

BCPS 2017 Bond Issue Frequently Asked Questions

The Beal City Public Schools Board of Education formally approved the ballot language for a proposal to be put forward to the community for a bond issue that will fund important improvements and upgrades to our facilities. The school district will be seeking \$5.375 million. This request will be brought to the community in an election on Tuesday, August 8, 2017. We will be doing an extensive word of mouth informational campaign as well as sending information regarding the bond issue to you in our May and June Aggie Express, from an informational brochure we have put together. You can also find valuable information about the bond proposal on our district website at www.bealcityschools.net. The following are some Frequently Asked Questions that have come forth from community members after reading our informational brochure:

When is the election? August 8th, 2017

When is the last day to register for this election? July 10th, 2017

Where will the voting take place? Deerfield Township Hall, Gilmore Township Hall, Isabella Township Hall, Nottawa Township Hall, Union Township Hall, Vernon Township Hall

Who can Vote in this election? You must be 18 years of age by August 8th, a United States Citizen, registered to vote, a resident of Beal City Public School District.

What will the total project cost? The entire cost of the project is \$5,375,000.

What are the project timelines? If the bond passes, the bonds will be issued in two series. The first series will be issued in October 2017 and this issue is for \$910,000. The second issue will not be sold until October 2021 and this issue is for \$4,465,000.

What types of projects are being proposed? The bond proposal is asking for 6 elementary classrooms to be built. The elementary office will be moved to the front room in the elementary and a secure entrance will be added for parents to pick up and drop off their children in the elementary. The High School office will be remodeled to allow students and parents to enter the high school through a secure entrance right into the high school office. Replace the walk in freezer in the kitchen. Upgrade our security camera system to cover more completely the entire campus. Electrical upgrades to

handle the increased technology needs of the district. Replace boilers in the secondary wing. Replace sections of the roof on K-12 building. Purchase 4-6 buses. Pave a bus parking lot near the bus garage with electrical hookups. Replace damaged asphalt. Purchase portable elevated seating in the small gym. Purchase storage units for the Arts program.

Why did the school district choose those items? The six class rooms are needed to provide the elementary with the space needed to accommodate all of the additional services the school is providing. The roofs and boilers need to be replaced before they fail. The security and technology upgrades are needed to keep up with the ever changing requirements of technology and security issues.

What are the benefits of doing this work?

There are a variety of potential benefits from doing this work. First and foremost, it will provide a much improved learning environment for students. Research has shown that the condition of school facilities has a direct impact on student learning. These proposed upgrades will provide 21st Century classrooms with upgraded technology and space utilization, while also improving air quality, temperature control, and lighting. In addition, the schools will save money by being more energy efficient and reducing repair and maintenance costs. School safety will also be enhanced.

All of this will make our school district more competitive with surrounding communities and, consequently, more attractive to current and future residents, which helps to maintain and improve home values.

When was the last time the district asked the community for a bond?

In 2000, BCPS requested a bond to update its athletic facilities. Prior to that, in 1996, the school district requested a bond to expand the Secondary wing of the building.

Why did the school district choose an August election date?

There were both pro's and con's to an August election date that were considered.

Cons:

- The total cost of the election falls onto the school.

Pros

- Provides the District time to inform the community about its needs.
- Voters will be completely informed about the issue.
- Allows voters to be focused on just one issue.
- The vote will be held right before school starts when there is a focus on back to school issues, such as the needs of the school and its future.
- The previous November's presidential election was too early for this proposal, as not all fact finding had been completed yet.
- The November 2017 election did not have any ballot issues. Having the election in August, gives the district time to file year end reports, that a November election would not provide.
- We were not able to get our meeting with Michigan Department of Education in time to do a May election.

Tell me a little more about the technology improvements.

We plan to upgrade each classroom in the district with a multimedia projector connected to a new computer station and document camera. This, along with added mobile devices and a wireless network, will make each school a place for learning anytime and anywhere. These improvements will bring technology to life in the classroom. Learning opportunities will be at the fingertips of each teacher as they utilize the ever-growing amount of online resources including lessons, interactive activities, research, and instructional materials. In addition, existing computers will be replaced. BCPS will be able to meet Michigan's new state online testing requirements through the upgrade of our school technology resources. Lastly, we will improve the existing technology infrastructure (network and connectivity devices) to increase reliability and functionality so learning is not interrupted.

Tell me a little more about the cost savings, energy improvements and “green” upgrades.

Currently, a great deal of time and effort is spent by our maintenance staff to keep existing heating, lighting, plumbing, and electrical systems running. Improved lighting and heating control systems, along with electrical and plumbing upgrades, will reduce energy usage and related cost.

Tell me a little more about proposed security improvements.

We currently have a variety of security measures in place to ensure a safe environment at school, including surveillance cameras, card access systems at certain doors, and a door bell ring-in system at our elementary and middle schools. We would like to enhance our current equipment by putting cameras in areas where camera coverage is not currently available. We would also like to increase card access points to include more locations at each of our schools to create more secured entrance areas. We plan to improve our communication systems within the buildings for announcements into classrooms and hallways. Lastly, we will add two more secure entry points into our building so parents and visitors can go to the specific school office they desire.

Will any of these funds go to operational costs, such as salaries?

No. Bond expenditures cannot be used for maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses. Also, bond proceeds must also be audited by an outside entity.

How much will this cost me individually? This bond issue is not asking for any additional money. The school district currently levies 7 mills. The bond issue will continue to levy 7 mills. The bonds will be paid off in 15 years, as compared to the current pay off schedule of 10 years.

How long will it take to complete the project? The biggest portion of the project will not be able to start until 2021. The roof replacement and boiler replacement is scheduled to happen in the first bond issuance and would be scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2018. The second bond issue in 2021 would take approximately a year to complete.

Won't some of the purchases be obsolete or past their useful life by the time the bond is paid off?

Requirements for bond issues outline that the average useful life (how long items are expected to last) of all renovations to schools and equipment purchased through a bond must equal or exceed the average maturity in which the bonds will be paid off. These requirements exist so items such as buses, technology, or building renovations purchased through bond financing will, in aggregate, last as long, or longer, than the length of time the money is owed.