



## Frequently Asked Questions about the November 7, 2017 School Bond Election

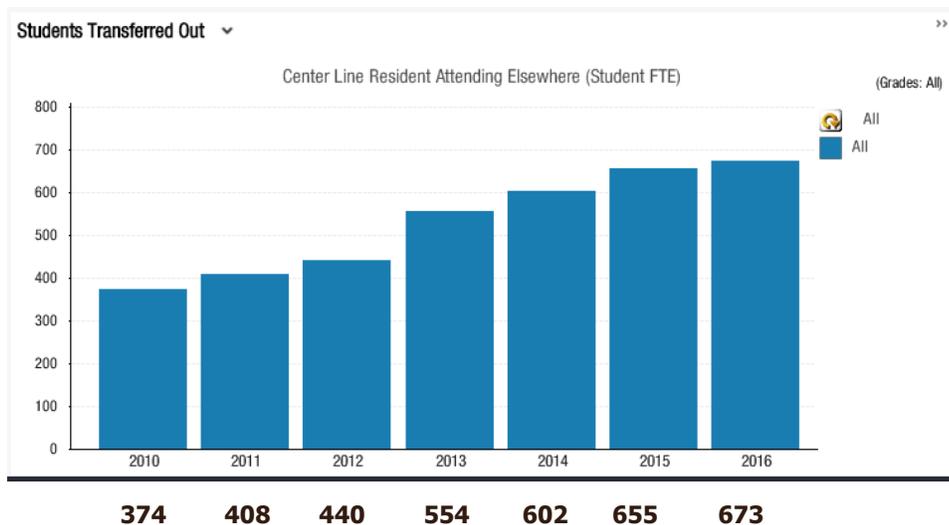
### When is the election?

Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Why is this bond election necessary?

The primary purpose of the November 7th bond proposal is to build and update school facilities for this generation and the next.

- Our buildings are over 60 years old; we spend approximately \$1 million/year more on maintenance than our neighboring districts.
- We have over \$24 million in critical needs. It’s time we do more than patch/repair.
- We have lost students to neighboring districts that have more up-to-date facilities.



### Biggest "Student-Stealers" in 2016:

- Warren Con: 204
- Warren Woods: 76
- Van Dyke: 31

The goals of this bond are to enhance student safety and security, increase efficiency to lower costs, upgrade technology and infrastructure, and purchase buses when they reach the end of their useful lives. This will improve the education of all students and district quality for all residents.

If approved by voters, the bond proposal will assure our facilities operate efficiently, match current and projected student enrollment, and are on par with neighboring school districts.

### What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?

The proposed bond projects cannot be addressed because the general fund cannot support them. If we cannot provide a safe and up-to-date learning environment for our students, we may continue to lose them to surrounding districts. If the school system fails, the community will fail.

## What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a voter-approved funding process that specifies a set scope of projects. When voters approve a bond, the money specified in the bond proposal is borrowed and the school district makes payments over a period of years, much like a homeowner pays a mortgage. Bonds are usually issued for 20-30 years. If voters approve the November 7 bond proposal for \$53.05 million (4.9 mills), the bonds will be issued for 25 years.

**Center Line Schools has the lowest bond debt in Macomb County** at just over \$16.6 million; Warren Woods has \$47 million, Fitzgerald \$68.6 million, and Van Dyke \$79.6 million.

| District (w/ Student Count)**    | Total Bond Debt | District (w/ Student Count)**                                   | Total Bond Debt     |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Chippewa Valley (16,226)      | \$445,655,000   | 12. Lake Shore Public (3,648)                                   | \$77,200,000        |
| 2. Utica Community (27,735)      | \$383,500,000   | 13. Mt. Clemens Community (1,080)                               | \$71,535,000        |
| 3. L'Anse Creuse Public (10,689) | \$378,165,000   | 14. Fitzgerald Public (2,656)                                   | \$68,640,000        |
| 4. Anchor Bay (5,959)            | \$214,970,000   | 15. South Lake (1,720)  | \$61,485,000        |
| 5. Warren Consolidated (14,355)  | \$200,235,000   | 16. East Detroit Public (2,975)                                 | \$50,495,000        |
| 6. Fraser Public (5,158)         | \$192,915,000   | 17. Warren Woods Public (3,232)                                 | \$47,000,000        |
| 7. Romeo Community (5,203)       | \$157,485,000   | 18. Armada Public (1,856)                                       | \$44,470,000        |
| 8. Roseville Community (4,774)   | \$138,925,000   | 19. Clintondale (2,845)   | \$40,080,000        |
| 9. Lakeview Public (4,243)       | \$84,805,000    | 20. Richmond Community (1,450)                                  | \$30,915,000        |
| 10. New Haven Community (1,286)  | \$84,330,000    | <b>21. Center Line Public* (2,621)</b>                          | <b>\$16,650,000</b> |
| 11. Van Dyke Public (2,591)      | \$79,600,000    | * Lowest Bond Debt in Macomb<br>** Counts from MISchoolData.org |                     |

Of Center Line's current bond debt, \$8,350,000 of that expires in 2020, and the remaining \$8,300,000 expires in 2023. The way the November 7 bond initiative is structured, only the first phase of the bond amount starts immediately upon passage. The next two phases will not be collected on until 2020 and 2023 respectively, when the previous bonds are paid off.

## Recent Bonds by Macomb County Districts

|                           |                  |                     |                            |                  |                     |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Fraser Public             | 5/2/2017         | \$29,370,000        | Chippewa Valley            | 2/23/2010        | \$89,765,000        |
| Anchor Bay                | 5/2/2017         | \$22,565,000        | Warren Consolidated        | 11/3/2009        | \$65,705,000        |
| Warren Consolidated       | 5/3/2016         | \$134,530,000       | Utica Community            | 5/5/2009         | \$112,500,000       |
| Romeo Community           | 5/3/2016         | \$86,000,000        | <b>East Detroit Public</b> | <b>5/5/2009</b>  | <b>\$23,055,000</b> |
| Lake Shore Public         | 5/3/2016         | \$34,920,000        | Lake Shore Public          | 8/5/2008         | \$9,700,000         |
| <b>Armada Area</b>        | <b>11/3/2015</b> | <b>\$4,100,000</b>  | <b>Van Dyke Public</b>     | <b>5/6/2008</b>  | <b>\$62,600,000</b> |
| <b>South Lake</b>         | <b>8/5/2014</b>  | <b>\$25,585,000</b> | <b>South Lake</b>          | <b>5/6/2008</b>  | <b>\$10,900,000</b> |
| <b>Richmond Community</b> | <b>11/5/2013</b> | <b>\$12,900,000</b> | Lakeview Public            | 11/6/2007        | \$15,035,000        |
| Romeo Community           | 11/5/2013        | \$5,100,000         | Roseville Community        | 5/2/2006         | \$72,000,000        |
| Romeo Community           | 11/6/2012        | \$16,400,000        | Roseville Community        | 5/2/2006         | \$38,000,000        |
| Fraser Public             | 2/22/2011        | \$19,900,000        | <b>New Haven Comm.</b>     | <b>11/8/2005</b> | <b>\$51,510,000</b> |

**Center Line Public Schools last passed improvement bonds in December 1999 and March 2002.**

## **Why is this bond proposal so comprehensive?**

On three previous occasions the school district has asked voters to approve bond proposals. All were narrowly defeated. This proposal has been developed following five Town Halls open to the community. The community stadium has been taken off the table, and various other elements were revised to incorporate feedback from our constituents. However, the needs that were identified in the past continue to deserve attention. The comprehensiveness of the November 7 bond proposal indicates how much has to be done to assure that the Center Line Public School District can address the learning needs of students well into the 21st Century. We are operating under the following priorities:

- "Safe, Warm, Dry"
- Asset Protection/Retention
- Operational Efficiency
- Security and Safety

## **Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?**

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for staff wages, salaries, or operational costs. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State law, they must be audited.

**Bonds can be used for . . . long term assets** such as constructing new school buildings or additions to existing school buildings; remodeling existing school buildings; energy conservation improvements; land purchases; playground development and improvements; refunding debt (if net present value savings can be demonstrated); direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, final audit costs; school bus purchases; loose furnishings and equipment purchasing; and technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating system and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

**Bonds cannot be used for . . .** salaries, supplies, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts; repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements; purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans; portable classrooms purchased for temporary use; uniforms; textbooks; upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software; or computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts.

## **The bond projects fall into seven basic categories:**

- ◆ Construction of a new elementary and early childhood school to house current Peck Elementary students and youngsters in the Early Childhood Center (ECC) program, located behind Center Line High School.
- ◆ Renovations and new construction at the Early Childhood Center (formerly Ladd Elementary). Roose Elementary students will be relocated to this "new Roose" in 2021.
- ◆ Improvements to Crothers Elementary, including the addition of a new cafeteria and gym (2023).
- ◆ Renovations at Center Line High School and Wolfe Middle School (including roof repairs, installation of technology infrastructure, and upgrades to the CLHS auditorium and pool).
- ◆ Relocation of administration to Wolfe Middle School and demolition of Administration Building.
- ◆ Roof replacements and other improvements at Peck Elementary. When completed, this school will be used to house the *Homeschool Partnership* and *Academy 21* students beginning in 2023.
- ◆ Replacement of school buses as they reach the end of their useful lives.

If approved by voters, the bond proposal will positively impact current students and future generations.

## **What technology is included in the bond proposal?**

Infrastructure must be updated to handle the equipment available to our students. Interactive technology for classroom presentation devices will create learning environments on par with local districts.

## What has the current board and administration done to reduce spending and take care of important building issues?

To reduce spending, we have renegotiated with all bargaining units, applied for and received many grants (*CTE, Academy, Robotics, E-Rate, Foundation, TRIG*) and used competitive bidding processes to obtain equipment in order to run at the lowest possible operating levels. To fix some, *but not all*, of our critical issues we used a Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB) in 2013 to address security and immediate physical needs (*roofing, in particular*). We have leased Miller to Rising Stars to offset costs of keeping the building open and are reviewing the option of selling the building to them.

These accomplishments were still not enough to maintain district operations efficiently. So, in 2016, *ALL* staff took significant cuts in pay. Another factor affecting efficient operations is our maintenance costs per student. Due primarily to the age of our facilities and outdated equipment within them (*HVAC, electrical, etc.*), Center Line Public Schools spends between \$343.49 and \$518.94 more per student than surrounding districts, or our closest peers within the state, on maintenance. That equates to **approximately \$927,000 – \$1,400,000 per year more than our peers on infrastructure repairs.**

## Why are we paying for a Center Line Public Schools Bond when we live in Warren?

Center Line Public Schools services students from **both Center Line and Warren**. The city of Warren has 6 public school districts:

1. **Center Line Public**
2. East Detroit Public
3. Fitzgerald Public
4. Van Dyke Public
5. Warren Consolidated
6. Warren Woods Public

Percentage of CLPS Students (by City):

- Center Line = 35%
- **Warren = 65%**



## I don't have children in the local public schools, so why should I have to help pay for those schools? Why should I be forced to pay for resources that I will not use and that I feel are unnecessary?

Public schools are good for people without kids, too! Good schools help build and maintain strong communities. The community will receive many benefits:

- ✓ **Involvement.** Students with access to a quality education become more active and productive citizens within a community.
- ✓ **Local Jobs.** Center Line Public Schools employs 338, including many within the district boundaries of Center Line and Warren
- ✓ **Lower Crime.** Quality schools produce graduates that are more likely to find gainful employment, and less likely to commit crimes
- ✓ **Property Values.** There is a correlation between communities that invest in their schools and property values.
- ✓ **Community Beautification and Pride.** Communities that invest in their schools are likely to invest in their city as well. This helps keep the area looking attractive to potential buyers.
- ✓ **Access to Safe Activity Centers.** Modern, functional, and well-kept school facilities invite community usage. They also provide shelter, food, and other necessities in times of need.
- ✓ **Cost Control.** Communities that invest in their school facilities typically have lower building maintenance costs overall than districts that do not invest their buildings. The older the infrastructure, the more costly it becomes to maintain.

**What will the bond proposal cost?**

Current review of property values show the average Center Line home to be worth about \$80,000 (or a taxable value of \$40,000). If voters approve the 25-year bond proposal, the current tax rate will increase by 4.9 mills, or less than \$4/week for a person living in a \$80,000 home. Some people will pay slightly more; most will pay less. **If property values rise, we collect fewer mills. If property values fall, the mills increase but the amount that each taxpayer pays will remain fairly stable based on the 4.9 mills calculation (see below).**

Using the tax calculator at <http://www.pfmtaxcalc.com/centerline> to input taxable values ranging from \$30,000 to \$40,000 with various household incomes, the overall tax increase would be as follows:

| <b>Taxable Value<br/>(half of home's actual value)</b> | <b>Household Income</b> | <b>Tax Increase – Year</b> | <b>Tax Increase - Daily</b> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$40,000   | \$100,000+              | \$196.00                   | \$0.54                      |
| \$40,000   | \$60,000                | \$196.00                   | \$0.54                      |
| \$40,000   | \$50,000                | \$184.24                   | \$0.50                      |
| \$40,000   | \$40,000                | \$78.40                    | \$0.21                      |

| <b>Taxable Value<br/>(half of home's actual value)</b> | <b>Household Income</b> | <b>Tax Increase – Year</b> | <b>Tax Increase - Daily</b> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$35,000   | \$100,000+              | \$171.50                   | \$0.47                      |
| \$35,000   | \$60,000                | \$171.50                   | \$0.47                      |
| \$35,000   | \$50,000                | \$161.21                   | \$0.44                      |
| \$35,000   | \$40,000                | \$68.60                    | \$0.19                      |

| <b>Taxable Value<br/>(half of home's actual value)</b> | <b>Household Income</b> | <b>Tax Increase – Year</b> | <b>Tax Increase - Daily</b> |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$30,000   | \$100,000+              | \$147.00                   | \$0.40                      |
| \$30,000   | \$60,000                | \$147.00                   | \$0.40                      |
| \$30,000   | \$50,000                | \$138.18                   | \$0.38                      |
| \$30,000   | \$40,000                | \$58.80                    | \$0.16                      |

**I was told that the mills could go up to 10 mills depending on property values. Is that true?**

The mills might increase or decrease due to changing property values, but the amount levied on the individual taxpayer would only potentially include slight variations. (If the taxable value goes up, the mills go down.)

**If the bond proposal is approved by voters, will property values be affected?**

Real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that offer a quality education program and have up-to-date school facilities. Property values tend to be lower in communities that do not offer an adequate curriculum or that have schools that are out-of-date and poorly maintained. Remodeling and upgrading school buildings and facilities will protect the community's investment in the school district. All bond proposal projects are designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the community's enviable "small, tight-knit" reputation.

**Are Section 8 homes going to be built on the Roose property [if sold]?**

Center Line Public Schools would work to negotiate with a builder in the hopes of creating building homes similar to those in the surrounding areas.

## What's included in the bond proposal?

If approved by voters on November 7, the following projects will be completed at each school:

### Center Line High School

- Upgrade technology infrastructure (wiring, wireless access points)
- Remodel and expand smaller classrooms
- Remodel restrooms
- Remodel area into student collaboration space
- Remodel cafeteria
- Upgrade auditorium seating, lighting, and sound
- Deepen pool and upgrade dehumidification system
- Add additional exit and emergency lighting
- Add automatic lighting controls in classrooms
- Replace inefficient lighting
- Interactive technology for every classroom
- Partial roof replacement
- Relocate running track to accommodate New Peck Elementary School
- Replace classroom and corridor acoustical ceilings
- Replace and relocate select parking areas

### Wolfe Middle School

- Upgrade technology infrastructure (wiring, wireless access points)
- Remodel gymnasium and boys' and girls' locker rooms
- Remodel restrooms
- Add additional exit and emergency lighting
- Add automatic lighting controls in classrooms
- Upgrade and expand fire alarm system
- Partial roof replacement
- Replace classroom and corridor acoustical ceilings and lighting
- Replace classroom carpet in select areas
- Interactive technology for every classroom
- Relocate Central Office area into old shop area
- Replace concrete access drive at service entry

### New Peck Elementary/Early Childhood Center

- 21st century school environment
- Kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms
- Early childhood center classrooms
- Secure entrance vestibule
- Install video surveillance system
- New building furnishings
- Interactive technology for every classroom
- New playground

### Crothers Elementary

- Upgrade technology infrastructure (wiring, wireless access points)
- Remodel classrooms, activity areas and corridors
- Remodel existing cafeteria into media center, and classroom
- Construct new restrooms and remodel existing restrooms
- Construct new gymnasium, cafeteria, and kitchen
- Install video surveillance security system
- Install fire suppression system in existing building
- Upgrade and expand fire alarm system
- Additional exit and emergency lighting
- Add automatic lighting controls in classrooms
- Upgrade electrical system
- Replace corridor and classroom area lighting
- Replace classroom and corridor doors and hardware
- Replace mechanical systems in classrooms and activity areas
- Interactive technology for every classroom
- Construct new parking area
- Replace concrete walks around building

### ECC – the "new Roose"

- Upgrade technology infrastructure (wiring, wireless access points)
- Construct new classrooms
- Construct new gymnasium, cafeteria & kitchen
- Construct new restrooms and remodel existing restrooms
- Remodel classrooms and corridors
- Secure entrance vestibule
- Add video surveillance security system
- Upgrade fire alarm system
- Add additional exit and emergency lighting
- Replace classroom/corridor doors and hardware
- Replace exterior doors
- Replace mechanical systems in classrooms
- Interactive technology for every classroom
- Replace building perimeter lighting
- Construct new parking area
- Replace concrete walks around building
- Replace perimeter soffit, fascia and wall panels above windows
- Replace roofing

## Why is Central Office being moved to Wolfe Middle School?

Central Office will be relocated to reduce costs and make more efficient use of school facilities. The administration building will be demolished in the second phase of the bond to increase an approximate annual savings of \$135,000.

## Why will bond revenue be used to replace buses?

All leased school buses will be replaced with purchased buses. The district's buses have an average age of 10 years. The reliability of school buses and annual maintenance costs both become increasingly significant and make their replacement appropriate after they have been on the road for 12 years. Center Line Schools currently leases eight buses that will need to be replaced in August 2019. Using bond revenue to purchase buses means that the district can maintain the safety and efficiency of the bus fleet without draining dollars from the instructional program.

## I was concerned because a former Board of Education member said that money from previous bonds had not been spent correctly so work wasn't completed. Is this true?

The last bond that CLPS passed was in 2002, **before the time of the current administration.** We have heard the rumors that the high school pool was targeted for improvements in previous bonds (1999, 2002) but not completed. In looking into the past bond proposals, it appears that only a "heating unit" for the pool area was specified in bond work list. Therefore, this rumor appears to be false. Fixing the pool was NOT in the previous bond work. Some parents and residents appear still very upset over this misconception.

## What is the schedule for bond proposal projects?

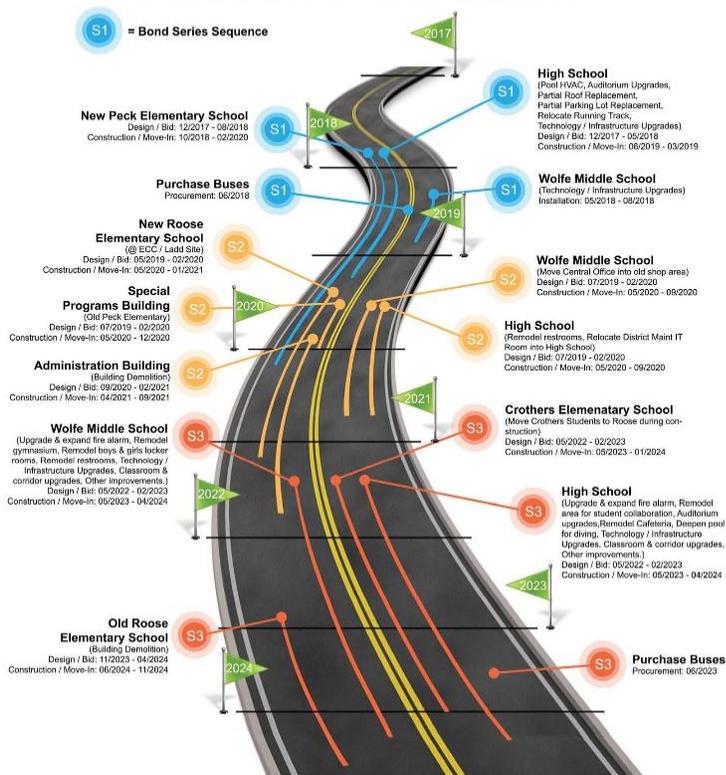
There will be three series of projects. The **first series** will begin as soon as voters approve the bond proposal. The priority will be to construct a new elementary school so that students can be relocated to allow renovations to continue without interruption to the school year.

The **second series** will begin in 2020 as the district continues to levy a previous bond that will expire. The Early Childhood Center will be renovated and a new addition will be constructed. When this facility is complete, it will become Roose Elementary and students at the current Roose Elementary will move into the essentially new facility.

**Series 3** will begin in 2023 when another bond expires and the district continues to levy the bond. The primary focus of series three will be major renovations at Peck Elementary (which will house *Homeschool Partnership* and *Academy 21* when completed) and at Crothers Elementary School.



## ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE



### **Who can vote in this bond proposal election?**

Residents of the Center Line School District who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, and are registered to vote by October 10, 2017.

### **Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, absentee voting)?**

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website ([webapps.sos.state.mi.us](http://webapps.sos.state.mi.us)) or call the Clerk's Office where you reside. You can register to vote for this election up until October 10.

Registering to vote does not place you on a list for jury duty; potential jurors are selected randomly from the State of Michigan Driver's License list and Personal Identification Cardholder list. Absentee ballots will be available September 23.

### **Can I vote by absentee ballot?**

Registered voters can vote by absentee ballot if they meet one of the following:

1. They expect to be out of town on Election Day;
2. They are 60 years of age or older;
3. They are unable to vote without assistance at the polls; or,
4. They cannot attend the polls due to religious reasons.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after September 23. The Clerk will mail absentee ballot applications to residents on the permanent absentee voter list before or shortly after September 23. After September 23, voters can complete their absentee ballot application and vote in one stop at their Clerk's Office. The whole process takes less than five minutes.

### **Get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions...**

- Go to [www.clps.org](http://www.clps.org) and click on *Bond Information*.
- Call any Center Line school principal.
- Call Superintendent of Schools Eve Kaltz at 586/510-2001 or by sending an email to her at [kaltze@clps.org](mailto:kaltze@clps.org).