



F.A.Q. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



VOTE!

Tuesday, December 10

Polls Open 7 a.m. - 10 p.m

North Shore High School Gym

**Are you registered? Voter Registration:
Tuesday, Dec. 3, Central Office, 9 AM- 1 PM**



What was the Process in Developing the Bond?

• Over the past three years, the Proposed Bond Referendum was developed by the Board of Education and District administrators. Their discussions were guided by input from our engineers and architects. A ThoughtExchange survey was sent to all residents, students, and faculty during the 2018-19 year. Input from all constituents were included into the Proposed Bond. Additionally, the Five-year Buildings Condition Survey (2015), the Traffic Demographic/Capacity Study, and our comprehensive security audits (2018) conducted by the Department of Homeland Security were used to select the most important projects to address the needs of our students, community members, and taxpayers.

Why Bond Now?

• Since the District had one bond retired recently and two more bonds will be retiring soon, we now have a unique funding opportunity that will allow us to address major health, safety, security, infrastructure and instructional needs for the North Shore Schools - resulting in a new Bond Referendum that will have a neutral school tax impact on our residents.

What Does Tax Neutrality Really Mean?

• The primary assumption made in planning this bond has been to achieve tax neutrality so that the payment schedule remains flat from year-to-year. The bond payments from the 1999 Bond Referendum retired in 2018-19 fiscal year. In addition, two more bonds will retire in 2022-23 and 2025-26. Trustees directed the Administration to keep the projected principal and interest payments from this bond AT or LESS than the amounts being retired. In fact, the Proposed Bond will keep the projected new annual bond payments at or less than all three retiring bonds combined.

What happens if the Bond Does Not Pass?

• In the event the bond does not pass, the Board will need to determine if the monies that were to be allocated in the budget for principal and interest payments will be used for other projects or used to offset a future tax levy. If it is used to offset the levy, the average home valued at \$750,000 would see a one-time reduction of \$130 in their school taxes.

If the District has Reserves, Why Bond?

• Reserves provide financial security for the District to continue to deliver its planned operations without being derailed and undermined by events and expenditures that are not anticipated during the school year. The majority of our reserves are restricted in their use to legally designated expenditures or to offset future tax levies, thus, saving taxpayers money.

Why Not Use the School Budget to Fund Key Projects?

• Overall, it is more efficient and cheaper in the long-term to bond projects because similar items can be grouped and bid together. Most of the items in the proposed bond, represent one-time larger expenditures that would be next to impossible to pay for out of the District's annual operating budget.

What are the Key Instructional Projects?

• 21st Century Learning Spaces are the key focus at all five schools that will impact all of our students. Education today is vastly different than it was 20, 10, and even 5 years ago. Students now work and learn together with teachers acting as facilitators, instructing how to access, filter and use information.

For more Bond Q&A, please visit www.northshoreschools.org

Today, learning spaces must allow and encourage all students, no matter their learning style, to collaborate, communicate, create, and think critically. The proposed bond will focus on transforming the more traditional libraries at each school to technologically advanced media centers. At the elementary level, each will also have a STEAM lab so students can transition to various activities. Key Instructional changes to North Shore Middle School include a new Student Commons/Flexible Instructional Learning Space and renovations to the following areas:

- Math and Science Labs, • Coding Labs, • STEAM Lab, • FACS Lab,
- Band and Practice Rooms, and • Creation of a New Ensemble Space

At North Shore High School, there will be renovations and modifications to:

- Media and Arts Labs, • Choral, Band, and Orchestra Rooms, • Life Skills Lab,
- World Language Classroom, • Wood Shop, and • Robotics Lab

Additionally, the reorganization of classrooms will create greater synergies and collaboration between math and sciences, and among humanities classes.

What are the Safety, Security, and Infrastructure Upgrades?

• Security measures proposed districtwide for all five North Shore Schools include security vestibules, video surveillance system enhancements, intrusion alarm upgrades, card access system upgrades, and door replacements. Also, the infrastructure projects include bathroom renovations, door and door hardware replacement, ventilation upgrades, paging system upgrades & fire alarm upgrades.

Why is Air Conditioning Included?

• Air quality is a key component in student engagement and learning. Thermal comfort, or the maintenance of acceptable temperature and relative humidity, is one component of air quality, along with control of airborne pollutants and the introduction and distribution of outdoor air. Teachers, administrators and students themselves will tell you, when classrooms are too hot and air circulation is limited, students' stop learning due to fatigue and lack of concentration is compromised. There is also a measurable correlation between air quality and increased absenteeism and student achievement.

Will Any of the Bond Projects Interfere with Classes?

• No. All construction will be scheduled in the summer or when schools are closed. No class time will be interrupted or cancelled due to construction.

When would the Bond Projects Be Completed?

• Construction will be phased in across the next few years. Bond projects will need to be submitted to the State Education Department (SED) for approval. Projects which require short approval processes will be done first. Key dates will be posted on the district's website. If approved, construction will be scheduled to begin in June of 2021 and occur over the next 3-4 years.

What is the Total dollar amount of the Proposed Bond?

• The proposed bond vote, scheduled for December 10, 2019, in the HS Gym from 7 am - 10 pm, represents district-wide projects totaling \$39,899,786.

Are Solar Capabilities & Other Energy Savings Included?

Yes. An Energy Performance Contract will be included in the bond referendum. A total of \$5.7 million in energy savings cost will be used to pay for lighting upgrades, solar panels, boilers, and controls.

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