable wall in cafetorium
- Add operable walls in the MAC classrooms
- Reconfigure and expand visitor parking
- Improve site drainage and play areas
- Upgrade technology infrastructure and equipment

Middle School, Early Childhood and Community Building

Current middle school space will be converted into an early childhood development center and will house our tuition pre-school program, before and after school programs, Head Start, Michigan School Readiness and the First Steps program. A portion of the facility will be converted into central administration offices. The existing high school will be converted into a middle school.

- Add storage room in existing courtyard
- Add and reconfigure corridors at cafetorium
- Add south and west covered entries
- Replace building fascia
- Remodel central offices and maintenance storage into 4 new classrooms
- Remodel science labs
- Remodel toilet rooms
- Remodel boys and girls locker rooms
- Install 500 seat gymnasium bleachers
- Remodel “northwest” classrooms to band room and technology lab
- Remodel and reconfigure cafetorium and stage
- Remodel bus garage and maintenance area
- Replace carpet, ceiling tile and cabinets
- Remodel classrooms to central office and community meeting room
- Install air conditioning in early childhood classrooms
- Install air conditioning in middle school classrooms
- Upgrade plumbing and mechanical systems
- Upgrade technology infrastructure and equipment

New High School

- 14 general classrooms
- 3 science labs
- 2 special education classrooms
- 2 business / CADD labs
- Media Center
- Administrative and student services offices
- Art room
- Applied technology
- Instrumental and vocal music room
- Cafetorium and stage
- Scene shop, dressing rooms and storage
- 2-court gymnasium
- Elevated walking/running track
- Athletic and P.E. locker rooms
- Wrestling/aerobics, weight fitness and training rooms
- Technology infrastructure and equipment
- Football stadium
- Athletic fields

7. How old is the current HS and how many renovations have been done in the past?

The most current areas of the existing high school were constructed in 1975. Other parts of the building date back to the 1950s. A new wing was added to the middle school in 1992.

8. How big is the proposed new high school?

The new high school will be approximately 137,000 square feet (nearly double the square footage of the existing high school). Features are listed above in Question #6.

9. How many students will the new HS accommodate?

The initial design will accommodate approximately 400 students but will be expandable up to 800 students.

10. How will a new school be designed to retain staff and students?

A new high school will create an exciting educational environment for both students and staff. Classrooms will be flexible learning spaces incorporating technology as an integrated learning tool. Liberal use of natural lighting and individually adjustable heating and cooling units will create a comfortable place to teach and learn. Science Labs will have appropriate furniture and equipment to allow students to conduct both hands on experiments as well as computer simulations. Business, CADD and computer labs will allow access to the latest technology that can create a closer alliance to future job opportunities. The Media Center will be the ‘hub’ of the learning environment. Easy access to printed and electronic reference material will enhance the students’ research abilities. Spaces will also be created so that reading books or periodicals will be an enjoyable learning experience.

The design of the new high school will create a sense of security by promoting ‘friendly’ supervision. Corridors will be designed to encourage easy ‘way-finding’. Administrative offices will be located to provide easy accessibility to the students and allow visitors to be received before they enter the building.

There will be enhanced curriculum opportunities in addition to the core academic spaces. Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Applied Technology and Physical Education will have spaces planned to encourage students to experience other ways of thinking and learning. The entire building will be an integrated learning center and the staff will be able to use their talents to direct students to outstanding levels of personal achievement.

11. What type of auditorium is planned for in the new high school?

The performance space in the new high school will include an option for fixed and movable seating. A full stage with appropriate support spaces including a scene shop, dressing rooms, costume and prop storage will be provided. It is anticipated that the performance and cafeteria space will be combined to provide flexibility and economy. Acoustics, lighting and an appropriate sound system will give the audience and students a performance environment that will encourage musical and stage productions. If the student population expands, there will be an opportunity to add a separate performing arts center.

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

Cost! The design of a building program is costly and will not be completed for practical/financial reasons until the bond issue is approved by the community. These details will take the architects several months of work with input from staff, community members, and other professionals. We currently have a simple concept plan for the new high school and remodeling programs, to illustrate how the bond dollars will be used. After passage, the detailed design of the projects will take place.

13. When would the new HS open?

At the present time it is estimated that the earliest the new high school would open is January of 2006. Although it would be nice to open the building in the fall of 2005, the design and bid phase of the project takes at least one year. Construction of the core facility will take approximately 18 to 24 months.

14. Will there be enough money to operate a new HS?

Estimated costs to operate the new high school range from \$200,000-250,000 annually. The school board has set aside \$500,000 in fund equity for the purpose of ensuring sufficient revenue to operate the new high school for the first couple of years until enrollment gains reach a level where the building is self-sustaining. Nearly every school district that has built a new high school has seen an increase in student enrollment when the new facility opened its doors. Additionally, new energy efficient systems in both new and existing buildings will save on district operational expenses.

15. What logistics are involved in the property study? (Buses, entrances, parking...)

The architectural firm, construction management company, and school district officials work with representatives from the Washtenaw County Road Commission and Northfield Township throughout the planning process.

16. What is the “penalty” for encroaching on wetlands?

The penalty for encroaching on wetlands is a requirement to restore twice as much wetlands in an alternative location at the expense of the people responsible for the encroachment.

17. What are some examples of cost savings in mechanical systems?

Our project engineers will investigate various engineering systems and features to provide the highest level of cost-savings possible for the district. Some of the features that will be investigated include the use of high efficiency boilers, air handling units with heat recovery modules, energy maintenance systems, alternative energy sources, etc. As design progresses on these projects, the efficiency and effectiveness of all systems will be optimized within budget parameters.

18. Where does money for sewer hook-up come from?

Funds for all utility hook-ups will come from the bond proceeds and have been accounted for in the project estimates.

19. Where does money for any necessary road improvements come from?

Funds for any necessary road improvements also come from the bond proceeds.

20. Since childcare and preschool will move out of the elementary, does that mean the 5th grade will come back?

The District Quality Committee spent a significant amount of time reviewing this issue. Even with preschool out of the elementary there is insufficient space to accommodate the 5th grade at this time. Research indicates that the ideal size for an elementary school is less than 500 students (our enrollment has been at or above this mark in grades K-4 for a number of years). As we grow, it is anticipated that we will need a second elementary school. The configuration of the two elementary schools is open at this time. We could establish two K-5 schools, we could establish a lower elementary (K-2) and an upper elementary (3-5) or we could have a traditional K-5 and a multiage building. These decisions will be made once our growth requires the addition of a second elementary school.

21. What is proposed in terms of new technology?

The technology budget for the bond initiative is \$4,000,000. This will address both infrastructure needs, new equipment for each classroom, wireless mobile computer labs as well as fixed computer labs, a new telephone system for the high school, LCD projectors, file servers for each building, etc.

22. With more buses being purchased, will there be 3 runs, one for each school?

We do not plan to add a third bus run at this time. The additional buses will be used to replace older equipment in our bus fleet as well as to increase capacity (most of our routes are full at the present time). A third run would be cost prohibitive with respect to wages, fuel, maintenance and there isn't enough money available to purchase an adequate amount of buses to make this a feasible alternative. However, there has been discussion regarding installing security cameras on the buses to enhance the ability of the drivers to maintain appropriate student behavior.

23. Will we get rid of the portables?

It is expected that once the renovation is completed that all of the portables at the current middle school/high school complex will be sold. Depending on enrollment and other factors, the portables at the elementary school may be necessary for storage or ancillary services.

24. When would remodeling at the existing buildings begin? Will our kids be going to school buildings under construction/renovation?

The schedule will be developed with the design and construction consultants during the planning of the actual program. Initial review indicates that renovation of the existing facilities can happen simultaneous with the design and construction of the new high school.

25. Can immediate needs be addressed if bond passes?

Yes! One good example is that our schools will be able to receive much needed new technology prior to the start of the 2003-04 school year. There are other projects (particularly at the elementary school) that require immediate attention and will be addressed as soon as possible. Most of the projects cannot be started until the design plans have been finalized and approved, and the work has been put out for bids.

26. Does construction need to take place during the school year?

Summer break is too short a time period to complete the amount of work that needs to take place in the buildings. Schools across the State are remodeled year after year while students continue their studies in the buildings. Our Construction Management firm is very experienced in completing projects in existing schools. They work closely with the State Fire Marshal's Office to maintain a safe school environment throughout construction.

27. What is the cost break down of the proposals?

- Proposal I will restore the 2001 tax rate of 7 mills. This will generate approximately \$44,000,000. The 7 mills are the same as what voters had been paying since 1996 (with the exception of 2002 when taxes were reduced by 5 mills).
- Proposal II will require a net increase of .25 mills (resulting in total debt levy of 7.25) for the purpose of constructing a competition size pool. This will generate an additional \$3,750,000. The ballot language will indicate a .82 mill for this project as if it were a stand-alone project, but the actual levy will only be .25 mill because the pool will not be built unless Proposal I passes.
- Proposal III is a request to levy an additional .62 mills for a recreational millage to operate the pool and provide support for other community related uses of school facilities. This will generate approximately \$187,860 annually.

28. What is the definition of a mill in relation to my tax bill?

A mill represents \$1 for every \$1,000 of the taxable value of your property. In Michigan, taxable value is approximately 50 percent of the market value. If a home sells for \$150,000, the taxable value would be \$75,000. Each mill levied on this property would cost \$75 annually (before any applicable state or federal tax credits.) Under the new state funding system, the annual increase in the taxable value of your property is capped at the rate of inflation or five percent, whichever is less.

29. How much will each proposal cost a homeowner?

<i>Market value of Your Home</i>	<i>Taxable Value of Your Home</i>	<i>Proposal I Annual Increase</i>	<i>Proposal II Annual Increase (pool) (.25 mills)</i>	<i>Proposal III Annual Increase (Recreational Millage) (.62 mills)</i>
\$100,000	\$50,000	Maintains 2001 tax rate of 7 mills	\$12.50	\$31.00
\$150,000	\$75,000	Maintains 2001 tax rate of 7 mills	\$18.75	\$46.50
\$200,000	\$100,000	Maintains 2001 tax rate of 7 mills	\$25.00	\$62.00
\$250,000	\$125,000	Maintains 2001 tax rate of 7 mills	\$31.25	\$77.50

For a taxpayer of a \$200,000 home, taxes have been approximately \$700 annually since 1996 (with the exception of 2002 when the mills were decreased). This equates to 7 mills, which would be the level maintained for this bond. The additional millage to construct and operate a pool will cost the owner of that same home an additional \$77 annually (\$25 for pool construction and \$62 for the recreational millage).

30. Why is the millage request targeted for 7 mils vs 5 or 8?

Whitmore Lake has a relatively small tax base. In order to generate enough funds to build a new high school (or a project of any size for that matter), it is necessary for the district to participate in a program known as the **School Bond Loan Fund**. This program enables the district to leverage additional dollars through a special funding arrangement with the State. However, school districts that participate in the School Bond Loan Fund must levy a *minimum of seven (7) mills* and a maximum of 13 mills. If we were to levy six (6) mills it would only generate \$12,000,000. By levying 7 mills we are able to generate approximately \$44,000,000 because of our participation in the School Bond Loan Fund. We can levy a maximum of 7.25 because of our local debt to valuation level. The additional 25 mills will generate approximately \$3,750,000.

31. What will the length of the bond issue be?

The length of the bond will be 30 years or less depending on the amount of commercial and residential growth within the school district boundaries.

32. As the District gains more residents, will the bond be paid off sooner or will my millage be reduced?

As the taxable value of property in Whitmore Lake grows, the outstanding debt will be paid off more quickly. This in turn may lead to a millage reduction similar to the reduction that was passed on to residents this past December. Commercial development and new housing are the two areas that will have the most significant impact on taxable value.

33. Explain what bond money can cover and what it can't.

Bond proceeds cannot be used for the following items:

- Staff salaries and wages
- General operating expenses and maintenance
- Computer software
- Administration

Bond proceeds can be used for the following items:

- Construction and remodeling of facilities
- Purchase of technology
- Purchase of buses
- Land acquisition
- Equipment and furniture

- 34. Barton Malow was part of the school district's previous projects which came in late and over budget. How will this time be different?**

There is an entirely different team assigned to this project. There is a commitment on the part of this new team to restore Barton Malow's credibility with the district. The new team was responsible for coming in and addressing deficiencies in the last project at their own cost. We will also be proactive from an administrative position in managing the project and ensuring that the project is of high quality, on time and under budget.

- 35. What assurances do we have from the architects and construction management firms that they will be able to hold to their estimates?**

Contracts have been developed with both the architectural firm and construction management firm to ensure that the project falls within the planned budget. The key is to manage the process carefully and hold the AE and CM firms accountable for delivery of promised results.

- 36. How will the questions appear on the June 9, 2003 ballot?**

Ballot language is filled with legalese. To acquaint you with the actual wording that will be on the ballot, we have provided the language for the 3 proposals below:

BONDING PROPOSAL I

Shall Whitmore Lake Public School District, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Forty-Four Million Dollars (\$44,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

Erecting, furnishing and equipping a new high school; erecting additions to and remodeling, refurnishing and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing educational technology improvements and acquiring school buses; acquiring additional land for site purposes; and, developing and improving playgrounds, outdoor physical education fields, athletic fields and facilities and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2003, under current law is 3.48 mills (\$3.48 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a total debt levy of 7.00 mills. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, will not exceed thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 5.68 mills (\$5.68 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditures 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.)

BONDING PROPOSAL II

Shall Whitmore Lake Public School District, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Three Million Seven Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,750,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing and equipping a swimming pool as an addition to the proposed new high school, including related site development?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2003, under current law is .82mill (\$0.82 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a total debt levy of 7.25 mills if proposals I and II are approved. The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, will not exceed thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is .46 mill (\$0.46 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditures 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.)

**PROPOSAL III
MILLAGE PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE EARMARKED
FUNDS TO OPERATE A SYSTEM OF
PUBLIC RECREATION AND PLAYGROUNDS**

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Whitmore Lake Public School District, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed .62 mill (\$0.62 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for a period of 20 years, 2003 to 2022, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for operating a system of public recreation and playgrounds; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect for such recreational program if the millage is approved and levied in 2002 is approximately \$187,860)?

37. Explain the ballot proposal tie-in's. How does #3 tie in with #2, etc.?

In order to build a pool as an addition to the new high school, the new high school proposal must pass. If the pool passed and the core proposal failed, a pool would not be constructed. Additionally, operational costs for a pool are estimated in the range of \$150,000-\$175,000 on an annual basis. This is money that is not available in the general fund budget. Therefore, if the recreational millage were to fail but the pool passed, the school board would decide not to build the pool since there would be insufficient funds to operate the pool. However, the issue of a recreational millage could be placed on a subsequent ballot proposal and if it passed, the authorization to construct a pool remains valid and at that time the school district would be in a position to build and operate the pool.

38. When and where do I register to vote?

Voter registration must be completed by May 12, 2003 in order to vote in the June 9th election. You can register at your clerk’s office:

Northfield Township Hall
Clerk’s Office
75 Barker Road
Whitmore Lake
(734) 449-2880
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 am-4:30 pm

Green Oak Township Hall
Clerk’s Office
10001 Silver Lake Road
Brighton
(810) 231-1333
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 am-4 pm

Webster Township Hall
Clerk’s Office
5665 Webster Church Road
Dexter
(734) 426-5103
Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 am-4 pm

OR

- At the Secretary of State Branch Office, when you update your driver’s license to reflect a name and/or address change, including the “Renewal by Mail” program. Your voter registration will be updated automatically.
- At designated government agencies (i.e., Michigan Department of Social Services local office; County Health Department offices; Armed Forces Recruitment offices).
- You also obtain voter registration forms from the Superintendent’s Office, or at any of the main offices for Whitmore Lake High School, Middle School, and/or Elementary School, as well as at the following website:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/voterreg-app_16084_7.pdf

- Register to vote by mail. Complete a Voter Registration Form and mail to the township facility (as listed above) in the appropriate jurisdiction of your home address.
- **IMPORTANT:** If you register to vote by mail, you cannot vote absentee ballot for your first time voting. *The first time you vote... it MUST be in PERSON if you’ve registered by mail!*

39. What are the important dates to remember?

May 12, 2003	Last Day to Register to vote in the June 9, 2003 election
May 20, 2003	Absentee Ballots available
Saturday, June 7, 2003	Last day to vote by absentee ballot (at the administration building until 2 p.m.)
Monday, June 9, 2003	Election Day

40. Where do we vote?

There is only ONE (1) voting precinct for Whitmore Lake Public Schools – Whitmore Lake Middle School in the Media Center, located at Whitmore Lake Public Schools facility at 8877 Main Street, Whitmore Lake. Polls will be open from 7 am – 8 pm

Parking is available in the High School and Middle School parking lots. Voters can be dropped off and picked up next to the school, but please do not park directly next to the school facility

41. If I live in Green Oak Township, can I vote in the Whitmore Lake School District bond election?

Individuals who are registered to vote and live within the borders of the school district are eligible to vote on these issues. The boundaries of the school district include residents in Northfield Township, Green Oak Township and Webster Township. However, just because a person is a resident in one of those three townships does not automatically qualify them to vote in the election. A resident must also live within the physical boundaries of the school district. Your voter registration card will identify in which school district you reside.

42. Didn't we approve a new high school in 1996?

The bond issue in 1996 included the purchase of property and remodeling to the existing facilities. At the time of the election there was discussion regarding future use of the property and it was generally assumed that the site would house a new high school. The 1996 bond issue was for 7.5 million, not nearly enough to build a new comprehensive high school and address the other facility needs of the district.

43. As a District employee, how can I help with the bond initiative?

It is important that the district lead an "information-only" effort. The district, including all staff, has a responsibility to inform voters about the election. During school hours or during times when the staff member is acting in his or her professional capacity, it is a violation to urge parents to vote yes, or to use school resources to promote a yes vote. Remember, however, that staff has a right to voice their opinion about the merits of the program. They can participate in the Yes campaign on their own time. The community group supporting the bond needs volunteers for a number of tasks that take place after school hours, and therefore employees of the District can participate in these efforts.

During work hours, staff can do a number of things to provide information, but they must not try to promote a YES vote. The following legal and ethical guidelines will assure a campaign that cannot be challenged.

- Information can be prepared during the work day, advocacy letters can't be prepared during an employees' work day
- Information can be printed on school stationary, advocacy letters can't.
- During the workday, individuals can be encouraged to vote – but not to vote yes.
- Information must be factual in nature.
- Staff members must clear with the principal any messages they send to parents or the community.
- Advocacy can only be conducted outside an employees' contracted workday.

44. What if the bond doesn't pass?

If the bond does not pass we will not be able to proceed with much needed improvements to the existing facilities (see earlier outline of the needs). Additionally, we will be required to revisit our proposed budget with respect to purchasing buses and new technology since these are currently included as a part of the bond proposal. Given the need, should the bond not pass in June, efforts will be undertaken to understand why the voters did not support the proposal and then it will be placed on the ballot again at a later date taking into consideration what was learned from discussions with the community.

45. What are the benefits of the bond issue for residents who don't have kids in the district?

There are a number of benefits for residents without school-aged children in the district. First, new schools enhance property values. Secondly, there are a number of features proposed in the new high school design that will provide new and improved opportunities for community usage of the facilities. These include, but are not limited to, an elevated walking track at the gymnasium, a weight room, potentially a pool, spaces for meetings, etc. At the end of the day, the new facilities will support enhanced learning opportunities for the students of Whitmore Lake and will give them greater opportunities for success as they become adults. The greatest legacy we can leave is our children...this is an investment in their future.

46. What are the contingencies if future residential developments go through?

The new high school proposal is based on estimated growth projections 5 years out as dictated by the Department of Treasury. It does not address potential residential development for the future. In fact, the State does not allow us to build beyond our current/projected capacity, etc. However, the new high school will be designed in such a way that the building can be expanded to accommodate growth in a logical fashion. Core spaces (e.g. the gymnasium and cafeteria) will be built a little larger since these spaces are not easily expanded.

47. How would new residential development affect the school district?

Under Proposal A, a school district receives a set dollar amount per pupil. Whitmore Lake currently receives \$6,700 per student. Obviously, if a district's enrollment grows through new residential developments, the amount received from the State for operating funds increases as well. As stated in the previous question, our design team has looked at various scenarios to assure our building will respond to our needs now and in the future.

48. I have a question not asked in this information. How can I get an answer?

You can call the Superintendent's Office at 734-449-4464 x 3032 or send the question via e-mail to menzels@mail.whitlk.k12.mi.us.