



Lakewood School District

Your Community Your High School

Lakewood Board refines the scope of work for a February, 2014 bond to renovate Lakewood High School

November 6, 2013

Dear Key Communicators and Community Stakeholders:

“Lakewood High School is truly a community asset that belongs to all of us.”

After listening to community feedback and reviewing data from telephone and online surveys, the Lakewood School Board came to consensus during an October 9, 2013 special session on the scope of work for the renovation of Lakewood High School. The Board is expected to approve a resolution in early December, authorizing a Capital Bond Measure, which will go before Lakewood voters in February, 2014.

During the October work session, the Board directed architects to scale back the size and number of projects that were originally recommended by the Educational Specifications Committee last spring. They approved a plan that provides necessary improvements to safety and security in the current building, renews worn out mechanical and electrical systems, addresses major educational deficiencies, provides spaces for new educational programs, team learning settings and capacity for growth.

The high school building improvements will be “front-funded” with local dollars in order for the construction to begin at the most advantageous time of year. Geo-technical engineers determined that, due to challenging soils on the site, construction would need to begin when the soils are most stable. An auxiliary gym and improvements to the track, football fields and grandstand will be funded through anticipated state construction dollars.

The board spent months reviewing financial information and tax impacts of the high school renovation and also received feedback from the community through a large focus group event and telephone and online surveys. The Board elected not to include in the bond measure an additional \$4.2 million for drainage and playing surface improvements for the existing soccer, baseball and softball fields. They also reduced an additional \$1.5 million in added space/square footage in the building. (Note: if final construction cost estimates come in lower than expected, some of these items may be reconsidered.)

The total bond amount for the needed high school renovation is \$66.8 million. That total includes:

- Major improvements to safety and security, heating, plumbing, and electrical systems,
- Additional space for educational programs (labs and classrooms to support classes such as video production, digital design, health and fitness, performing arts.)
- Additional square footage to accommodate student enrollment growth and team learning areas
- Site improvements to address traffic and parking concerns

Funded with potential \$5.3 million in state construction assistance will be an Auxiliary Gym to support fitness, boys and girls practices and community use, and grandstand improvements that also includes a New Track and Football/Soccer Field. Additional projects in the district's long range facility plan may also be accomplished as state assistance funds allow.



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The estimated 2015 tax rate Increase over and above the tax rate being paid today (All Levies) is estimated at 51 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value. That translates to approximately \$10.67 per month for the owner of a \$250,000 home or \$12.75 per month for the owner of a \$300,000 home.

The district is excited to continue the bond information campaign between now and the February 11, 2014 election date so that everyone is well informed. For your convenience, we have posted additional information about the refined bond scope on our district website. This includes current concept design renderings, a brief video of a walking tour depicting our high school's existing needs and a revised Q & A to reflect the newly refined scope of the project. You can find these items as hyperlinks by going to the district homepage and clicking on “Your Community, Your High School- Learn About the Proposed High School Renovation”.

We thank you for the feedback we have received thus far through our Focus Group meeting back in August, as well as through the online and phone surveys conducted earlier this Fall. Please continue to check the Lakewood School District website www.lwsd.wednet.edu for updates.

With appreciation for your investment in our schools and with enthusiasm for the partnering efforts to reach the goal of a modernized high school that enhances the Lakewood sense of pride,

Dennis Haddock, Ed. D.
Superintendent