



927-A South Street  
Pataskala, Ohio

Ben Richards  
Director of Communications/Community  
Outreach  
brichards@laca.org

Phone: (740) 927-3941  
Fax: (740) 927-7230  
www.swl.k12.oh.us

Dear SWL Community,

As you have most likely heard, our board of education has placed a 6.7 mill bond issue on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot. We wanted to ensure that our parents are as well informed as possible. Below are frequently heard questions and answers:

Q: What does this include if passed?

**A:** This would, if passed, allow the district to build a new high school on the district owned property on Smoke Rd and US 40, a new 4-5 building on that same property, a road and pathway to connect those properties to the current high school and middle school campus, renovations to the current elementary schools which will become K-3 buildings, and renovations to the current high school which would become the new middle school.

What does our current enrollment and building capacity look like?

**A:** Based upon enrollment count from the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year and capacity numbers calculated by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission:

- Kirkersville= 598 students currently enrolled/ built for 458 students= 130.6% capacity
- Pataskala= 630 students currently enrolled/ built for 459 students= 137% capacity
- Etna= 628 students currently enrolled/ built for 425 students= 147.4% capacity
- WMS= 954 students currently enrolled/ built for 691= 138.1% capacity
- WMHS= 1,253 students currently enrolled/ built for 918= 136.5% capacity

Note: These capacities are age specific. The relationship causes our existing high school, once renovated and reprogrammed, to be able to accommodate 1,078 middle school students.

In doing the math, that translates to over 4,000 total students in a total capacity built for just under 3,000.

Q: What is the cost of the project?

**A:** The local share of the project is \$78,369,646.72 dollars. \$15,585,374.72 dollars of that amount is in Locally Funded Initiatives, or LFI. These are additional items the district added based upon feedback from a Community Focus Group. The state has agreed to pay \$52,292,825 if the district raises the local share.

Q: What are examples of the LFI the district has selected?

**A:** Examples include: An auditorium in the new high school, increased core space at the new high school to allow us to better add on in the future to 1,600 students, renovations to the current high school auditorium and security entrance improvements, rubber playground surfaces for all of the elementary schools. A comprehensive list can be found on the District's website.

Q: How does the size of our schools compare to the county average?

**A:** According to the ODE Benchmark Report, the square foot per pupil number in SWL is 94.8, while the county average is 158.4, a difference of 63.6 square feet per pupil.

**Q:** Will the district need to place an operating levy on the ballot for the purpose of staffing and operating the new schools.

**A:** As part of his 5-year forecast, Mr. Jones, SWL Treasurer, has accounted for the necessary costs to operate the new buildings based upon our current funding formula.

**Q:** How much does this cost a homeowner?

**A:** As you can see from the chart below, this is a 6.7 mill bond issue over 37 years. The chart below demonstrates the cost per \$100,000 of home valuation. Costs for a specific property can be calculated by going to the Licking County auditor website. Additionally, we have two bond issues which will drop off from property taxes in 2021 and 2022.

New Bond Issue:												
2015		Interest		Millage	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$400,000	\$450,000
Valuation	Principal	Rate	Years	Needed	Homeowner Cost *							
\$ 603,385,450	\$ 78,370,000	5.0%	37	6.7	\$ 234.50	\$ 351.75	\$ 469.00	\$ 586.25	\$ 703.50	\$ 820.75	\$ 938.00	\$ 1,055.25
* - Per year cost.												
Existing Bond Issues:												
				Millage	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$400,000	\$450,000
			Year	Reduction	Homeowner Savings *							
			2021	2.1	\$ (64.31)	\$ (96.47)	\$ (128.63)	\$ (160.78)	\$ (192.94)	\$ (225.09)	\$ (257.25)	\$ (289.41)
			2022	0.7	\$ (21.44)	\$ (32.16)	\$ (42.88)	\$ (53.59)	\$ (64.31)	\$ (75.03)	\$ (85.75)	\$ (96.47)
			Total	2.8	\$ (85.75)	\$ (128.63)	\$ (171.51)	\$ (214.37)	\$ (257.25)	\$ (300.12)	\$ (343.00)	\$ (385.88)
Note: The millage reduction for existing bond issues may occur over time instead of all at one time in 2020 & 2021. The rate at which the millage is reduced will depend on the growth of the property values within Southwest Licking LSD and the annual debt payment requirement.												
* - Per year savings.												
					\$ 148.75	\$ 223.12	\$ 297.49	\$ 371.88	\$ 446.25	\$ 520.63	\$ 595.00	\$ 669.37

**Q:** If passed, what is the timeline for construction moving forward?

**A:** On average, it takes about a year to plan for a new building and two years for construction. Renovations to the current high school would not begin until students were moved into the new high school.

**Q:** Can we see drawings of what the schools would look like?

**A:** Since architectural firms cannot count on being paid until a ballot measure passes, no “blueprints” will be available. However, recently, in Hamilton Township and Whitehall have built new buildings working with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. Additionally, the following website can show you a virtual tour of a building being created with the Commission.

[http://www.libertycenter.k12.oh.us/building\\_project/architectural\\_rendering](http://www.libertycenter.k12.oh.us/building_project/architectural_rendering)

Please note: Buildings for each district are unique. This does not represent what a school in SWL would look like.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me or show up at a district coffee talk.

Thanks, and GO WARRIORS!

Ben Richards

Director of Communication and Community Outreach