

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

Empowering leaders who impact the NOW and innovate the FUTURE



July 20, 2021

Dear Reynoldsburg City Schools Staff, Students, Community Members and Friends,

Tonight, at the Regular Board of Education meeting, the Board made its final vote to proceed with placing a modest 4.9 mil bond issue on the November 2, 2021 ballot - placing the future direction of our schools into our community's hands.

The reality is that a number of our schools are overcrowded and outdated. Our facilities are limiting what we can and cannot do for our students. For example, expanding full-day Kindergarten is best for our students and what our community wants - but we simply cannot do it without additional space because our elementary schools are already at capacity.

Additionally, our students at Hannah Ashton Middle School have fewer opportunities to engage in digital learning and collaboration due to the age and layout of the building. HAMS was built in 1868 and was designed to prepare students for work 153 years ago. We can no longer afford to outwork the deterioration to the building and the impact the layout, plumbing, roofing, weather-proofing and electrical needs have on the student experience.

The bond issue would generate enough funds to complete a facility plan that meets the needs of students today and into our future. The plan also includes funds to maintain buildings for years to come and was thoughtfully crafted over the course of several years and after gathering input and research by staff, board members and from our larger community. ***Every student in every building would see improvements from the bond issue.***

Without these funds, repairs at Hannah Ashton and stop-gap measures to meet the needs of students in the short-term will continue to draw funds away from the bottom line, causing reductions to classroom spending. Moreover, Reynoldsburg City Schools will quickly reach its capacity in all of our buildings, thus falling behind in addressing growth and ultimately leading to larger class sizes and fewer opportunities for modern learning.

We have said before, and will continue to say - Reynoldsburg is growing, and that is great news! This ballot issue is not just about adding space, it's about ensuring our students can continue to be competitive and prepared for success. Classrooms made for facing a static blackboard need to give way to open space and technology where movement, creativity and individual critical thinking is encouraged.

In the coming weeks and months, we will hold many opportunities for you to come in-person or tune in virtually to learn more about our facilities, our plans for the future and even visit Hannah Ashton Middle School. If you would like to learn more now, please see our [Bond Issue web page](#) with facts and frequently asked questions about the issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melvin J. Brown
Superintendent
Reynoldsburg City Schools

Board of Education

Debbie Dunlap, President • Neal Whitman, Vice President
Angela Abram • Robert Barga • Jeni Quesenberry
Melvin J. Brown, Ed.D., Superintendent • Tammira S. Miller, Treasurer