



## **Informational Memo & Action Item: 2018 Bond Issuance**

TO: School Board

FROM: Trisha Kocanda, Superintendent  
Brad Goldstein, Chief Financial Officer

December 18, 2018

### **Overview & Background**

Ongoing and regular investment in the upkeep, repair and renovation of the District's five buildings is a priority for the District. The goal is to ensure the safety of students and staff while providing an engaging learning environment across all buildings and grade levels. The District maintains a balanced budget in the operating funds, however, there are limited funds available to invest in capital projects.

The District's work on the Educational Master Facility Plan (EMFP) began in earnest in July, 2017. The Core Team worked diligently to present the Board with options and the Educational Master Facility Plan that the Board adopted on October 23, 2018. This was all done with the following guidance:

1. Input sessions with community, staff and students
2. Online survey of community
3. Interviews of key stakeholders
4. Focus group sessions with community, staff and students
5. Future Ready D36 engagement sessions with community and staff
  - a. D36 Mission, Vision & Collective Commitments
  - b. Meeting the needs of all students
  - c. Future-ready facilities
  - d. School finance and allocations
6. Phone survey

## **Administrative Considerations**

A phone survey was conducted in September 2018 by Fallon Research & Communications. This poll surveyed 300 random households in Winnetka. Some highlights of the survey determined that:

- 92% of respondents rate the quality of education provided by The Winnetka Public Schools as "excellent/good."
- 82% of respondents think maintaining neighborhood schools is very or somewhat important even though this configuration is more expensive to operate than consolidation of schools.
- 74% of respondents think it is a good idea to repair and upgrade Winnetka schools.
- 88% of respondents support repairs and upgrades to Winnetka schools within the current bond obligation, so these taxes would not change; 43% support comprehensive upgrades that could potentially increase taxes by \$1,000 (per \$1 million of property value).

In addition, Mr. Fallon noted the strong indication and "mandate to act" on school facilities repairs and upgrades despite sensitivity to "too high" taxes as well as the unique alignment of parent and non-parent responses on many key issues and general priorities.

The Administration, through consultation with PMA and Chapman and Cutler LLC, prepared draft ballot questions for the Board's discussion and consideration during the December 10, Special Work Session meeting, this reflects the priority scope work for the EMFP. The Board must adopt a the resolution for the ballot question that is attached by January 14, 2019, in order to meet the statute deadline for referenda. The resolution will read as follows:

***The Winnetka Public Schools District 36  
April 2, 2019 Consolidated Election  
Ballot Proposition***

"Shall the Board of Education of Winnetka School District Number 36, Cook County, Illinois, improve the sites of, build and equip additions to and alter, repair and equip existing buildings, including, without limitation, constructing safety and security improvements, increasing accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act, replacing electrical, plumbing, mechanical and HVAC systems, complying with the Health/Life Safety Code, renovating classrooms and Resource Centers/Libraries and

adding multi-purpose/lunchroom space and gym space, and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$90,600,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?”

The District’s Bond Counsel has drafted the language to ensure that the District is in compliance with the state statutes. Once adopted, an add will be placed in the I to notify residents of the referendum. This will coincide with a referendum communication plan that the Administration is working on in conjunction with referenda communication specialist Jill Huskisson, to plan out informational sessions and literature on the referendum to be shared with the community between adoption of the resolution and the election.

**Recommendation:**

Administration recommends The Board approve the resolution providing for and requiring the submission of the proposition of issuing \$90,600,000 School Building Bonds to the voters of School District Number 36, Cook County, Illinois, at the consolidated election to be held on the 2nd day of April, 2019, which proposition shall read as follows: Shall the Board of Education of Winnetka School District Number 36, Cook County, Illinois, improve the sites of, build and equip additions to and alter, repair and equip existing buildings, including, without limitation, constructing safety and security improvements, increasing accessibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act, replacing electrical, plumbing, mechanical and HVAC systems, complying with the Health/Life Safety Code, renovating classrooms and Resource Centers/Libraries and adding multi-purpose/lunchroom space and gym space, and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$90,600,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?”

**Attachments:**

[Bond Resolution](#)