Garden City School Board places bond proposal on May 5 ballot

The Garden Board of Education has voted unanimously to place a $50 million bond proposal on the May 5th ballot.

According to Superintendent of Schools, Derek Fisher, the primary purpose of the bond election is to remodel, renovate, and upgrade Garden City schools and school facilities. If approved, the bond proposal will address the following areas across the school district:

1. **student safety enhancements**, including installing security hardware on classroom doors, creating a secure entrance at Garden City Middle School, replacing fire alarm systems, updating PA systems, improving parking lots, and replacing sidewalks;

2. **facility updates**, including roofing replacements, upgrading mechanical and HVAC systems, improving energy efficiency, renovating the pool and pool locker rooms, renovating O’Leary Auditorium, and updating interior finishes;

3. **improving the learning environment** by remodeling media centers and updating furnishings, updating science labs and greenhouses, creating a student commons area to support collaborative learning, creating STEM /Maker-spaces, and replacing the music instrument collection; and,

4. **improving athletic facilities**, including replacing the gym scoreboard and indoor track, installing a new stadium scoreboard and sound system, installing synthetic turf on the football field, reconstructing the parking lot and driveway approach, replacing fencing, and improving stadium area/athletic field drainage.
The bond proposal was developed following a comprehensive facility assessment and the engagement of community members to discuss building needs and bond proposal options. “This process led to a bond proposal that will allow the school district to address both short- and long-term facility needs,” said Fisher. “It will also help us enhance student instruction in a safe, secure learning environment.”

If the bond proposal is approved by voters, the current tax rate is projected to increase by 1.65 mills. This will cost the average Garden City homeowner an additional $66.00, annually or .18¢ per day.

School Board President Darlene Jablonowski said that the May 2020 ballot proposal will support the school district’s mission to provide students with educational opportunities in facilities that encourage student learning. “That is why communicating about the proposal will be a primary focus during the coming months,” she emphasized. “We want voters to understand how the ballot proposal will benefit everyone in the community and to make certain that residents have all their questions answered.”

Fisher reported that every project in the bond proposal was reviewed and approved by the Michigan Department of Treasury. “The bond proposal will keep our facilities up-to-date and meet the educational needs of our students for years to come,” he said.

Residents who want more information are invited to go to the school district’s website at www.gardencityschools.com and click on 2020 School Election, or to call any Garden City School Principal, or to contact Superintendent Derek Fisher at 734762.8300 or by email at fisherd@gardencityschools.com.

####