



**Harbor Springs  
Public Schools**

Excellence in Character  
Excellence in Education

## **Harbor Springs Public Schools Bond Proposal Update, May 2022**

It is with the utmost of gratitude that we thank the community of Harbor Springs Public Schools for passing the bond proposal on May 3, 2022. The unofficial count of votes was 1,227 (60.6%) Yes and 798 (39.4%) No. As was previously known, the bond proposal had seven components:

1. Provide improvements at Blackbird and establish it as an early childhood facility, providing child care, pre-school, and after school care.
2. Construct a new K-4 elementary school that would house all of the District's elementary students (on the present Shay Elementary site).
3. Provide improvements and updates at Harbor Springs Middle School
4. Provide improvements and updates at Harbor Springs High School including a barrier free entrance to the athletic and performing arts areas as well as relocation of music/band programs to the north side of the building.
5. Site improvements at Harbor Springs High School to allow for increased safety and parking capacity.
6. Improvements to the Community Pool, including a secure entrance.
7. Synthetic turf at Ottawa Stadium

The total amount requested on the proposal was \$41.85 million. These bonds are to be sold in two phases (2022 and 2024). The first phase will raise approximately \$16.5 million and the second phase will raise approximately \$25.31 million. The first phase will include the demolition of Shay Elementary School and the construction of a new elementary school. The anticipated occupancy of a new elementary school would be at the start of the 2024-25 school year. The design process of a new elementary school will kick-off shortly prior to the end of the 2021-22 school year. Design for Phase Two projects will not occur until 2024.

### **Questions and Answers Regarding the Bond**

**Q:** What are the next steps for the bond proposal?

**A:** The Board of Education voted to authorize the sale of bonds, using Raymond James and Associates as the underwriter, and the anticipated closing date is late June, 2022.

**Q:** What professional services has the Board enlisted?

**A:** The Board of Education has hired Plante, Moran, Cresa to serve as the Owner's Representative for the entire project, from pre-bond services through the final punch list item being completed. The Board has also hired French and Associates as the architecture firm for the project. These two appointments were voted upon through motions at public meetings.

**Q:** Will the Board of Education hire a Construction Management Firm for the bond project?

**A:** Yes, there is a current Request for Proposal (RFP) for Construction Management services that closes on May 26, 2022. A committee of administrators and Board representatives will conduct interviews of qualified CM firms who submit proposals and make a recommendation to the Board of Education for awarding the services at the June 13, 2022 meeting.

**Q:** When can we see the projects starting?

**A:** We anticipate the demolition of Shay to take place sometime late summer or into the fall 2022. This is a quick timeline and is dependent on bid packages being developed and put out for RFP. French and Associates is putting together a timeline for demolition.

**Q:** When will Shay be vacated?

**A:** Students, staff, and furnishings will vacate Shay at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

**Q:** Will the community have an opportunity to visit and walk through Shay prior to its demolition?

**A:** Yes, there will be an opportunity for walking through Shay Elementary and that will be communicated to the entire community.

**Q:** Where will students and staff be located during the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years?

**A:** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be relocated to Blackbird Elementary and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be relocated to Harbor Springs Middle School. Mr. Fairbanks and Mrs. Glentz will be working closely with Mrs. Keiser, the principal of Harbor Springs Middle School on the transition. The relocation of specials teachers is also being discussed.

**Q:** Will 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students be separated from middle school students?

**A:** To the extent possible, yes. Elementary students will have separate recesses and lunch periods. They will spend their instructional time with only students in their own grade levels.

**Q:** What does the design process look like for a new elementary school?

**A:** French and Associates is working on a timeline that will begin shortly which will include input and feedback from staff, administration, parents, and community.