



November 3, 2020 Bond Proposal FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What school issue is on the November 3, 2020 ballot?

On **November 3, 2020**, voters in Saginaw Public Schools will be asked to consider a bond proposal to implement improvements aligned with all five goal areas of the strategic plan: Operations, Academics/Programs, Personnel & Leadership, Communication & Engagement, and Learning Environment & Culture. The total amount of this bond proposal is \$99,950,000.

2. How was this plan developed?

- The District developed a 5-year strategic plan with community, parent, staff and student input, with a mission to be a globally competitive school district that prepares and inspires students to achieve their full potential. The plan identified seeking voter approval of a bond to help achieve the goals laid out in the strategic plan.
- In the winter of 2020, R.C. Hendrick & Sons, Inc. assessed the district’s facilities to identify infrastructure deficiencies and to document any additional findings.
- The Board of Education unanimously supported moving forward with a November 3, 2020 bond election in the amount of \$99,950,000.
- The District solicited a Request for Proposal for Architectural and Engineering Services. The Superintendent and Board of Education interviewed architectural firms on June 3, 2020 and selected WTA/TMP Architecture to provide services for the upcoming bond proposal.

- 🏠 Saginaw Public School is exploring the possibility of a bond campaign for the November 3, 2020 ballot which will include a new state of the art comprehensive high school in the center of the city located at the current Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy (SASA) site
- 🏠 The current SASA building will be demolished, maintaining the gym and auditorium
- 🏠 SASA will move into a new facility funded through a bond, located on the current Arthur Hill site. Arthur Hill High School will be renovated into a State of the Art Performing Arts School for SASA.
- 🏠 SASA & Handley will have two separate facilities located on the Arthur Hill High School site a *Gifted & Talented Campus*
- 🏠 Handley Elementary will get a new facility funded through a bond, located on the Arthur Hill site
- 🏠 Saginaw High School & Arthur Hill High School will close in June 2023
- 🏠 Saginaw High School will be renovated and repurposed into a Middle School for the Eastside of the City
- 🏠 Heavenrich Elementary will be re-opened as a new *Professional Development Center* fall 2020
- 🏠 Thompson Middle will remain open as a 6th through 8th grade middle school
- 🏠 Sixth Grade will be moved back to the middle schools fall 2021
- 🏠 *Foreign language* will be integrated at the elementary level and offered at the middle school level
- 🏠 Fall 2021, the Ricker Center will operate as a *full alternative* school for grades 7-12

3. **What are the Highlights of Bond 2020?**

The program addresses the goals of replacing or updating aging facilities and infrastructure, stabilizing enrollment, creating modern learning environments to support updated curricular/extra-curricular programming, providing equitable spaces and programming for our students and increasing student achievement. The following illustrates the focus of this program.



bond 2020 goals



Academic Excellence

Create modern learning environments to support updated curricular/extra-curricular programming opportunities for our students.



Operational Efficiency

Improvements to address aging infrastructure to promote the health and wellness in our facilities and reduce the operating expenses of the district.



Enrollment Stabilization

Enhancements to bring our facilities in line with our enrollment projections and to provide quality programming and facilities in order to retain students and attract students in the future.



Equality in Opportunity

Improve and expand facilities to provide equitable spaces and programming and to increase student achievement



Community Spirit & Unity

Merge our high school population in a new state-of-the-art facility to allow for impactful opportunities for our students and staff, thus aligning with the District's Strategic Vision to unify our community.

4. **What are the features of the November 3, 2020 bond proposal?**

Comprehensive High School (1,200 students)

- New Building/ Site
- 4-Story Academic Center
- Safe/Secure Welcome Center
- Multi-Discipline Classrooms/ Learning Studios
- Faculty Planning Centers
- STEAM Studio/ Maker Space
- Special Education Classrooms
- Media Center/Learning Commons
- Collaboration Areas
- Dining Commons Area
- Competition Gymnasium
- Weight Fitness Center
- Athletic Team Locker Suite
- Athletic Upgrades
- Music Studios
- Art Studios
- Flexible Furniture
- Instructional Technology

Remodel Existing Arthur Hill H.S. for SASA (800 Students)

- Classroom Upgrades
- Flexible Furniture
- Instructional Technology
- Science/ Technology Labs Upgrades
- Theater/Auditorium Upgrades
- Pool Upgrades
- Locker Room Upgrades
- Gymnasium Upgrades
- Track Resurfacing
- Art Studio Upgrades
- Band Room Upgrades
- Media Center/ Learning Commons
- Special Education Classroom Upgrades
- Dining Commons Upgrades
- Stadium Upgrades
- Softball/ Baseball Fields Upgrades
- Site Improvements
- Floor Finish and Ceiling Upgrades
- Interior/ Exterior Doors, Frames, & Hardware Upgrades
- LED Lighting Upgrades
- HVAC Upgrades

New Building- Handley School (500 students)

- New Building on Different District Site
- Safe/Secure Welcome Center
- PreK-5 Classrooms/ Learning Studios
- Faculty Planning Center
- STEAM Studio/ Flex Lab
- Art/Music Studios
- Stage/ Student Dining Area
- Garden for Outdoor Learning
- Soccer and Baseball/Softball Fields
- Media Center/Learning Commons
- Special Education Classrooms
- Early Childhood and Elementary Playground Equipment
- Flexible Furniture
- Instructional Technology

Remodel Existing Saginaw H.S. for New Middle School (800 Students)

- Classroom Upgrades
- Flexible Furniture
- Instructional Technology
- Safe/Secure Welcome Center
- Special Education Classroom Upgrades
- Media Center/ Learning Commons
- Theater/Auditorium Upgrades
- Dining Commons Upgrades
- Art Studio Upgrades
- Music Studio/ Band Room Upgrades
- Football Bleacher Replacement
- Floor Finish and Ceiling Upgrades
- Interior/ Exterior Doors, Frames, & Hardware Upgrades
- LED Lighting Upgrades
- Site Improvements
- HVAC Upgrades

5. What is driving the effort to consolidate our high schools into one new comprehensive high school?

Aging infrastructure, declining enrollment, population shifts/patterns and the desire to create comprehensive, competitive High School programming academically, socially, equitably and athletically.

6. What will the new comprehensive high school be named?

The name, mascot, and school colors of the new comprehensive high school will be decided on by a committee comprised of community members and school employees.

7. Is there a project timeline?

The following project timeline is only a **projection**. Dates and project order may be revised based on several factors including things such as: market conditions, student impact, weather, product availability and school calendar. Dates and project order are subject to change.

Comprehensive High School (1,200 Students)

- Design Schedule 5/1/21 – 2/1/22
- Bid/Award 2/1/22 – 4/1/22
- Demo Partial SASA 7/1/22 – 8/1/22
- Construction Schedule 8/1/22 – 6/1/24

Remodel Existing Arthur Hill H.S. for SASA (800 Students)

- Design Schedule 11/15/20 – 4/15/21
- Bid/Award 4/15/21 – 6/1/21
- Construction Schedule 6/1/21 – 8/1/22

New Building- Handley School (500 Students)

- Design Schedule 11/15/20 – 4/15/21
- Bid/Award 4/15/21 – 6/1/21
- Construction Schedule 6/1/21 – 8/1/22

Remodel Existing Saginaw H.S. for New Middle School (800 Students)

- Design Schedule 11/15/20 – 4/15/21
- Bid/Award 4/15/21 – 6/1/21
- Construction Schedule 6/1/21 – 8/1/22

8. What is happening to the SASA building/program?

The current SASA building would be mostly demolished, maintaining only the gym and auditorium. SASA would be relocated to the current Arthur Hill site, co-located with a new Handley Elementary School, creating a gifted and talented campus. A modern comprehensive high school will be built at the SASA site, which is located in the center of the city.

9. What is happening at the current Saginaw High School building/program?

Saginaw High School will be remodeled to house a comprehensive Middle School Program for the eastside of the city. A portion of the building will be demolished while the gym, auditorium, media center, office space, and athletic facilities will be maintained.

10. How would Bond 2020 impact our learning environments for teachers and students?

The heating and ventilation improvements, including air conditioning and climate control, and the new classroom furnishings are being made to provide a more comfortable and healthy learning environment for the students and for our teachers. Research has shown that with proper environmental conditions, students focus and attention increase. In addition, the modernized science labs, technology labs, classrooms spaces, study areas, and media center will support our goals of improving achievement and leveling the playing field for our students by enabling our staff and students to engage in high levels of instructional delivery, research and collaboration, information access and project based instruction.

11. What is the plan to keep facility improvement disruptions to a minimum?

Work at our school buildings would be scheduled in a way that would limit interference with day-to-day operations or community safety. The majority of construction work would be completed during the summer months. When ongoing work occurs during school days, there would be a clear separation between construction and school operations. Safety is a paramount concern and would be the key factor in determining the construction sequencing.

12. How are neighboring districts addressing the aging condition of their school buildings?

Neighboring districts have experienced the same issue of aging buildings and outdated technology. Bond programs have been approved and implemented in many surrounding districts and new facilities, as well as improvements, are being constructed to improve their aging facilities. There were six districts whose comparison data was analyzed as part of the plan with five of the districts going through a consolidation at the high school level including Southfield Public Schools, Jackson Public Schools, Pontiac Public Schools, Carrollton Public Schools, Saginaw Township Community Schools and Flint Community Schools.

13. What are the benefits of the bond proposal for residents who don't have students in the District?

Saginaw school facilities and sites are regularly used by community members who do not have school-aged children. The District takes pride in its role as an important community resource and partner. It is widely believed, particularly by realtors and city officials that the value and vitality of a community rests on the quality and marketability of its schools - in other words, great schools keep home values up.

14. Why is this bond proposal important for Saginaw Public Schools?

The board has a duty to protect the community’s past investment in our school district. The bond program, if approved, would provide facility improvements designed to support teaching and learning, improve safety and security, and upgrade operational efficiencies including heating and electrical. It is the intent of the District and the Board of Education to maintain equitable and quality programs and facilities for our students. Additionally, as highlighted in the strategic plan, the district and the board believes it is imperative that Saginaw Public Schools provides a competitive K-12 educational experience that prepares our students to be successful in a global economy.

15. Why is it important to attract and retain students in the District?

Public schools in Michigan are funded from state and local revenue on a per-pupil basis. Simply put, with more students we are better positioned to offer more academic and athletic programs, classes, and resources. Since parents have choices regarding where their children go to school, we want to make Saginaw Public Schools as attractive as possible to prospective homebuyers. According to the National Association of Realtors, “...good schools are one of the top items on most homebuyer checklists because of the quality-of-life benefit for home owners...” (“Good Schools Give 77% Boost to Home Values.” *Realtor Magazine* Aug. 2016.) We are regularly informed through surveys and informal feedback that the condition of our facilities is a major factor in attracting students to our District.

16. What if the bond proposal doesn’t pass?

Failure to approve the bond proposal will mean the district will have to make extremely difficult choices among programming, staffing and facility maintenance costs. Furthermore, our students will continue to be put at a major disadvantage when compared to their peers in the region, state, and nation. It will also put the school district at a competitive disadvantage relative to school choice. Ultimately, we will ask the community for feedback and make plans to place a similar bond on a future ballot, as this is essential to the sustainability of Saginaw Public Schools.

17. What is the estimated cost breakdown for the bond projects?

Approximate costs associated with the projects identified in 2020 Bond program are allocated in the following manner:

Building	Estimate of Construction Value
Remodel Existing Arthur Hill H.S. for SASA	\$ 13,700,600
New Building- Handley School	\$ 15,060,000
Remodel Existing Saginaw H.S. for New Middle School	\$ 8,910,000
Comprehensive High School	\$ 61,315,000
Bond Issuance Costs	\$ 1,296,627
Interest Earned	(\$332,227)
Total Bond	\$ 99,950,000

18. How much would the bond proposal cost the average taxpayer?

*Please note that the tax increases are estimated numbers and may change.

Property Tax Impact

Market Value of Your Property	Taxable Value of Your Property	Yearly Tax Impact	Monthly Tax Increase
\$100,000	\$50,000	\$350.00	\$30.00
\$70,000	\$35,000	\$240.00	\$20.00
\$67,321	\$33,660	\$236.00	\$19.60
\$30,000	\$15,000	\$100.00	\$8.30

Zillow 2020 places Saginaw’s Avg. Home Value at \$67,321 which equates to a tax increase of less than \$20/month.

To calculate YOUR specific property tax impact go to Saginaw Public Schools’ website www.spsd.net

The bond proposal is \$99,950,000. To repay this bond amount, an estimated millage increase of 7.0 mills in the first year would be necessary if the bond issue is approved.

19. Can I deduct these property taxes on my income tax return?

Property taxes may be deductible as itemized deductions on your federal income tax return if you itemize. You may also be eligible for the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit on your Michigan Income Tax Return. Please consult with your tax preparer.

20. What exactly is the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit?

The Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit is a method through which some taxpayers can receive a tax credit for an amount of their property tax that exceeds a certain percentage of their household income. This program establishes categories under which homeowners or renters are eligible for a homestead property tax credit. Please consult with your tax preparer to determine if you are eligible for this important and valuable tax credit.

21. Could money from the bond program be used to pay for salaries and benefits?

No, that is against State law. Bond dollars cannot be used for operational expenses such as employee salaries, upgrades, facility maintenance, or energy costs. Bond program funds must be accounted for separately from general operating funds. Bond funds are also subject to audit.

22. Please explain what bond program money can cover and what it cannot.

Bond proceeds cannot be used for the following items:

- Salaries and wages
- General operating expenses and maintenance
- Classroom supplies and textbooks

Bond proceeds **can** be used for the following items:

- Construction and remodeling of facilities
- Purchase of instructional technology equipment
- Equipment and furniture
- Site improvements

23. What are the key dates leading up to the November 3rd vote?

Voter registration procedures have changed since 2018.

October 20, 2020 – Last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk for the November election.

October 30, 2020 up to 5pm – Deadline for electors to obtain an absent voter ballot via First Class mail.

November 3, 2020 up to 8pm – Deadline for voters to obtain an absent voter ballot in person in clerk's office.

November 3, 2020 up to 8pm – Election day registrants may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot in person in clerk's office or vote in person in the proper precinct.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

24. If I cannot make it to the polls on Nov. 3, 2020 what are my options for absentee voting?

Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary of State mailed all registered voters an absentee application for the November 2020 election. If a registered voter did not submit an application to that and would like to vote by absentee, the deadline to request an absentee ballot via First Class Mail is Friday, October 30, at 5 p.m., and voters may also obtain an absent voter ballot in person up to 8pm on Tuesday, November 3. The deadline to return a completed absentee ballot is Tuesday, November 3, at 8 p.m.

If you did not receive your absentee ballot application they are available:

- On-line at www.michigan.gov/vote
- At your City Clerk's office

Note: Once election ballots are available in the clerk's office, you can walk into your clerk's office, receive an absentee application, fill it out, and immediately be given your ballot to cast your vote. Please check with your clerk's office hours and if drop boxes are available.

25. Who may I contact if I have additional questions?

For more details on Bond 2020, you can visit www.spsd.net

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(989) 399-6680

26. How will the bond proposal appear on the ballot?

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW BOND PROPOSAL

Shall the School District of the City of Saginaw, County of Saginaw, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Ninety-Nine Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$99,950,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of defraying the cost of:

- Constructing, furnishing and equipping new schools, including a new comprehensive high school and a new Handley elementary school, in the School District;
- Constructing additions to, equipping, furnishing, reequipping, refurnishing and remodeling School District buildings, including Arthur Hill High School for SASA and the existing Saginaw High School as a middle school, including classroom, auditorium, lighting and climate control improvements;
- Acquiring and installing technology infrastructure and equipment; and
- Acquiring, improving and developing sites, including outdoor athletic facilities, playgrounds and structures in the School District?

YES

NO

The estimated millage to be levied in 2021 to service this issue of bonds is 7.00 mills (\$7.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds of this issue is 6.78 mills (\$6.78 per \$1,000 of taxable value). The bonds may be issued in multiple series, payable in the case of each series in not to exceed 30 years from the date of issue of such series. The School District currently has \$43,325,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and \$0 of qualified loans outstanding under the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. The School District expects to borrow from the program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated total principal amount of such borrowing is \$2,413,426 and the estimated total interest thereon is \$3,557,887. The estimated duration of the millage levy associated with that borrowing is 31 years and the estimated computed millage rate for such levy is 7.00 mills. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Under State law, bond proceeds may not be used to pay teacher or administrator salaries, routine maintenance or repair costs or other school district operating expenses.)

27. Where do I vote?

Saginaw City		
Clerk: Janet Santos		Office Hours: Monday-Friday (8AM-4PM)
1315 S. Washington Ave.; Saginaw, MI 48601		
989.759.1480 (option 6)		clerk@saginaw-mi.com
Precinct #	Site	Address
1	Bethel AME	535 Cathay, 48601
2	Bethel AME	535 Cathay, 48601
3	Dow Event Center (Atrium)	303 Johnson St., 48607
4	YMCA	1915 Fordney, 48601
5	YMCA	1915 Fordney, 48601
6	Saginaw High School	3100 Webber, 48601
7	New Birth Missionary Baptist Church	3121 Sheridan, 48601
8	Saginaw High School	3100 Webber, 48601
9	Merrill Park Elementary	1800 Grout, 48602
10	St. Dominic School	1300 Malzahn, 48602
11	First Presbyterian	121 S. Harrison, 48602
12	Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy	1903 S. Niagara, 48602
13	Christ the Good Shepherd	2415 N. Charles, 48602
14	Christ the Good Shepherd	2415 N. Charles, 48602
15	Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy	1903 S. Niagara, 48602
16	Peace Lutheran	3427 Adams, 48602
Kochville Township		
Clerk: Kevin Machata		Office Hours:
5851 Mackinaw Road; Saginaw, MI 48604		
989.792.7596 Ext 116		clerk@kochvilletwp.com
Precinct #	Site	Address
1	Kochville Veteran’s Hall	3265 Kochville Rd., 48604
City of Zilwaukee		
Clerk: Richard DeLong		Office Hours: Monday-Friday (9AM-4PM)
319 Tittabawasee Rd.; Saginaw, MI 48604		
989.755.0931		dick4571@charter.net
Precinct #	Site	Address
1	Administration Building	319 Tittabawasee Rd., 48604
Buena Vista Charter Township		
Clerk: Barbara Campbell		Office Hours: Monday-Friday (9AM-5PM)
1160 S. Outer Drive; Saginaw, MI 48601		
989.754-6536 ext. 2312		clerk@bvct.org
Precinct #	Site	Address
1	Buena Vista Charter Township Hall	1160 S. Outer Dr., 48601
2	Buena Vista Community Center	1940 S. Outer Dr., 48601
3	Buena Vista Charter Township Hall	1160 S. Outer Dr., 48601

Note: Due to COVID-19, these locations could be subjected to change.