



# LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND ISSUE UPDATE

April 2013

## The ABC's of 21st Century Schools

The noisy heating system, situated just under the drafty, single-pane windows; the outdated and cumbersome teacher work station, where cords stretch across the floor and an antiquated overhead projector beams a transparency film onto a pull-down screen -- these are just a few of the current classroom conditions that were highlighted during the recent community tours at Stevenson High School.

Livonia Public Schools' staff, parents and community members experienced first-hand, the reality of the district's aging classrooms, and saw the sharp contrast between the current classrooms and those that are envisioned in the \$195 million bond proposal that will go before voters on May 7.

Two updated classrooms served as examples of the types of improvements included in the proposal. Last summer's renovation project at Stevenson included new windows, blinds, flooring, ceilings, lighting, white boards and air handling systems in classrooms in two halls of the school. They served as the perfect backdrop to showcase the types of furniture and technology proposed in the bond package. The modern classroom furniture and technology were on loan by the district for the tours, which were attended by hundreds of parents, staff and community members.



Samples of elementary classroom furniture.



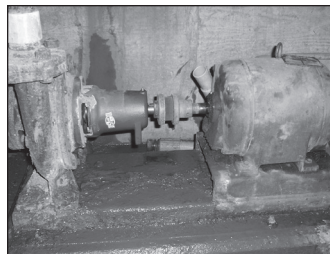
Document cameras are included in the proposal.



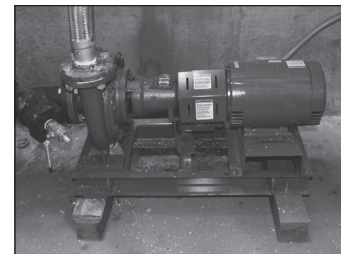
Mobile learning devices are included in the proposal.



This is an example of new secondary classroom furniture.



Many pieces of original equipment need replacing.



Restroom upgrades are included in the proposal.



Replacing mechanical equipment is included in the proposal.

"We were happy to put this together, to allow the community to see and feel the difference between our current, older classrooms and the type of comfortable and modern classroom environment that, studies show, is more conducive to learning," said Superintendent Randy Liepa, noting the newer classrooms are brighter, are temperature controlled, and have the technology that engages students and promotes collaborative learning.

The proposed improvements throughout the district's 3 million square feet are items that were considered critical needs, through four years of studies and surveys by the district's school board and administration. LPS schools are 40-60 years old and have not kept pace with updates in neighboring districts.

Classroom renovations are a key component to the proposal, but others include the renovation of fine arts facilities and adjacent classrooms; enhanced technology in every classroom;

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electrical, plumbing, heating and ventilating upgrades; safety enhancements and the replacement of buses and mechanical equipment. For a full listing, and more bond issue information, visit [www.livoniapublicschools.org](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org).

Classroom environment and technology improvements are important, said Art Colling, a teacher at Emerson Middle School.

"When I go to a store or restaurant, I want to feel safe and it should be inviting. My classroom needs to feel the same way," he said. "Have you ever sat in a classroom that is hot, uncomfortable, and plain? I have, and that is all I remember about that class. I don't remember the lesson."

Updating the technology in the classroom, with a wireless network, mobile learning devices, white boards, multimedia projectors and digital document cameras, can enhance any lesson, said Colling.

"Teaching systems of equations to eighth graders is not the most exciting lesson out there. However, if I am able to plug in an iPad to the projector, it engages most of the students," he said. "The possibilities of technology in the classroom are endless."

Cooper Upper Elementary Media Specialist Judy Bowling agrees that technology is needed to prepare students for the global society they'll enter upon graduation.

"As we work with our students, the digital natives of the 21st century, it is important that we look to their future and provide them with the necessary skills, tools and resources to prepare them for a job in a global and digital economy that may not exist, yet," said Bowling. "Today's classrooms need to reflect the technology revolution that is occurring as we move from print-based learning to digital learning, any time, any place."

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For more information, visit [www.livoniapublicschools.org](http://www.livoniapublicschools.org) or call the Communications Office at (734) 744-2522

### Debt Millage Comparison Chart

Novi	7.63
Dearborn	5.81
Garden City	4.88
Wayne/Westland	4.86
Northville	4.30
Plymouth/Canton	4.10
Farmington	2.56
Livonia	2.20

Tax year 2012, fiscal year 2012-13  
Source: 2012 County Apportionment Reports

### 100% of the Bond Dollar Stays with the District



#### A Regular Education Tax Dollar is Split:

- 28% goes to Livonia Public Schools
- 26% goes to Wayne County Education
- 46% goes to State School Aid Fund



#### A Bond Tax Dollar Stays in the District

- 100% goes to Livonia Public Schools

## School Bond Issue Update Residential Customer ECR-WSS

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Livonia, MI  
Permit #36

Livonia Public Schools  
15125 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48154