Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Warren Woods Public Schools May 5, 2020, Bond Proposal Election

When is the election?

Tuesday, May 5, 2020. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after March 21st. Absentee voting is permitted through Election Day.

What is on the ballot?

A $45.5 million bond proposal designed to finance:

- additional enhancements in school security and safety;
- further renovations of classrooms and athletic facilities;
- continuing upgrades of technology; and,
- replacement of more items that have reached the end of their life expectancy, like roofs, lighting, flooring, furniture, and buses.

What is the purpose of the bond proposal?

This proposal follows a bond proposal that was approved by Warren Woods voters in 2017. In 2017, the school district identified improvements that totaled $90 million. In the 2017 bond, voters approved $20 million.

The May 5th bond proposal will generate $45.5 million in revenue, allowing the school district to continue addressing the $90 million in improvements that were identified in 2017. In short, the May 5th bond proposal will allow continuing enhancements to the "Phase One" work that was completed during the past three years. The May 5 bond proposal is best thought of as "Phase Two."

How was the bond proposal developed?

To protect the community's investment in its schools, Warren Woods Public Schools strategic plan includes a process for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of all school facilities. Working with construction and architectural specialists, an in-depth facility study was followed by voter approval of a bond proposal in 2017. The May 5, 2020 bond proposal will provide revenue to continue enhancements to the school district that were identified in 2017 and initiated with voter approval of the 2017 bond proposal.

Who determines if the bond proposal projects are appropriate?

Every project in the bond proposal was reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury. The approval was granted in January 2020.

In addition, all renovations and upgrades must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

What will the bond proposal cost?

If approved by voters, the school district's tax rate is projected to remain at or below the number of mills levied in 2019.

What's included in the bond proposal?

Below is a listing of projects planned for each school/school facility.

Briarwood Elementary - $5.39 million budget

- Roof replacement
- Replace roof top HVAC units
- New clock system
- Technology for collaboration/presentation spaces
- New classroom video systems
- New main corridor flooring
- New classroom doors and hardware
- Playground equipment
- Replace remaining exterior doors
- New Main Office flooring
- Renovate front office clinic and bathroom
- Replace classroom HVAC units
- Definable entrance/canopy
- Parking lot reconfiguration / drop-off loop
- Parking lot lighting replacement / expansion
- New Media Center flooring
- New classroom flooring
- Security camera replacement
- Classroom furniture and equipment
- Classroom/Teacher/Media Center and Computer Lab instructional equipment replacements
- Network infrastructure and equipment
- Access control system expansion

Pinewood Elementary - $2.97 million budget

- Reconfigure old office space
    - Conference Room, Staff Restrooms/Collaborative Instructional space
- New gym/cafeteria flooring
- Replace remaining ceiling HVAC units

- New clock system
- Technology for collaboration/presentation spaces
- New classroom video systems
- Playground equipment
- Replace classroom flooring carpet
- Replace roof top HVAC units
- Replace media center, TPC, and computer lab flooring
- Replace ceiling tile and lights in “main circle”
- Security camera replacement
- Classroom furniture and equipment
- Classroom/Teacher/Media Center and Computer Lab instructional equipment replacements
- Network infrastructure and equipment
- Access control system expansion

Westwood Elementary - $5.42 million budget

- New drop-off loop on west side of building
- Replace asphalt walkways/reconfigure
- Mill/overlay of east parking lot
- New gym/cafeteria partitions
- New clock system
- Technology for collaboration/presentation spaces
- New classroom video systems
- Playground equipment
- New classroom floor finishes
- Partial replacement of HVAC units
- Roofing
- Security camera replacement
- Classroom furniture and equipment
- Classroom/Teacher/Media Center and Computer Lab instructional equipment replacements
- Network infrastructure and equipment
- Access control system expansion

Warren Woods Middle School - $8.18 million budget

- Replace auditorium sound/light system
- 250-seat stadium bleacher replacement
- Athletic storage shed
- Athletic Field drainage improvements
- New 100 meter dash track
- Replace football field fencing

- Gym floor replacement
- New gym sound system
- New clock, public address, and bell system
- Technology for collaboration/presentation spaces
- New classroom video systems
- Replacement of west parking lot
- Update/renovate auditorium plaza entry
- Partial replacement of HVAC units
- Finish exterior brick column reconstruction
- Security camera replacement
- Classroom furniture and equipment
- Classroom/Teacher/Media Center and Computer Lab instructional equipment replacements
- Network infrastructure and equipment
- Access control system expansion

Warren Woods-Tower High School - $19.4 million budget

- New front office addition with secure entryway/canopy
- Renovate existing front office space
- New digital site sign
- New stage curtain
- 1st floor sprinkler head replacement
- New LED tennis court lighting
- Gym floor replacement
- Gym sound system replacement
- Pool improvements
- Replace pool dehumidification unit
- New pool scoring system
- New pool sound system
- New clock, public address, and bell system
- Technology for collaboration/presentation spaces
- New classroom video systems
- New classroom doors/hardware (eliminate sidelights)
- Replace parking lot lights and poles
- Replace asphalt drive on east side by baseball field
- New synthetic turf field
- New track with long jump/high jump
- New 300 seat visitor bleachers and pads
- Partial roof reconstruction
- VoIP phone system equipment replacement
- Security camera replacement

- Classroom furniture and equipment
- Classroom/Teacher/Media Center and Computer Lab instructional equipment replacements
- Network infrastructure and equipment
- Data Center server/storage replacement
- Access control system expansion

Enterprise High School - $2.0 million budget

- New secure entry/canopy
- Front office reconfiguration
- New clock system
- Technology for collaboration/presentation spaces
- New classroom video systems
- Replace roof top HVAC units
- New relocated dumpster enclosure
- Mill/cap main parking lot
- Replace asphalt behind building
- Replace classroom HVAC units
- Security camera replacement
- Classroom furniture and equipment
- Classroom/Teacher/Media Center and Computer Lab instructional equipment replacements
- Network infrastructure and equipment
- Access control system expansion

Education Center - $1.7 million budget

- Mill/cap large parking lot
- Playground equipment
- Replace parking lot storm drains with concrete collars
- New LED parking lot lights
- Classroom door/hardware replacement
- Replace remaining old exterior doors
- Definable entrance canopies
- New clock system
- Replace Adult Education front office flooring
- Renovate student bathrooms in Early Education Center and Adult Education
- Security camera replacement
- Classroom furniture and equipment
- Network infrastructure and equipment
- Access control system expansion

Transportation Garage - $746,000 budget

- Metal roof replacement
- Security camera replacement
- Network infrastructure and equipment
- Access control system expansion
- 5 busses

Old ASC Site - $25,000 budget

- Replace site fencing

What technology is included in the bond proposal?

All technology equipment and infrastructure included in the proposal are designed to support classroom instruction and enhance the learning environment. A primary focus of the proposal is to provide current technology for students and teachers, and to equip instructional areas with up-to-date instructional technology.

Will taxpayers be still paying for computers when they are obsolete?

No. The Michigan Department of Treasury and federal tax regulations require that specific items in a bond proposal (such as computers) be paid for before they become obsolete. Computers must be paid off within five years of their first use.

Will all bond proposal revenue benefit the Warren Woods Public Schools?

Yes. All revenue from the bond proposal will benefit the Warren Woods Public Schools. None of the revenue will go to Lansing or to any other school district or political entity.

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, will property values be affected?

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that are perceived to offer a quality educational program and have up-to-date school facilities.

All Warren Woods Public Schools proposal projects were designed to reflect positively on homeowner property values and the school district's reputation for effectiveness and efficiency.

What is a bond proposal?

A bond is a State-approved financing process for a set scope of capital projects. When voters approve a bond proposal, the school district sells bonds in the authorized amount and uses the proceeds of the sale to pay for those projects in the bond proposal. Bonds are usually paid back in 20-30 years.

In many ways, the bonding process is like a homeowner obtaining a mortgage and making payments over a period of years.

Bonds can be used for:

- Constructing new school buildings
- Constructing additions to existing school buildings
- Remodeling existing school buildings
- Energy conservation improvements
- Land purchases
- Site development and improvements
- Athletic and physical education facility development and improvements
- Playground development and improvements
- Refunding debt (if new present value savings can be demonstrated)
- Direct bond program costs such as professional fees, election fees, issuance costs, qualification fees, insurance fees, final audit costs
- School bus purchases
- Purchasing loose furnishings and equipment (including administrative technology)
- Technology purchases limited to hardware and communication devices that transmit, receive or compute information for pupil instructional purposes only. The initial purchase of operating system and customized application software is allowed if purchased with the initial hardware.

Bonds cannot be used for:

- Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies
- Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements
- Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans
- Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use
- Uniforms
- Textbooks
- Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software
- Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts

Can any of the bond proposal funds be used for employee salaries or operating expenses?

No. Bond proposal funds cannot be used for employee salaries. They also cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses. Bond proposal funds must be used only for purposes specified in the ballot language, and, as required by State law, they must be independently audited.

What will appear on the May 5th ballot?

Here is the exact ballot wording:

WARREN WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOLS COUNTY OF MACOMB, MICHIGAN

School Bond Proposal

Shall the Warren Woods Public Schools, County of Macomb, Michigan, borrow the principal sum of not to exceed Forty-Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($45,500,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds for the purpose of defraying the cost of:

- constructing additions to and remodeling existing School District buildings, including security, roof, and climate control systems improvements;
- equipping, furnishing, reequipping and refurnishing School District buildings and acquiring buses;
- improving and developing sites, including playgrounds, structures, parking lots, traffic flow and outdoor athletic facilities; and
- acquiring and installing technology infrastructure and equipment?

YES □

NO □

The debt millage required to pay the debt service on the School District's outstanding and proposed bonds is estimated to remain at or below the number of mills levied in 2019. The estimated millage to be levied in 2020 to service this issue of bonds is .94 mill ($0.94 per $1,000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds of this issue is 3.92 mills ($3.92 per $1,000 of taxable value). The bonds may be issued in one or more series, payable in the case of each series in not to exceed 20 years from the date of issue of such series.

The School District currently has $33,930,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and $0 of qualified loans outstanding under the State School Bond Qualification and Loan Program. The School District does not expect to borrow from the program to pay debt service on these bonds. The computed millage rate may change based on changes in 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.)

A YES vote typically means that a voter supports a proposal. Is that the case in this election?

Yes. Voters who support the Warren Woods Public Schools bond proposal should vote YES; voters who oppose the bond proposal should vote NO.

What will happen if voters do not approve the bond proposal?

The bond projects cannot be addressed as proposed.

Who can vote in this bond proposal election?

Residents of the Warren Woods Public Schools who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and are registered to vote.

Where can I get information about voting (such as how to register, where to vote, and absentee voting)?

Go to the Michigan Voter Information website (www.michigan.gov/vote) or call the Clerk's Office where you reside.

Do I need to update my voter registration?

You need to update your voter registration if you have changed your name or address since the last time you voted. You can do this at any Secretary of State Office or at the Warren Clerk's Office.

Can I vote by absentee ballot?

Yes. Since voter approval of Proposal 3 in November 2018, registered voters do not need a reason to vote by absentee ballot. You can request an absentee ballot application from the Warren City Clerk's Office or by going online to www.michigan.gov/vote and clicking on *Absentee Voting* in the left column.

Absentee ballots will be available to voters after March 21st. Any registered voter can cast an absentee ballot through Election Day.

To get more information about the bond election and answers to your questions…

- Go to www.warrenwoods.misd.net click on 2020 School Election
- Call Superintendent of Schools Stacey Denewith-Fici at 586/439-4417 or email her at sdenewith@mywwps.org

This document was prepared to provide factual information about the Warren Woods Public Schools May 5, 2020 election and was paid for by Warren Woods Public Schools, 12900 Frazho Rd. Warren, MI 48089.