

ISSUE 12

What YOU Need to Know!



Q: What do we get with Issue 12?

A: If Issue 12 passes, our district will be able to construct a new secondary education campus on the current Bolich/Newberry site including a new 9-12 building, and a new 7-8 building. It would also fund the relocation of Laybourne Field, and safety and accessibility upgrades to Clifford Stadium. Issue 12 would also fund the razing of Bolich, Sill, Newberry, and portions of CFHS. Additionally, the Ohio School Facility Commission (OSFC) will fund \$22.5 million of the new building construction.

Q: What's the millage amount? What would it cost me?

A: Issue 12 is a 5.98-mill bond issue. It would cost approximately \$209 per year on a home valued at \$100,000 in property value or \$17.45 per month.

Q: What happens if Issue 12 does not pass?

A: We could lose out on the OSFC's offer to fund 27% of our Master Plan costs. The district will continue to use its current educational facilities, our students lose out on updated technology and the numerous educational benefits new schools would provide, and our community loses out on the opportunities this project provides us. The State will give those funds to another district for their new schools if we do not pass a bond issue to pay for our local share. There is no guarantee that the OSFC will offer any money in the future. If they do, there is no guarantee it will match the current 27% funding offer.

Q: What's the difference between a bond issue and an operating levy?

A: Bond issues raise money that, by law, can be used only for capital costs like building construction and/or renovations and major equipment purchases. Operating levies generate money for a district's day-to-day operating costs, such as salaries, benefits, and utilities. Issue 12 is a bond issue. All of the funds from Issue 12 and the State's \$22.5 million are for new facilities, building renovations and other permanent improvements. None of the funds can be used for operating costs, salaries or benefits.

Q: Why now?

A: We have a significant need and a significant opportunity now. All our buildings face major issues. We only have until July 2016 to take advantage of the State's program, but our aging buildings will continue to deteriorate with time, and the costs to maintain and repair them will continue to increase.

Q: Why build new? Can't we just renovate our schools?

A: The State, through the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC), recommends that school buildings be replaced when the cost of renovating exceeds two-thirds the cost of building a new facility. Professional estimates place the cost of renovating – bringing them up to state minimum standards – at **90% of the cost to build brand new facilities**. Most of our buildings were built in the 1960s or earlier (CFHS in 1922) and have seriously outdated infrastructures (HVAC, plumbing, electrical) that are costly to maintain and cannot accommodate today's educational needs.

Q: Why is the Master Plan divided into two segments?

A: By segmenting, the district can tackle what was seen as by parents, staff and the community as the biggest need first – a new High School, followed by a new Middle School. Every CFCS student is impacted by conditions at the high school. Segmentation also keeps us accountable – it lets us prove that we can execute the design and construction of these facilities before addressing our elementary school needs. Finally, by segmenting the plan, we lock the OSFC into its 27% financing offer for BOTH Segment 1 and Segment 2.

Q: What is included in Segment 1? What is the total cost?

A: Segment 1's total project cost is \$93.47 million. We would fund \$71 million of the project locally with Issue 12, with the remaining \$22.5 million coming from the state. \$54 million would be used for the construction of the new 9-12 High School Building, and \$23 million for the new 7-8 Middle School on the same campus. \$6.3 million would be used to demolish Sill, Bolich, Newberry, and parts of CFHS. \$10 million is slated for related projects like the relocation of Laybourne Field, necessary improvements to Clifford Stadium, and the inclusion of automotive/machine trade facilities. Part of the \$10 million covers more durable material upgrades in flooring and exterior brick.

Q: How do we know the district can maintain these new buildings once they are built?

A: The OSFC requires that at each project dedicates at least 0.5 mills to maintaining the new facilities. Issue 12 specifically sets aside 1.0 mill of the 5.98 mills for the ongoing maintenance and increased operational costs.

Q: When would construction start? How long before the new buildings will open?

A: With the passage of Issue 12, the district would work with the OSFC to start the design and preconstruction planning process. This would take approximately one year. Construction would begin in Spring 2017, with the new High School opening in 2019. The new 7-8 building would open in 2020.

Q: What decisions have already been made about Segment 2?

A: Almost none. The Master Plan that was recommended and approved by the School Board includes the construction of three PK-3 buildings and two 4-6 buildings – however, no decisions have been made beyond that recommendation. Decisions on Segment 2 are still four or more years away. Construction for Segment 2 would also require the passage of its own bond issue, but through segmenting, we will retain the same 27% funding offer from the state.

Q: Why do we need to meet OSFC/minimum state standards?

A: We want our students to have safe, quality, educationally productive learning environments. The best way to judge if we provide those things is by considering today's building standards. The OSFC's funding offer requires the use of the Ohio School Design Manual. The Ohio Facility Construction Commission (OSFC's parent organization) annually publishes a comprehensive set of standard guidelines for the design of school facilities. The manual was developed by OSFC staff, in cooperation with architects and nationally recognized educational planners. The manual is updated annually and sets necessary minimum standards of quality for the state's educational facilities.

Q: What happens to 6th grade?

A: The decision for the location of 6th grade will be made in 2-3 years. Some possible solutions are to utilize the old high school building for grades 4, 5 and 6 or grades 5 and 6. Another possible solution would be to house grades 5 and 6 at the Roberts building any of these scenarios would prevent the 6th grade being in a building alone.

Q: What happens to PK students at Newberry?

A: The PK program at Newberry is a Summit County ESC program. The Summit County ESC leadership is aware of the possible need for a new site and are actively looking now. Moving forward, if we are successful with segment 2, we would house the pre-school in our new elementary buildings.

Q: How was the Building Our Future Together Committee formed?

A: The Building Our Future Together Committee was formed by selecting leaders from across the community who have the best opportunities to inform and receive feedback from the community. Teachers, parents, students and business owners.

Q: When is the election?

A: Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. Early and absentee voting begins October 6th. Any registered voter can vote early by requesting an absentee ballot from the Summit Board of Elections.