

Bond proposal election set for May 2

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CLINTON TOWNSHIP/MACOMB TOWNSHIP— After receiving approval from the state treasury department a week earlier, the Chippewa Valley Board of Education gained approval from the Macomb County Clerk’s Office to hold a bond proposal election May 2.

Voters will decide whether to approve a project plan priced at \$89,942,125. It would raise taxes on a home valued at \$200,000 by \$50 per year.

“This is all maintenance of our district. I think the vast majority of our community members have come to expect nice facilities, and I think they want them to be kept that way,” said Superintendent Ron Roberts. “I think that’s good for their property values, and I think people know that. I really expect the community at large to be supportive of this.”

More than \$34 million from the bond would be dedicated to technology enhancements in the district. The district plans to purchase roughly 9,000 computers, which includes 158 new laptop carts that each hold 30 laptops for students to use during class time. Other computer purchases will be for replacements of current staff and student devices.

Those funds will also go toward instructional technology equipment, wireless infrastructure improvements and the replacement of security cameras around the district.

“Over time, you need to replace computers, whether they’re student or staff, and computers, that’s an important part,” Roberts said. “The second part I see as moving our district forward in curriculum. I really see it as a curricular initiative to give kids the best possible learning opportunities while employing the most technology we can afford.”

The bond program would also create nearly \$45 million to be dedicated to construction work throughout the district. That would include \$17 million for site work, which includes six parking lot replacements and work on 13 others, plus work on sidewalks, athletic fields and playgrounds.

Athletic upgrades include turf replacement on the football field at Chippewa Valley High School, as well as running track replacements at CVHS and the district’s four middle schools.

“Our middle schools are sometimes an area that gets overlooked as not being as important, and with this bond, we want to make sure their facilities are as good as they can possibly be with what we can afford,” Roberts said.

Roofing work on 16 buildings would amount to \$7.4 million, while renovation and mechanical work, including boilers and chillers, would total \$20 million.

Roberts said the district extended warranties on roofs for as many buildings as possible without using bond money, but bond funds would be used for roofing work on buildings that couldn't receive warranty extensions.

Updated polling locations

Macomb Township officials announced Feb. 8 that voters in the school bond election may be heading to a different polling location from what they're used to.

Due to a lower than typical turnout for school elections, the township board approved consolidating some precincts and moving the location of two other precincts because they are not available to be used for an election May 2.

The polling location and precinct combinations are: Dakota High School (Precincts 3 and 17), Fox Elementary (4, 6), Mohawk Elementary (7), Shawnee Elementary (9, 24, 26, 28), Westbridge Manor (10, 18), Ojibwa Elementary (12, 30), Iroquois Middle School (14, 19), Senior Center (15, 21, 25), Cheyenne Elementary (20, 29) and Seneca Middle School (33, 34, 35).

The cost of hosting the election is the same as a U.S. presidential primary, and that expense is to be reimbursed by the school district.

