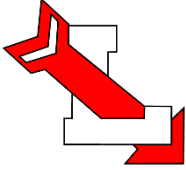


# LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

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May 1, 2024

Dear Lowell Area Schools Community,

As we approach the May 7 election date, we wanted to take one last opportunity to remind voters to send in absentee ballots or vote in person on May 7. As we have worked to inform voters about the proposal and election, there have been some common questions that I hope I can answer below.

## Central Administration

**Nate Fowler**  
Superintendent

**Dustin Cichocki**  
Director of Human Resources

**Dan VanderMeulen**  
Director of Curriculum

**Sonia Hodge**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Liz McCall**  
Director of Special Education

## Board of Education

**Brian Krajewski**  
President

**Laurie Kuna**  
Vice-President

**Tom Kaywood**  
Treasurer

**Pat Nugent**  
Secretary

**Jennifer Dougherty**  
Trustee

**Jared Blough**  
Trustee

**Jessica Curtis**  
Trustee

## Why a bond election for facilities?

The per pupil funding allowance from the State of Michigan mostly covers staff salaries and district operating costs. Capital improvements to school district facilities are left to local communities through the bond election process. This [video](#) does an excellent job of explaining how school funding works in Michigan.

## What are the main projects that will be completed with the funds that are raised?

- Renovating Cherry Creek Elementary to create separate classrooms
- Modernizing/expanding the High School arts wing by building a new orchestra room
- Addressing critical infrastructure needs at all buildings, such as heating and cooling system replacements and electrical and plumbing improvements
- Installing new playground equipment across all elementary schools
- Equipping learning spaces with flexible furniture and integrated technology at all buildings
- Constructing a new auxiliary gymnasium at the Middle School for district and community use
- Enhancing community spaces such as the TOTS program and Wittenbach Center

## If voters approve the proposal, when will we see construction?

If passed, design will start on Cherry Creek soon after the election. We would see construction on Cherry Creek and replacement of the high school track (which is in desperate need of repair) in the spring and summer of 2025. Additional projects would follow in the upcoming years.

## If approved, what happens to my taxes?

The debt for Lowell Area Schools' facilities is expected to continue at 7 mills. Voter approval would extend the amount of time it would take to pay off the debt for Lowell Area Schools. It is estimated that the 7-mil rate would start to decrease in 2031.

More detailed information is located on our [website](#) that includes ballot language, community forum presentations, fact sheets, two frequently asked questions document, additional videos, a podcast, media stories and polling place locations.

Sincerely,

Nate Fowler  
Superintendent