

LAINGSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following is a list of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** regarding our upcoming Bond proposal on May 7, 2019.

If you have a question that is not addressed here, please contact Superintendent Matt Shastal at (517) 651-2705 to have your question answered.

1. Why are we considering a bond issue now?

Through the Board of Education's Planning process and community and staff input throughout 2018; it was determined that we have several facility needs that cannot be addressed through current funding alone.

Additional information is available on our district website at www.laingsburg.k12.mi.us Visit our site and click on "Bond Proposal Information" for more details.

2. Have you asked for voter input on this bond issue?

We have. Three Community Engagement Sessions were held in the spring and fall of 2018. Based on this input, changes were made to the plans.

3. What are the main priorities that have been identified?

- Student safety & security – new security vestibules at all schools
- Elementary school air conditioning for all classrooms
- Accommodate expanding student programs & needs
- New 650 seat auditorium, lobby, scene shop, toilets and storage space
- Auxiliary gym and locker room addition to accommodate practices & competitions
- Band room expansion and improvements
- New wrestling room
- Four new buses
- High School parking lot paving
- Technology & Furnishings

4. What is the School District doing to maintain our buildings?

Our maintenance staff has done an excellent job maintaining our facilities, but some of our major needs are beyond our current ability to maintain. We are at the point now where more costly items need to be improved or replaced through a bond issue.

5. Who was involved in determining what to include?

Initially we started with our own internal list. This was tested and expanded at three Community Engagement sessions, along with staff and School Board input to review and prioritize the scope of our needs. The auditorium and the need for more gymnasium space have been discussed for several years.

6. Is our student enrollment increasing?

Yes, we are experiencing some growth. The School District hired Stanfred Consultants to provide the enrollment projections to be included in our application to the Michigan Department of Treasury. This projection indicates that we currently have 1,108 K-12 students and we will be at approximately 1,132 students by 2023, for a gain of 24 students.

7. Has educational technology been included?

Yes, there is \$92,500 in technology improvements included in this proposal. We have been providing a high level of technology education and this will allow us to continue directly impacting students in this regard.

8. What is the actual financial impact to homeowners with this bond proposal?

This bond vote would result in an estimated 1.5 mill increase. There is a Tax Calculator program available on the district's website where anyone may calculate their actual cost based on a variety of factors. It should be noted that those individuals who qualify for the Homestead Property Tax Credit would pay less than the full amount when they file their income taxes, and the Tax Calculator program calculates that credit for those who qualify.

9. What is the amount of the proposed Bond Issue and how will it affect my taxes?

The bond proposal is a 28 year bond for \$17,800,000.

The millage is expected to increase 1.5 mills. The average home market value in the school district is \$150,800 (taxable value of \$75,400).

(Taxable value) x .0015 = tax increase. EXAMPLE: \$75,400 x .0015 = \$113.10 per year.

10. How do I get registered?

Visit the Secretary of State's Michigan Voter Information Center website at <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/> for more information about registering to vote and absentee ballots.

11. How is this an "investment" in our students and community?

Our public schools are a joint responsibility of Laingsburg Community Schools and all citizens in our community. Most communities are known by the quality of their schools and facilities. Quality school facilities can be a positive factor in attracting

and retaining families. Homes may be more desirable in a school district that provides quality education and a variety of fine arts, technical, vocational, and athletic programs.