



# FREQUENTLY ASKED **QUESTIONS**

## MASTER FACILITIES PLAN PHASE ONE



**Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools**

**"WHERE STUDENTS COME FIRST"**



# Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools FACILITIES PLAN

Our Master Facilities Plan is a long-term vision for buildings and facilities within the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools.

Our goal is to provide a Master Facilities Plan that is innovative, workable and fiscally responsible. This final plan addresses needed improvements to existing facilities and will guide district leadership as changes occur within the community.

## PLAN DEVELOPMENT



All buildings were individually assessed as part of the evaluation to prioritize upgrades and improvements.



Community and school leaders participated as members of the planning committee. Issues and concerns raised by parents, staff, community leaders, and residents were considered.



As initial facility plans were proposed, feedback was actively solicited and used to develop the final Master Facilities Plan.

## PHASE ONE

- A new Lincoln Elementary on Helmbright Drive, to be finished by the beginning of the 2021-22 school year
- Classroom, media center, and student restroom renovations throughout the district in K-8 buildings
- Community engagement and planning to create a workable solution to address needs at Gahanna Lincoln High School

## PHASE TWO

- Additions to High Point and Blacklick Elementary
- Classroom additions to all three middle schools and auditorium additions to MSE and MSS
- Renovation or replacement of Gahanna Lincoln High School

## BENEFITS OF PLAN



Replaces Lincoln Elementary School, which has antiquated systems and would cost less to rebuild than renovate



Uses the available Lincoln Elementary space for future high school expansion



Addresses over-crowding in our elementary schools, the majority of which are at capacity



Modernizes classrooms in K-8 school buildings with flexible and innovative learning spaces



Balances student population throughout the district



Creates more space for performing arts and community use in our middle schools

# MASTER FACILITIES PLAN PHASE ONE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS PLAN

Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools is committed to the responsible use of funds generously provided by the community. It is important to us to update you on the work we are doing using levy dollars. The following is a list of frequently asked questions about the progress of Phase One of our Master Facilities Plan, as well as continuing work from our 2014 Permanent Improvement levy. Our goal is to make our schools look and feel fresh and engaging, creating flexible learning spaces that are stimulating for students and teachers.

As always, we thank you for your investment in our schools.

## RENOVATIONS

### **Q: What did the voters approve in May of 2018?**

In May of 2018, the community voted to pass a 5.5 mill bond (1.28 mills) and operating levy (4.22 mills) that directly funds Phase One of our Master Facilities Plan.

### **Q: What is included in Phase One of the Master Facilities Plan?**

Phase One of the Master Facilities Plan includes:

- Classroom, media center and student restroom renovations throughout the district K-8 buildings
- A new Lincoln Elementary on Helmbright Drive, to be finished by the beginning of the 2021-22 school year
- Community engagement and planning to create a workable solution to address needs at Gahanna Lincoln High School

### **Q: What is the status of the classroom renovations?**

Classroom renovations have begun in six elementary schools and in all three middle school buildings.

## FURNITURE

During the summer of 2019, elementary and middle school classrooms received new flexible workspaces, including desks, tables and chairs. Next summer (2020) we will install cubbies and storage units.

## FLOORING

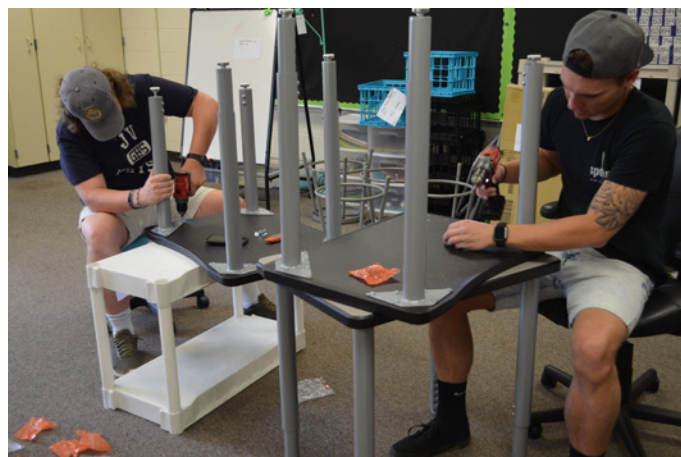
Asbestos was abated and flooring replaced at Middle School West and Goshen Lane Elementary. Flooring was also replaced at Middle School South. We will continue to abate asbestos as needed and replace flooring for the remaining K-8 buildings during the summers of 2020 and 2021.

## RESTROOMS

A total of 14 restrooms in Chapelfield Elementary, Royal Manor Elementary and Middle School West were renovated with new:

- Toilets
- Mirrors
- Sinks
- Fresh Paint
- Flooring
- Partitions
- Hand dryers installed to reduce paper waste in each restroom

Renovations on the remaining K-8 restrooms throughout the district will continue during the summers of 2020 and 2021.







## MEDIA CENTERS

During the summer of 2019, renovations began in K-8 media centers\* across the district. Gahanna Middle School South and Gahanna Middle School West received new:

- Flooring
- Tables
- Chairs
- Circulation desks
- Updated bookshelves  
(Middle School West)

Updates in the media centers at Middle School South and West will be completed this fall when the final pieces of furniture are delivered. Renovations on elementary media centers will begin in the summer of 2020 and will include new flooring, tables, chairs and circulation desks.

\*Note: Gahanna Middle School East recently received Media Center updates funded by their PTA. No further renovations in the media center are needed at this time.

## LIGHTING

New LED lighting is currently replacing inefficient traditional lighting in our K-8 buildings. These energy-efficient bulbs/panels will save the district up to \$120,000 per year.

The LED installation is complete at Middle School West, Royal Manor Elementary, Blacklick Elementary and High Point Elementary. We will continue to work after school to replace lights in the remaining buildings, finishing by the end of the year.





**Q: How were the funds from the Permanent Improvement Levy approved by voters in 2014 spent?**

Since 2014, we have been able to fund many improvements to our buildings. Projects such as new seating in the Lincoln High School auditorium, repaving parking lots, sidewalk improvements, new roofs on many buildings, security cameras at each school and replacement of buses and vans have all been possible with funds from the 2014 Permanent Improvement Levy.

Other important projects were also completed during the summer of 2019 using the Permanent Improvement funds:

- Roofs at Middle School East and Lincoln High School
- Drainage at Goshen Lane Elementary
- Middle School West main office remodel for security purposes
- Purchase of six buses
- Purchase of food storage units at Goshen Lane Elementary and Middle School East
- Implementation of the Raptor Visitor Management Program to track and screen visitors to our facilities to strengthen security
- Painting at High Point Elementary, Middle School West, Middle School East and Lincoln High School



## NEW LINCOLN ELEMENTARY

**Q: Where will the new Lincoln Elementary be located?**

The new Lincoln Elementary will be located on Helmbright Drive on land adjacent to Gahanna Middle School South.

**Q: When will the new Lincoln Elementary be completed and ready for students?**

As promised to voters, the new Lincoln Elementary will be open for the 2021-2022 school year in August 2021.

**Q: How many students will the new school accommodate?**

The school will accommodate 750 students.

**Q: What is the budgeted cost to build Lincoln Elementary?**

The budget to build Lincoln Elementary is \$24 million, which includes architect fees and construction.

**Q: Why have we not broken ground yet at the new school?**

Due to a statewide escalation in construction costs for nonresidential buildings, our design committee has had to revisit our original building design and make adjustments that allow us to work within the levy budget.

Construction costs for non-residential buildings in Central Ohio and across the state have risen significantly, especially for materials such as steel. The shortage of labor in construction trades, including masons, plumbers, carpenters and electricians, has also increased costs.

Design development has been completed by TRIAD Architects for an 82,000 square foot redesign. Our builder, Corna Kokosing put this design out to bid with contractors and cost estimates should arrive by early October 2019.

Once we have final financials for the project, our timeline will move forward. The goal is to finish the new Lincoln Elementary by May 2021, allowing for staff to move in during the summer.

**Q: When will the district break ground on the New Lincoln Elementary?**

Once we have a complete financial package for the project, our timeline can move forward with a tentative groundbreaking ceremony in February.

**Q: Is there no longer a push to open the school earlier than August 2021?**

Early in the planning process we were working to complete Lincoln Elementary with an accelerated timeline. However, due to demands in the construction industry that was not possible.

**Q: How will special area classes such as art, music and physical education be accommodated with 750 students?**

The new school will have two art rooms and two music rooms. The gym is large enough to hold two classes of students with a curtain for separation.

**Q: How many parking spaces will be at the new Lincoln Elementary?**

There will be 300+ shared parking spaces with Gahanna Middle School South. Cars may also line the student drop off loop for additional parking during after-school events.

**Q: What is being done to alleviate traffic congestion during morning drop off and afternoon pickup?**

A traffic study was completed by an independent firm to identify areas of concern. A large parent drop off loop and strategically placed school entrance/exits were added to mitigate traffic congestion.





# GAHANNA LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In our community discussions leading up to the levy of 2018, it became clear our community was interested in exploring solutions to address the needs at Gahanna Lincoln High School.

Along with plans to build a new Lincoln Elementary and renovations to classrooms, media centers and student restrooms as explained above, Phase One also includes a feasibility study to develop high school options for community consideration. An important aspect of a feasibility study will be engaging our Gahanna-Jefferson community in an open dialogue about all possibilities available to address the needs of GLHS.

Our community generously supported Phase One of our Master Facilities Plan and we promise to listen and consider all suggestions on how to improve the GLHS experience, ensuring it continues to be a source of pride for our students and our community.

**Q: When is the district going to begin community engagement about the needs at Gahanna Lincoln High School?**

In October 2019, we will begin engaging the community around a high school solution. District administrators will lead listening sessions in coffee discussions and community meetings.

The input we hear in these discussions will help us create a community-wide survey to gather important feedback from our entire community.



**Q: Is a second high school under consideration?**

Everything is under consideration as we work to identify a workable solution for our future high school needs. We are completing a study on student population growth, which will help us create a long-term plan.

**Q: Will the district renovate and add additions to the high school or tear down and build a new high school?**

Our community engagement sessions will provide an important opportunity to have conversations about all the possibilities and how best to address the needs at GLHS. All ideas are open for discussion.

Our schools belong to our community and we want to have an earnest and candid dialog around a high school solution.

**Q: What will happen with all the GLHS ideas and suggestions collected in the surveys, feasibility study and community engagements?**

We will distill all the information we collect and work with our Master Facilities Planning Committee to create a plan that is workable and sustainable to move into Phase Two.

**Q: Once a solution for GLHS is agreed upon by the Master Facilities Planning Committee, where will the money come from to implement the project?**

As we have discussed in coffees and community meetings, a solution for GLHS is one part of Phase Two of our Master Facilities Plan and will require a separate bond issue.



## TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about Phase One of the Master Facilities Plan, please visit our Master Facilities Plan Projects and Construction Updates page under the District tab at:

**[www.GahannaSchools.org](http://www.GahannaSchools.org)**

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