

Chippewa Valley plans May 2 election on \$89 million bond issue



Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education recently approved an application for preliminary qualification of bonds.
NICOLE TUTTLE -- FOR THE MACOMB DAILY

By Nicole Tuttle, **For The Macomb Daily**

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Chippewa Valley Schools Assistant Superintendent Scott Sederlund said the district recently met with the state treasury to review an application for preliminary qualification for a bond. NICOLE TUTTLE -- FOR THE MACOMB DAILY

The Chippewa Valley Board of Education has submitted plans for an \$89 million bond issue to the state for review.

If approved, the bond program would finance parking lot improvements, playground upgrades, roofing projects and technology enhancements, said Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations Scott Sederlund.

Sederlund said the school board on Jan. 9 adopted a resolution to approve an application for preliminary qualification of bonds, while district officials work to finalize a budget and project list to be reviewed by the state treasury.

“If the state approves our bond application, the board will need to call for an election on the Feb. 6 board meeting,” Sederlund said.

According to Chippewa Valley Schools Director of School and Community Relations Diane Blain, the proposed bond would increase taxes by 0.5 mills for residents of Clinton and Macomb townships within the school district’s boundaries.

Residents would see an increase of \$50 per year for a home with taxable value of \$100,000. The project plan is currently at \$89,950,000 for a six-year period.

The bond program plan calls for construction throughout the district on roofs, parking lots, boilers, chillers, flooring and more, at about \$43 million, Sederlund said.

“The vast majority of the site work is parking lots. There is also some playground equipment budgeted for the elementary schools,” Sederlund said.

The total cost of site work will be approximately \$15 million, with work at parking lots in 19 out of 23 buildings in the district varying from patchwork to more extensive repaving.

Sixteen school buildings need some roofing work, at a total cost of \$11 million, Sederlund said. Mechanical and renovation work totals about \$17 million, and \$34 million will be used from the bond for district technology, he added.

“Between laptop carts, student computers, teacher computers, computer labs, etc. we will be purchasing about 10,000 computers,” Sederlund said.

The district plans to purchase 247 new or replacement laptop carts, with 30 computers per cart.

“In addition to what we are replacing, we put in the new curriculum next year that the plan is to put in a new language arts program. It is something we’re implementing at the secondary level. They will use laptop carts for those language programs. At the elementaries we’re looking at doing something with the science area and laptop carts,” Sederlund said.

Other projects the district hopes to tackle with money from the proposed bond are busses, furniture, and copiers at a cost of about \$11 million