

REYNOLDSBURG CITY SCHOOLS

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Reynoldsburg City Schools Board of Education Approves Bond Issue for November 2021 Ballot

The bond issue would be used for the construction and renovation of facilities to provide District-wide, full-day Kindergarten, reduce overcrowding and meet the educational needs of students today.

REYNOLDSBURG, OH — Facing overcrowded buildings and costly repairs to a 153-year old facility, the Reynoldsburg City Schools Board of Education unanimously agreed to move forward with placing a modest 4.9 mill bond issue on the November 2, 2021 ballot.

The bond issue, if approved by voters in November, will provide funds to: replace Hannah Ashton Middle School; repurpose Waggoner Middle School to an elementary school and build an Early Learning Center to provide full-day kindergarten District-wide and address overcrowding at elementary schools; and make necessary upgrades to provide modern learning experiences to students. Every student in every building would see improvements.

“We have worked really hard in Reynoldsburg Schools to provide a high-quality education that prepares our students for success at a great value to our residents,” said Reynoldsburg Board of Education President, Debbie Dunlap. “It’s been more than a decade since our District has needed additional investment from our community - but now we can no longer outwork our aging buildings and infrastructure without risking falling behind academically.”

As Central Ohio continues to grow with new businesses coming to town - Reynoldsburg grows right alongside with new opportunities and new residents. And growing communities mean more students. Currently, Summit Road STEM and Taylor Road elementary schools will be at capacity in 2022 and remaining elementary buildings are expected to be at capacity by 2025.

“This ballot issue is about adding space, but it is even more about ensuring that we provide the right opportunities for our kids,” added Dr. Melvin J. Brown, RCS Superintendent. “It’s also about the *right* kind of classrooms. We need classrooms that are equipped with technology, equipment, and collaborative spaces that our students need to learn today and many of our classrooms aren’t constructed for this right now.”

Hannah Ashton Middle School, in particular, has the most outdated infrastructure in the District. Originally constructed in 1868 to educate students for jobs on factory assembly lines and running farms, HAMS students today are unable to access modern learning technologies due to the age and layout of the building.

“We’ve known Hannah Ashton would need major upgrades for years; but, we have done what we could to conduct regular and annual maintenance within our budget to keep some functional space for students within the building,” said Chris Reed, RCS Executive Director of Business. “Now we are at a critical point - the cost to renovate the building simply for safety with the plumbing, electrical, roofing and weather-proofing needed totals \$18 million and far exceeds our available resources.”

Board of Education

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The 4.9 mill ballot issue translates to approximately \$14 per month per \$100,000 of home market value as listed on the county auditor's website.

The bond levy request specifically includes funds to:

- Construct a new Middle School;
- Build a new Early Learning Center where the Graham Road building currently sits;
- Repurpose Waggoner Middle School into an elementary school;
- Address overcrowding and increased enrollment in Reynoldsburg elementary schools;
- Upgrade electrical and technology systems to accommodate modern learning;
- Provide flexible learning spaces for today's educational models;
- Consolidate the District business offices for greater efficiency; and,
- Create a Permanent Improvement (PI) fund to maintain buildings and facilities in the future.

If the issue fails, repairs at Hannah Ashton and stop-gap measures to meet the needs of students in the short-term will draw millions of dollars away from the bottom line, causing District-wide reductions to classroom spending. Moreover, Reynoldsburg City Schools will quickly reach its capacity in all of our buildings, thus falling behind in addressing the growth and ultimately leading to larger class sizes and fewer opportunities for modern learning.

To learn more information about the bond issue, visit reyn.org/FacilityInformationUpdates.aspx.

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