



Frequently Asked Questions March 2020 Bond Election

Q: Why is the District pursuing a facilities bond?

A: The Districts' facilities are aging and in need of repair. We have a lot of critical needs when it comes to big-ticket equipment upgrades such as heating systems and roofs, security enhancements and technology for instruction. For example, Davison High School is nearly 50 years old and is still using the original boilers and roof. We just had to unexpectedly replace the roof at Hahn Intermediate and that cost almost \$700,000. If another one of these systems fails, the district does not have the money to replace it. These items are well beyond their predicted life expectancy. We have similar situations at other buildings throughout the District.

Q: Doesn't the District have a sinking fund for maintenance and repair of its facilities?

A: Yes and no. The District has a sinking fund that generates about a million dollars a year. However, sinking fund dollars can only be used for repairs. When we encounter large expenses, such as replacing the roof at Hahn (which we had to do this past summer at a cost of almost \$700,000) we do not have enough money in our sinking fund to make other needed and scheduled repairs. Over time, the District's critical needs compound and we are now one boiler failure away from a big problem. It's also important to note that sinking fund dollars cannot be used for capital projects (new construction) or maintenance and operational costs.

Q: How much is the District asking for and what would it cost the taxpayers?

A: We have not yet determined the amount of the bond as our design firm, Kingscott, and our construction management firm, DCC, are putting together costs based on the District's critical needs as well as some possible bond features (performing arts center, additional gymnasium, parking and athletic upgrades, etc.) that we are asking stakeholders to weigh in on at our Community Forums. There are a lot of factors to consider when calculating the cost of a bond to the taxpayer: the amount of the bond, the interest rate at the time of issue, term of the bond, etc. What we do know at this time is that one (1) mill will generate approximately \$20 million and would cost the taxpayer about \$50 annually on a \$100,000 home (\$4.17/month).

Q: What does the District plan to use the bond money for?

A: We are in the process of determining and prioritizing our critical needs. That is why we have been seeking input from our stakeholders through surveys, bond subcommittees and community forums. We know we will need to repair or replace roofs, boilers, parking lots, etc. but we also need renovations to our buildings, especially at Davison High School. When we surveyed our parents, staff and community in March, the number one priority was the renovation of Davison High School. Safety and security and improvements to instructional technology were also high priorities, ranking second and third, so we are concentrating on those areas as well. Number four on the list was a new performing arts center (auditorium).

Q: Has the District considered a pool?

A: Yes, we have considered building a pool but the cost of constructing and maintaining a pool are staggering. We estimate it would cost the District about \$25 million to build a competition-sized pool that could be used by our students. It would also cost us about \$300,000 annually to maintain a pool. This would amount to a 71% increase in our annual operating costs (currently \$425,000). While we all agree a pool would be nice to have, the District simply cannot take on that added expense and believe that even if voters approved a separate bond

to build a pool, the cost to operate the facility would become a burden to the district and taxpayers.

Q: Why is the District considering upgrades at Cardinal stadium?

A: We have some critical needs at Cardinal Stadium. It's hard to believe but the stadium is actually 15 years old. The track is in need of repair and we sure could use some additional restrooms! Right now, the only teams using the stadium on a regular basis are the high school football teams. If we are going to repair the track and add additional restrooms we should consider converting the football field to turf. Field turf at Cardinal Stadium would cost about \$700,000, and having a turf field would allow so many other students (including middle school and youth football, lacrosse, soccer and marching band) to use the field as well.

Q: Will replacement of bleachers at the high school gym and Collins Field be included in the bond?

A: Replacement of the bleachers in the Davison High School gym will be included. We have made improvements at Collins Field by installing fencing, railings and riser boards. In addition, the bleachers at Davison Middle School were upgraded several years ago when the gym flooring was replaced.

Q: Didn't the district recently purchase some property? Is that anything that is included in this bond?

A: Yes, the District purchased the old Colonial Suites property off Lapeer Road for \$425,000. This five-acre parcel has a 14,600 square foot building, a large parking lot and abuts to an additional 23 acres owned by the District. To purchase five acres and build a building that size we estimate it would have cost the District over \$1 million so we believe purchasing the property was a good investment. While no firm plans have been made, the building is currently being used by District maintenance and custodial staff and to store materials and supplies. We have also discussed moving our Transportation Department and buses to this site as well as Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation and Food Services if the bond passes. This would free up more parking space on the Davison High School/Alternative Education campus as well as create additional classroom spaces at Alt Ed and Central Elementary.

Q: Will the boys' and girls' locker rooms be updated at the high school?

A: Yes, this would be included in building renovations at Davison High School.

Q: Would Collins Field be updated? Would that include repairs to the field and the track?

A: Possibly, we know the locker rooms at Collins Field need to be replaced and there are other upgrades that we are considering.

Q: How much of the bond money would go toward the Performing Arts Center? Any idea of how many people it would hold? Would the district recover money by renting it?

A: Our existing auditorium is outdated and too small. Except for replacing the seats and carpeting at least 10 years ago, there have been no other renovations for almost 50 years. There are many performances where people have to stand in the aisles. We have not yet determined the cost of building a new auditorium. There are a lot of factors to consider that will impact the cost, but we are looking at seating for approximately 1,100 (our current auditorium seats just over 800) and if you talk with the Districts' music teachers, they would tell you a new auditorium is a critical need of the District. We would also continue to allow community groups, such as the Davison Youth Theatre, Miss Davison and other groups to utilize and rent the auditorium. Building a new performing arts center would also allow us to repurpose the existing auditorium to benefit other school groups such as DTV.

Q: Instead of renovating Davison High School, could we just start over and build a new high school?

A: We would love to build a new high school but we estimate it would cost upward of \$90 million to construct a new high school. With so many other critical needs in the district, we feel those costs, along with that of a new high school, would be too much of a burden on our taxpayers.

Q: I really would love to see a detailed wish list for each building/area and a timeline for projects. Will this be available?

A: Yes! The District maintains a 10 year facilities needs list and our architect and construction manager have also toured the District and identified what they

believe are our critical needs. The District has also surveyed our parents, staff and community members. We used that data to identify the priorities of our stakeholders and create bond subcommittees in each of those high priority areas. We are also taking the feedback from our subcommittees, Community Forums and surveys, pricing out and prioritizing projects. Once we have a complete list of the projects that the bond would entail, we will be sharing that information with all our stakeholders.

Q: Have you asked our students what they need? Sometimes our students see it better than us.

A: Yes, we surveyed our students along with parents and community members in March.

Q: What is meant by “interior renovations?” What changes might there be to classrooms?

A: Interior renovations could be as simple as replacing casework, ceiling tiles or flooring in classrooms, it could also mean remodeling bathrooms or locker rooms or completely restructuring areas of a building. It really depends on the building’s existing condition and what would need to be done to reach a desired state.

Q: What is the plan on the critical needs if the bond does not pass? They seem essential to the district’s safety and well being.

A: There really is no other option. The District simply cannot afford to address all of our critical needs given our existing funding. We would have to keep limping along fixing or replacing the next thing that breaks and managing as best as we can. We would not be asking the community to consider a facilities bond if we really didn’t need it. Our students deserve top notch facilities and passing the bond is the only way we can provide that. If Davison is truly going to be a destination District, our facilities need to reflect that.

Q: Where can I learn more about the bond?

A: You can attend one of our Community Forums (we have one more scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, in the Davison Middle School Community Room). You can also click on the Bond 2020 link on our website at www.davisonschools.org to view the presentation that is being shared at our

Community Forums. The September 3 Forum was taped by DTV and will be shared with parents through email. We will also continue to update parents and community stakeholders as we learn more. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask! You can email your questions to Superintendent Kevin Brown at kbrown@davisonschools.org or call him at 591-0801.