

Proposed Bond

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What projects would the proposed bond address?

A. The proposed \$8.9 million bond to fund the following projects:

School buildings are old and many components have outlived their life span. Elementary school is 65 years old and the middle school is 79 years old and the high school is 45 years old.

- Facility improvements to all three schools including electrical, HVAC and plumbing system upgrades to extend the school's useful life.
- The installation of new roofs where there are several 20 year roofs that are over 25 years old.
- Construction of additional classrooms at each school as needed.
- Safety, security and facility improvements at all district schools.
- District-wide energy savings improvements to reduce operating costs.

Site improvements for our athletic complex especially the track.

- Construction of a storage building for the school district.
- Site improvements, demolition and equipping of projects and bond issuance costs.

Q. How were these proposed projects determined?

A. Three public meetings were held to discuss school facility needs along with two meetings with each buildings staff. In addition, over 200 community members, parents and staff members responded to a facility needs survey. The district's facilities assessment was just completed this fall demonstrating the strong need for electrical and HVAC upgrades. We have a number of items that have outlived their life span. If the bond passes we will evaluate schools to determine what projects would most economically improve building safety/security and extend the useful lives of school buildings.

Q. What does this do to my existing tax rate?

A. The proposed 15 year bond would be structured to increase the current bond tax rate of \$1.09 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$1.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The impact on a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 is estimated to be an increase in taxes of \$99/year or \$8.24/month. This new bond will replace the existing bond that expires in June of 2019. The tax payer will not have two different tax payments. Depending on interest rates, a final partial year payment may be necessary during the 2032-33 fiscal year at a tax rate that is less than the current bond tax rate before all district bonds are fully paid off. Actual tax rates may differ, depending on interest rates incurred and change in assessed value.

Q. Why not build a brand new school?

A. In order to build a brand new school we would need 25 -30 million dollars. That is 3 to 4 times more than we are asking for in this current bond request. Instead of \$1.59/\$1,000 assessed value you would be paying \$4.77-\$6/\$1,000 of assessed value.

Q. Are any state funds available?

A. Harrisburg School District is guaranteed \$2.2 million in matching funds from the state if the district passes the bond measure and if any of the three districts ahead of us are not able to raise matching funds we could receive another \$1.8 million in matching funds.

Q. Why do the schools need new classrooms?

A. Each of the schools has different needs;

- The Elementary School needs two new classrooms to accommodate a surge in enrollment and keep class size at an optimal level.
- The Middle School needs classroom space for electives such as art and robotics.
- The High School needs state of the art Science classrooms and the art classroom is too small.

Q. What improvements does the track need?

A. The track isn't used for training or track meets because;

- Its surface is uneven and has numerous pot-holes making it dangerous to run on for training purposes and,
- Its shape must be changed since it doesn't comply with current metric standards

Q. Why a storage building?

A. A storage building would save the district money for two basic reasons;

- It would allow the purchase of items in bulk. Buying supplies in large quantities is less expensive than purchasing small amounts and,
- A temperature controlled building would permit furniture, equipment, fixtures, and so forth to be safely stored until needed thus saving money to buy new.
- Currently, items are stored in instructional space in our fabrication shop. Once a storage facility is built, this will free up the instructional space for additional project construction.