

2014 SCHOOL BOND



La Porte ISD will hold a bond election on May 10, providing voters with the opportunity to consider a \$260 million package for district-wide improvements.

The Board approved the recommendation of the Citizens Bond Development Committee, a group of parents, business leaders and other citizens, who met in early 2014 to help guide the structure of a possible bond issue to meet identified needs for the next decade. The unanimous recommendation of the committee members present at the Feb. 25 meeting was a single \$260 million proposition impacting all campuses. Of this, \$57 million is earmarked for the purchase of technology and school buses as well as ongoing capital project costs.

Among the projects are replacement buildings at two campuses—Lomax Elementary and Baker Sixth Grade Campus—as well as a major rebuild at La Porte High School. Four other campuses are targeted for major renovations. An overview of the proposed projects is shown on page 3. More detailed information about the 2014 bond issue is available on the La Porte ISD website at www.lpsid.org under the “Quick Links” section.

Frequently Asked Questions about the 2014 Bond Election

When was the last La Porte ISD bond election?

Trustees last called a bond election in the fall of 2005. Capital improvements included in this \$203 million bond program provided the district with Heritage Elementary School, La Porte High School Agriculture Center, LPHS Physical Education Center, Instructional Technology Center, Support Services Center and Bayshore Elementary School as well as major renovations to Jennie Reid and Rizzuto elementary schools. The program also provided for security vestibules where possible, upgrades to the instructional technology network, instructional technology in every classroom as well as laptops available at school or taken home by students in grades six through 12, and transportation purchases/improvements. Prudent management of the bond funds helped to deliver \$30 million more in projects than were originally promised to the voters. The independent accountant’s report on 2005 bond expenditures is available for review in the “2014 Proposed Bond” section of our district website at www.lpsid.org.

How much will this cost my family?

The average value of a home in La Porte ISD is \$126,336. The taxable value of this home drops to \$82,401 following the \$15,000 state and local option 20 percent homestead exemptions. Because the maximum tax rate impact of the 2014 bond issue is not expected to exceed more than 12 cents per \$100 valuation, the maximum projected monthly tax increase for this homeowner would be \$8.24. By the same token, the projected monthly tax increase for the owner of a home with an appraised value of \$150,000 would be a maximum of \$10.50, while the increase for the owner of a \$175,000 home would be a maximum of \$12.50. On a \$200,000 home, the maximum projected monthly tax increase would be \$14.50.

LPISD homestead property owners who are over 65 or disabled will experience no tax increase as a result of this bond program.

How were the bond projects determined?

The Citizens Bond Development Committee—which included parents, business leaders and other LPISD residents-- met during January and February 2014 to develop a recommendation to the LPISD Board of Trustees. During this time, the group visited a number of district facilities, reviewed needs of the district and considered various bond program options. The work of the committee was the next step in the process that began with the 2005 bond issue, which was designed to meet the immediate and foreseeable needs of the district over the subsequent 10 years. The group’s first meeting followed several months of discussion and assessment by district and campus administrators and staff to compile a list of facility needs.

The proposed 2014 bond package includes the following:

Facility Replacements

- Lomax Elementary
- Baker Sixth Grade Campus

Major Renovations

- College Park Elementary
- La Porte Junior High School
- La Porte Elementary
- Lomax Junior High School

Major Rebuild of La Porte High School

- Construction of new classrooms and science labs
- Construction of new fine arts wing
- Construction of new natatorium
- Construction of new competition gym/multi-purpose facility
 - Locker rooms for baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, etc.
 - Weight rooms and support spaces
- Renovation of existing fieldhouse to accommodate all football programs (varsity, sub-varsity, freshmen)
- Renovation of Classroom Wing B, kitchen, cafeteria and former administration areas
- Demolition of existing areas

\$57 Million in Technology, Maintenance and Transportation

Elementary School and District-Wide Improvements

- Programmatic/instructional technology improvements
- Classroom renovations, including science labs
- Ongoing capital improvements
- Safety improvements with attention to access control and lighting

The 2014 proposed bond package anticipates a maximum tax rate impact not to exceed more than 12 cents per \$100 valuation. La Porte ISD homestead property owners who are over 65 or disabled will experience no tax increase as a result of the bond program.

Are teacher salary increases included in the bond package?

Bond funds are not permitted to be used for teacher salaries or benefits. In Texas, school bonds may be used only for the purpose of constructing, renovating, or equipping facilities; the acquisition or refinancing of property; and the purchase of technology and school buses. The 2014 bond issue would provide funds for all of the above except for land purchasing or refinance.

Why did the committee recommend replacement of Baker Sixth Grade Campus and Lomax Elementary?

Baker Sixth Grade Campus and Lomax Elementary School received two of the lowest Facility Condition Index (FCI) ratings during a facility condition assessment conducted by PBK Architects. The FCI—which is calculated by dividing the estimated renovation costs by the estimated replacement cost of the facility—is accepted throughout the facility assessment industry as a general indicator of a facility's health.

Baker Sixth Grade Campus was originally built in 1963 with an addition in 1969. Needs identified at Baker included security and mechanical, electrical and plumbing system upgrades as well as extensive renovations. The FCI at Baker—considering \$17.4 million in estimated renovations and \$20 million in replacement costs—was 87 percent, which fell into the “very poor” category. In addition, the overall design of the facility does not lend itself to efficient and practical renovations. For example, the building has a low roof height in much of the school, and corridors have return air systems for heating, ventilation and air conditioning, which is a method that is not allowed under today's building codes.

Lomax Elementary, which was built in the mid-1970s, has experienced ongoing foundation issues, which are evidenced by large cracks in the exterior brick and interior walls and buckling of interior flooring. Previous efforts to remediate these issues were unsuccessful. The FCI assigned to Lomax Elementary—estimating \$8.2 million to renovate it and \$17.5 million to replace it-- was 47.2 percent, which is in the “average” range. The recurring widespread foundation issues triggered discussions among the Citizens Bond Development Committee members and, ultimately, the recommendation for its replacement.

During the process of developing the recommendation, the Citizens Bond Development Committee was assured that new buildings could be constructed on the Baker and Lomax Elementary campuses while students continue to attend classes in the current facilities.

Why did the committee recommend a significant rebuild of La Porte High School?

The Citizens Bond Advisory Committee devoted an evening to touring La Porte High School, where they heard about needs in various areas from LPHS students. The group considered the school's Facility Condition Index rating of 77.45 percent—which falls in the “very poor” category—in making its recommendation.

The original building opened in 1960, and several upgrades and additions have been made since that time. Most recently, the front of the building was renovated to provide a security vestibule so that visitors to the building must enter through the front office

rather than directly into the commons. The principal's office was also moved behind the reception area for additional security purposes. In addition, improvements were made to allow visitors to more readily locate the main entrance of the school and enhance the look of the campus and its parking lots.

Should the bond issue be approved by voters, the recently renovated areas will remain, and the proposed bond projects will focus on other areas. The proposed package includes construction of new classrooms and science labs as well as a new band hall, orchestra hall, dance studio and choir room. The proposal also includes a new competition gym/multi-purpose facility—the location of which is yet to be determined--which would include locker, weight and training rooms for softball, baseball, soccer, and other non-football sports. The existing competition gym would become a practice facility and would connect to the high school via a new climate-controlled building for our swim team. The current fieldhouse would be renovated to accommodate all football programs (varsity, sub-varsity and freshmen) as the locker rooms currently are not large enough for all participating students. Renovations will also be made to Classroom Wing B and the kitchen, cafeteria and support services areas.

Why are the district's newest schools included in the bond issue? Why wasn't College Park Elementary included for replacement?

La Porte ISD's newest elementary facilities are Bayshore, which reopened in a new building in January 2010, and Heritage, which opened in 2007. In the bond proposal, a total of \$1.5 million is allotted for each of these schools to meet the needs of the next decade, to include general safety upgrades, instructional technology frameworks, response to ever-changing programmatic designs as well as ongoing capital improvements, both interior and exterior. Rizzuto and Reid elementary schools, which also had substantial renovations and enhancements in 2009, also have \$1.5 million and \$1.95 million, respectively, allotted for these purposes. The additional dollars for Reid are for upgrading science classrooms.

Built in 1969, College Park Elementary School is the district's oldest elementary building, but it is still deemed both structurally sound and educationally appropriate. The FCI rating at College Park was 40 percent, which falls in the “good” category. Therefore, the committee recommended that major renovations, to include an attached gymnasium and a new entrance and security vestibules, be made at College Park rather than the facility be replaced.

Will passage of the bond issue give La Porte ISD a “blank check” for district use?

Bond fund expenditures must be approved by the La Porte ISD Board of Trustees. As with the 2005 bond issue, should voters approve the bond package, a citizens' committee will be formed to be involved in ensuring that expenditures are appropriate and that projects are managed well. The independent accountant's report which demonstrates the district's efficient management of the 2005 bond issue is available by clicking on the “Reports” link of the “Proposed 2014 Bond” section of the LPISD website, www.lpsid.org.

Where can I learn more about the upcoming bond election?

More information is available on the La Porte ISD website at www.lpsid.org. Just click on the “2014 Proposed Bond” area under the “Quick Links” section on the home page. There you will find presentations that detail the bond projects anticipated for each campus, a sample ballot, voting information and more. You can also submit a question by e-mail. For additional information, or if you have other questions, please call the LPISD Communications Office at 281-604-7001.

Proposed Bond Roll-up

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	Total Estimated Construction Cost
Bayshore Elementary School:	\$ 1,500,000
College Park Elementary School:	\$ 7,000,000
Heritage Elementary School:	\$ 1,500,000
Jennie Reid Elementary School:	\$ 1,950,000
La Porte Elementary School:	\$ 2,800,000
Lomax Elementary School (Replacement School):	\$ 17,500,000
Rizzuto Elementary School:	\$ 1,500,000
Baker 6 th Grade Campus (Replacement School):	\$ 20,000,000

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

La Porte Junior High School:	\$ 15,000,000
Lomax Junior High School:	\$ 4,500,000

HIGH SCHOOL

La Porte High School (Re-build)	\$ 75,000,000
De Walt Alternative Campus:	\$ 1,000,000

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS SUB-TOTAL	\$ 149,250,000
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Projected Inflation:	\$ 22,000,000
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Anticipated inflation is included to allow for the scheduling and phasing of projects over a 36 month period.

Project Soft Costs:	\$ 25,750,000
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These costs include the District's cost to administer the projects: Land surveys, soil investigation, professional fees, permitting, city fees, 3rd party construction inspections, printing, furniture and equipment and other costs beyond the construction contract.

Contingency:	\$ 6,000,000
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A contingency amount of 4% is included.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS TOTAL	\$ 203,000,000
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Ongoing Instructional Technology, Maintenance & Transportation	\$ 57,000,000
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GRAND TOTAL	\$ 260,000,000
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Branch Early Voting Locations (Pcts. 1-9)

Lomax Junior High

9801 North Avenue L
April 29, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Large Group Room

La Porte Junior High

401 S. Broadway
May 1, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Large Conference Room

La Porte High School

301 E. Fairmont Parkway
May 2, 2014
7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Main Foyer

La Porte High School

301 E. Fairmont Parkway
May 2, 2014
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Field House

Baker Sixth Grade Campus

9800 Spencer Highway
May 5, 2014
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Foyer of Gym

La Porte ISD Support Services Center

2015 Sens Rd.
May 6, 2014
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Training Room - First Floor



La Porte Independent School District
1002 San Jacinto
La Porte, TX 77571

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Election Day is May 10, 2014

May 10, 2014 Election Day Voting Locations

Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Precincts 1, 2, 3, and 6—Baker Sixth Grade Campus, 9800 Spencer Highway, La Porte

Precincts 4 and 5—La Porte City Hall, 604 West Fairmont Parkway

Precinct 7—College Park Elementary School, 4315 Luella, Deer Park

Precinct 8—Shoreacres City Hall, 601 Shoreacres Blvd., Shoreacres

Precinct 9—Morgan's Point City Hall, 1415 East Main St., Morgan's Point

Early Voting Locations--April 28 through May 6, 2014

La Porte City Hall

Precincts 1-7

604 W. Fairmont Parkway
La Porte, Texas 77571

Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesday, April 30, 2014—7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, May 3, 2014—8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6, 2014—7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Shoreacres City Hall

Precinct 8

601 Shoreacres Blvd.
Shoreacres, Texas 77571

Hours:

Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 30, 2014—7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6, 2014—7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Morgan's Point City Hall

Precinct 9

1415 East Main St.
Morgan's Point, Texas 77571

Hours:

Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, May 5, 2014—7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 6, 2014—7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

If you would like a copy of this information in Spanish, Vietnamese or Chinese, please call the La Porte ISD Communications Office at 281-604-7001.

Si desea obtener esta información en español, vietnamita o chino, sírvase llamar a la Oficina de Comunicaciones de La Porte ISD al 281-604-7001.

The La Porte Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, sex or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Title IX Coordinator is Isela Montes, Executive Director of Human Resources, 1002 San Jacinto, La Porte, Texas 77571, Telephone (281) 604-7110. The Section 504 Coordinator is Dr. April Fox, Executive Director of Special Programs, 1002 San Jacinto, La Porte, Texas 77571, Telephone (281) 604-7034.

Nếu quý vị muốn nhận một bản sao của thông tin này bằng tiếng Tây Ban Nha, tiếng Việt hoặc tiếng Hoa, vui lòng gọi đến Văn Phòng Truyền Thông La Porte ISD tại số 281-604-7001.

如果您想此信息的西班牙语、越南语、或者汉语副本，请拨打 La Porte 獨立學區通信辦公室電話 281-604-7001。