Dear Spring Lake Community,

The Spring Lake community has a long history of supporting its school system and thereby assuring that educational excellence remains a top priority. Whether you measure our outcomes by student achievement, extracurricular performance, or the relationships SLPS staff foster with their students, the results validate that the partnership between community and school district is a successful one in Spring Lake.

This brochure focuses on the upcoming School Bond proposal that will appear on your May 2nd election ballot. The research behind this bond was extensive and involved community members, staff, and facility experts. Their efforts drove discussion about improvements to safety, programming, student engagement, and infrastructure. In January, the SLPS Board of Education voted unanimously to approve this group’s recommendation and place a $49.8 million proposal on the May ballot.

If approved by voters, the May 2023 Bond will provide a safe & secure entry vestibule to Spring Lake High School; a new commons area that is open and welcoming to students, staff, and visitors; classroom additions, remodels, and upgrades that assure we are preparing students for future success; and, new and improved spaces for artists, performers, and athletes. These improvements come with no projected increase to our debt millage.

As you read about and study the proposal, I encourage you to reach out with questions or to attend one of the community presentations listed in this flyer. I can be reached by phone at 616-847-7919 or by email at dfurton@springlakeschools.org.

Sincerely,

Dennis Furton
Superintendent
Key Features of Bond 2023

Spring Lake High School
- New Secure Entry and Administration space
- Add 4 new classrooms and common space
- Remodel/add Visual Arts space supporting hands-on learning
- Media Center upgrades with spaces for collaboration
- Secure classrooms with new door hardware and window film
- New Outdoor Learning spaces
- Athletic upgrades including new tennis courts, addition of varsity baseball field and fieldhouse
- Upgrade fire alarm and security camera system
- Instructional technology for students & staff

Intermediate/Middle School
- Secure classroom door hardware
- New tennis courts
- Energy efficient lighting (LED)
- Replace select heating units
- Instructional technology for students & staff
- New Outdoor Learning space

Holmes & Jeffers Elementary Schools
- Instructional technology for students & staff
- Replace select mechanical units at Jeffers
- New Outdoor Learning space

Focus Areas of Bond 2023

Student Well-Being
- Safe & secure entry at SLHS
- Comfortable & welcoming student commons area at SLHS
- Outdoor learning spaces District-wide

Operational Efficiency & Infrastructure Upgrades
- Replace/upgrade building systems and components that are beyond their useful life
- Goal of reducing operational expenses and providing efficiencies

Future-Ready Learning Environments
- Build on Academic Excellence
- Design innovative and engaging educational spaces
- Foster collaboration and critical thinking

Student Life
- Improvements for the Arts & Athletics
- Auditorium upgrades
- New athletic training spaces
- Indoor practice space for band & athletics

Frequently Asked Questions

When would Bond 2023 improvements occur?
If approved by voters, design work would commence immediately, followed by construction anticipated to occur between Spring 2024 and Fall 2027.

Is the bond millage rate estimated to be the same for the entire life of the bond proposal?
No, the bond millage rate is estimated to remain at the current rate of 7.00 mills through 2032, thereafter it is estimated to decline due to bond repayment and taxable value growth.

How was this plan developed?
TMP Architecture and O-A-K Construction conduct Facility Condition and Program Assessments of all District buildings to identify infrastructure and program deficiencies.
The Bond Study Committee (BSC), a group of 35 community members, was charged with developing a plan for upgrading educational & extracurricular facilities to support flexible, student-centered educational spaces.
The BSC met from August through November to begin analyzing concepts & ideas while considering assessment report findings and the financial picture regarding SLPS bond programs.
A community survey was conducted to gain broader feedback and consensus about the bond program direction. A recommendation was prepared and presented to the BOE for consideration on Nov 21, 2022.
On Jan 23, 2023, the BOE approved a May 2, 2023 Bond Proposal for $49.8 million, which represents an expected ZERO mill increase to the current bond millage rate.