

## **DECISION MAKING**

### **Why isn't the district pursuing the 5-6 buildings or other solutions to overcrowding?**

*In the school years immediately following the COVID pandemic, the district's enrollment dipped slightly, but has nearly recovered to pre-COVID levels for the 2022-2023 school year.*

*Much of the K-8 overcrowding has been addressed by evaluating enrollment numbers and student population shifts.*

### **How did the district come to the decision?**

*Most large-scale renovations projects cannot be completed within the district's annual facilities budget.*

*The district believes using the bonding capacity to address existing capital improvement needs with no increase to the tax rate is a better use of funds.*

### **What public meetings have been held so far?**

*A public work session with the Board of Education was held on September 29, 2022.*

*Superintendent McGraw presented the bond issue to the Board of Education on October 20, 2022. See the presentation [here](#).*

*On November 10, 2022, the board of education approved placing a bond issue on the April 2023 ballot. See the presentation to the board by Superintendent McGraw [here](#).*

### **Are there additional public meetings scheduled?**

*A public meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9th from 5:00-5:45PM at the Dix Road Technology Center (204 Dix Road). A presentation will be made by Superintendent McGraw outlining the bond issue. The meeting will be recorded and will be posted on the district website the next day for those who are unable to attend or would like to watch the presentation.*

## **FINANCIAL**

### **What is a zero tax rate increase bond issue and how does that work?**

*A bond issue is a way for governmental entities, such as school districts, to borrow money for large projects at today's construction costs and today's interest rates and repay them with future tax proceeds. A bond issue is similar to a home loan, but generally on a shorter repayment schedule (20 years). A zero tax rate increase bond issue means that the approval of this bond will not change the current tax rate.*

### **What would happen to the district's tax rate if the bond issue does not pass in April of 2023?**

*The ability to address the quality, equity and capacity of our facilities would be delayed. The district will continue to analyze facility needs from an educational, financial and growth management perspective to determine next steps. Whether the proposition passes or fails, the tax rate will remain unchanged.*

### **What will the district's bond capacity be if the bond issue is approved?**

*The district will likely have a no tax bonding capacity up to approximately \$85M available in 2023. The bonds would be split into two issuances over the next 4-5 years. Both issuances would be 20-year bonds with a conservative estimate of 5% interest rate.*

## **PROJECT SCOPE**

### **What district needs would the bond issue address?**

*A new early childhood center would be built, technology for all preK-8th grade classrooms would be upgraded, both middle schools would be renovated, Nichols Career Center would be expanded, sound & light equipment at the Miller Performing Arts Center would be upgraded, along with additional JC Schools improvements.*

*View the full list of bond issue projects below:*

- **New Early Childhood Center \$22.5M:**
  - A new early childhood center would be constructed on land the district owns behind Lewis & Clark Middle School (off of East McCarty);
  - The childcare needs in our community are great. The district currently serves approximately 150 students in our early childhood program. A new facility would double our capacity to 300 students (out of 600 graduates);
  - If constructed, Southwest Early Childhood Center would relocate to the new facility, JCAC would relocate to SWECC facility allowing for the expansion of services, and the current JCAC would be transformed into meeting space for district professional development and community meeting rooms.
- **Technology Upgrades for Elementary & Middle School Classrooms \$4M:**
  - Interactive touch-screen panels like what is in use in high school classrooms would replace aging smart boards and would be included in all preK-8 classrooms.
  - Additional work would include network and audio/visual wiring needed in each room to accommodate new interactive panels.
- **Renovations to Lewis & Clark and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools \$20.5M:**
  - The middle schools were built 30 years ago in 1993. They serve 1,000 students per building every day and have experienced a significant amount of wear & tear.
  - The buildings are in need of updates to flooring, select windows, lockers, walls throughout building (repairs and paint), track & field at TJMS, sidewalks and parking at LCMS, and front awnings.
  - Bond issue funds would also be used to eliminate trailers currently in use at both schools by expanding the facility to provide additional classroom space as needed.
- **Expansion of Nichols Career Center Campus and Courses \$2.5M:**
  - Nichols Career Center serves students from 13 surrounding 'sending school' districts and provides incredible opportunities for real-world training and experience.
  - Updates to NCC would include construction of a separate shop space for Building Trades on the land across from NCC. This building would also potentially house a new cosmetology program, which when surveyed, was the highest demand from students, and additional programs as space allows.
- **Sound & Light Equipment at Miller Performing Arts Center \$1.5M:**
  - The Miller Center serves as an extension of the classroom for JC Schools fine arts students in grades K-12 including performance venue for orchestra, band, vocal music, and theatrical performances;
  - The facility is also used by a number of community organizations and by parochial and private schools, hosting an average of 250-350 events per year;

- Updates to auditorium performance equipment would include lighting (current lights installed in 2005), sound and projection, with additional improvements made to things like seating, stage curtains, and exterior signage.
- **Southwest Early Childhood Center Remodel \$7M:**
  - Built in 1954 with an addition in 2009, scope of work would include upgraded wiring, electrical, plumbing, lighting and windows;
  - The Jefferson City Academic Center would relocate to SWECC allowing them to increase the number of students served.
  - Remodel work would include relocation of some common areas and addition of parking spots, among other changes.
  - Replacement HVAC new addition and kitchen replacement costs, plus a 3 year price increase.
- **Jefferson City Academic Center Remodel \$10M:**
  - Built in 1926, a significant amount of renovations are needed to update the electrical, plumbing, lighting, windows, flooring, and antiquated boiler;
  - JCAC would relocate to the newly-remodeled SWECC, allowing for an increase in the number of students served.
  - Current classroom spaces would eventually be converted into community meeting spaces (which could be utilized in conjunction with the Miller Center Auditorium for events or break-out rooms);
  - HVAC replacement on Miller Center, roof replacement and 3 year projected cost increase;
  - Inclusion of employee wellness center in JCAC gymnasium area and employee health clinic in remodeled classroom areas.
- **Belair Upstairs Remodel \$6M:**
  - Built in 1966 with an addition built in 2009 and a renovation of the lower level in 2011;
  - Proposed scope would include renovations of the main level classrooms and bathrooms, bathroom floors on the lower level, exterior tuckpointing and sealing, correction of water runoff around the building, and addition of driveway/road for parent pick-up and drop-off; HVAC replacement across the entire building plus 3 year projected price increase.
  - Additional items include removal of unwanted built in features, updated doors and frames, updated wiring, electrical, plumbing, lighting, etc.
- **Energy Savings COPS Pay-Off \$9M:**
  - Paying off the Energy Savings Certificate of Participation (COPS) would free up approximately \$820,000 of operating expenses annually, which could instead be put towards salaries, benefits and other operating expenses.
- **Athletics Facilities Completion \$3M:**
  - Due to unexpected cost increases to labor and materials, several portions of the athletic facilities projects were postponed;
  - Phase II projects at JCHS which could be completed with bond funding include: tennis courts without a tower; soccer bleachers and baseball bleachers; housing for scoreboard-related technology;
  - Phase II projects at CCHS which could be completed with bond funding include: field house finishes on the 2nd level including HVAC, locker rooms, restrooms, offices and storage spaces; football locker room lockers, and visitors bleachers; football and soccer parking lot; paved tennis parking and road to tennis courts; baseball bleachers, and parking lot; housing for scoreboard-related technology.

**When would the projects begin?**

*Multiple projects would begin immediately and be completed for 2023-2024 school year. The remaining projects would occur in two phases over an approximately five year period.*

**When would the projects be complete? (description of phases/timeline)**

*The newly constructed early childhood center would be ready to open for the 2025-2026 school year and several projects would be completed immediately.*

*View the full project timeline [HERE](#).*

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**

**What needs would building a new early childhood center address?**

*The childcare needs in our community are great. An expanded facility may also provide opportunities for community groups providing early childhood services to partner and share space or services.*

**Where would this facility be constructed?**

*A new early childhood center would be constructed on land the district owns behind Lewis and Clark Middle School (off of East McCarty).*

**What are the benefits of a early childhood program?**

*Children exposed to preschool have a greater chance of academic success. They are less likely to be placed in special education, less likely to drop out, and are more likely to attend college and avoid unemployment.*

**What is the projected cost to construct this new facility?**

*The projected cost is \$22.5 million*

**Who would be eligible to attend?**

*The early childhood center is for qualifying students who are four years old before August 1.*

**Would more students be able to attend the new facility?**

*The District currently serves 150 students at SWECC. The new facility would double the capacity to 300 students (out of 600 graduates).*

**ELECTION**

**When is the election?**

*Tuesday, April 4, 2023*

**Who can vote on the zero tax rate increase bond issue?**

*Any registered voter who resides in Cole and Callaway counties within the Jefferson City School District boundary lines.*

**What majority is required to pass?**

*The decision to invest in the community's schools is up to the voters and requires a 57.14% approval to pass.*