



Dear Gahanna-Jefferson community member,

As members of the Gahanna-Jefferson board of education, we have been honored to watch as hundreds of community members came together over the past few years to create a long-term plan that addresses our aging and crowded school buildings and also considers planned and potential growth of our district community. We are excited to share with you critical plans for the future of our district and community.

Our facilities planning discussion began in 2014 when a group of community member volunteers selected an architecture firm to evaluate the current status of our facilities. In November 2014, a permanent improvement levy was passed, with a promise to use funds for necessary building maintenance and upkeep projects that would keep students safe, warm and dry. The architecture firm then began working with a Master Planning Facility committee to develop a long-term plan for our buildings. This committee reached out for community input by holding a series of public forums in 2016 and conducting a district-wide survey. A final recommendation from the architecture firm was made to the committee in 2017.

We are grateful to all who served on the master facility committee, those who attended forums, those who took our survey, and those who attended coffee discussions with Superintendent Steve Barrett. This hard work by hundreds of individuals led to the development of a long-term and flexible plan that fits our community's culture and identity and aligns with the district's vision, mission, and values.

We now have a detailed master facilities plan that prioritizes what needs to be done in all of our school buildings and provides detailed information for repair, renovation, or replacement. It also outlines a two-phased approach for addressing student population growth and our plans to address this growth with renovation and new construction.

During the January 11 meeting of the Board of Education, we took the first official step toward putting this community-created plan into action. In a unanimous vote, Board members approved the first of two resolutions needed to place a combined operating and bond levy on the May 8, 2018, ballot. On January 25 at a special meeting, we voted unanimously to pass the second required resolution, and the issue is now certified by the Board of Elections to appear on your May primary ballot.

The bond issue would raise \$32,000,000 and fund the first phase of the master plan, which includes building a new Lincoln Elementary on Helmbright Drive by the beginning of the 2021-22 school year; as well as fund classroom, media center, and student restroom renovations throughout the district elementary and middle school buildings. It also will provide for community engagement and planning to create a workable solution to address the needs at Gahanna Lincoln High School.

The 4.28-mill operating levy would allow the district to continue offering the same high-quality programs and curriculum our community expects for our students. We have established fiscal beliefs that guide us in managing the operating budget. However, inflation, programming and reductions in state funding cause us to require periodic operating levies. The district has been a conservative steward of tax dollars, and in 2017, we made \$1.3 million in reductions to extend the last operating levy that passed in 2011.

Combined, these issues will add approximately \$16 per month in property taxes per \$100,000 of home value as determined by the Franklin County Auditor. It is a worthwhile and responsible investment for the future of our students, our schools and the Gahanna community.

We encourage all Gahanna-Jefferson community members to learn about the plan and the related ballot issue by attending a community coffee, reading information on our website, or reaching out to board members or district administrators. We are committed to engaging on this important subject, and we want you to have all the information you need to cast a vote you feel makes the most sense for your family and your community.

Again, we wish to thank the many community members who took part in creating this master facility plan.

Please visit www.tinyurl.com/GJPSFacilitiesPlan, email us at GJPSBOE@gjps.org, or call (614) 478-5533.

Sincerely,

Beryl Piccolantonio, President
Daphne Moehring, Vice President
Matthew Campbell, Board Member
Jennifer Chrysler, Board Member
Bryan Hairston, Board Member



Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools
"WHERE STUDENTS COME FIRST"