



SAULT AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Amy Scott-Kronemeyer, Superintendent

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLIC RELEASE

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RELEASED BY: Amy Scott-Kronemeyer, Superintendent of Schools

Sault Area Public Schools place bond proposal on November 7 ballot

The Sault Area Public Schools Board of Education has unanimously approved placing a \$57 million bond proposal on the November 7 ballot. The bond will provide funding for a new K-4th grade elementary school, update Sault Area High School and Career Center, and update and equip playgrounds and playfields.

The bond proposal began with an in-depth assessment of Sault Area Public Schools' facilities. The assessment was conducted in the summer of 2022 by architects and engineers working with members of the school district's administration. The review process focused on the following:

- Improving safety and security;
- Exploring the cost of renovating Lincoln and Washington Elementary Schools vs. consolidating the schools into one new K-4 facility;
- Improving the learning environment to support the educational program at Sault Area High School and Career Center by creating expanded and flexible learning spaces; and,
- Improving operating efficiencies and reducing operational costs.

Following the facility study, a series of focus panels were conducted to gain community, parent, staff, and student input on the proposed options. In addition to the focus panels, the school district sought additional community and staff input through an online survey to gather their opinions about the bond proposal projects.

After all this information was reviewed from the focus panels and survey, the project list was finalized, the project costs were identified, and an application was submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury for review and approval. The Board of Education set the election date after receiving approval of the bond application from the Michigan Department of Treasury.

At the elementary level, due to the cost of renovation versus building a new school, the recommendation was to close both schools and build a new K-4 facility on the high school/middle school campus.

At the secondary level, the project list included making interior and exterior improvements, including creating more flexible learning spaces, remodeling the pool area into a multi-use space, constructing a new entrance to the gym area to limit public access to the academic area of the building, creating a band practice area and performance stage for K-12 performances and events, and updating the parking lots, driveways, and sidewalks.

If approved by voters, the bond proposal will require a 2.55 mill tax increase. For a homeowner with a \$100,000 market value home (\$50,000 taxable value), the cost will be \$10.63 per month or about 35¢ per day. Residents can calculate their exact annual cost by multiplying $.00255 \times$ their home's taxable value (from their tax bill).

School Superintendent Amy Scott-Kronemeyer said the comprehensive bond proposal is designed to continue enhancing school security while consolidating and updating school facilities. "Constructing a new K-4 school to serve all Sault Area students will save money, improve safety and security, and eliminate duplicate drop-off and pick-up locations for parents."

Board of Education President Christine Curtis said the bond proposal was designed to assure that Sault Area school facilities are up-to-date and provide an appropriate learning environment for students. "This bond proposal calls for well over 100 projects to be completed. I believe voter approval of the bond proposal will help protect the community's investment in its school district, make certain that school facilities are competitive with neighboring school districts, and assure that students

attending the Sault Area Public Schools have a quality learning environment,” she added.

The school district will share information about the bond through presentations, social media, news media, and printed materials to help ensure that community members are well-informed, and their questions are answered.

Information about the bond proposal—including a list of all bond proposal projects—is available now on the school district’s website.

For more information and answers to questions, Superintendent Scott-Kronemeyer invites all residents to...

- visit www.saultschools.org and click on *Bond Election Info*
- Call any Sault Area Public Schools Administrator
- Contact Amy Scott-Kronemeyer, Superintendent of Schools, at 906-632-5653 or by email at amy@eupschools.org.

If you would like to share your thoughts about the bond proposal, the school district invites you to take a brief survey at www.research.net/r/SAPSbondproposal.

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