



# Gull Lake Community Schools

## 2022 Sinking Fund RENEWAL Proposal

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **What is a “Sinking Fund”?**

- A “sinking fund” is an account into which a local school district can place voter approved local millage revenue to pay for repairs, and/or replacements.
- By contrast, bonds are used to borrow money and finance larger projects.

#### **What is the difference between the sinking fund and the bond approved by voters four years ago?**

- The 2018 bond was used primarily for new and remodeled elementary buildings, to construct the new Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts and for infrastructure improvements to the high school and middle school.

#### **Why is the district putting this request on the ballot?**

- The 2014 Sinking Fund will expire with the December 2022 tax levy. We are asking the GLCS Community to consider RENEWING the current sinking fund for 9 years.

#### **Will my tax rate increase if approved by voters?**

- No, this is a RENEWAL and if approved the sinking fund millage would continue at the existing rate.

#### **How much money will the millage raise?**

- The millage would raise approximately \$706,000 a year.

#### **How may the District use the Sinking Fund to benefit students and the community?**

- Replace roofs and boilers, resulting in energy improvements and efficiencies
- Parking lot and driveway repairs and maintenance
- Additional safety and security enhancements
- Improvements to existing facilities

#### **What CAN'T be funded with the Sinking Fund?**

- Ongoing school operations or routine maintenance
- Employee compensation or benefits
- Purchase of real estate, equipment, buses, or technology

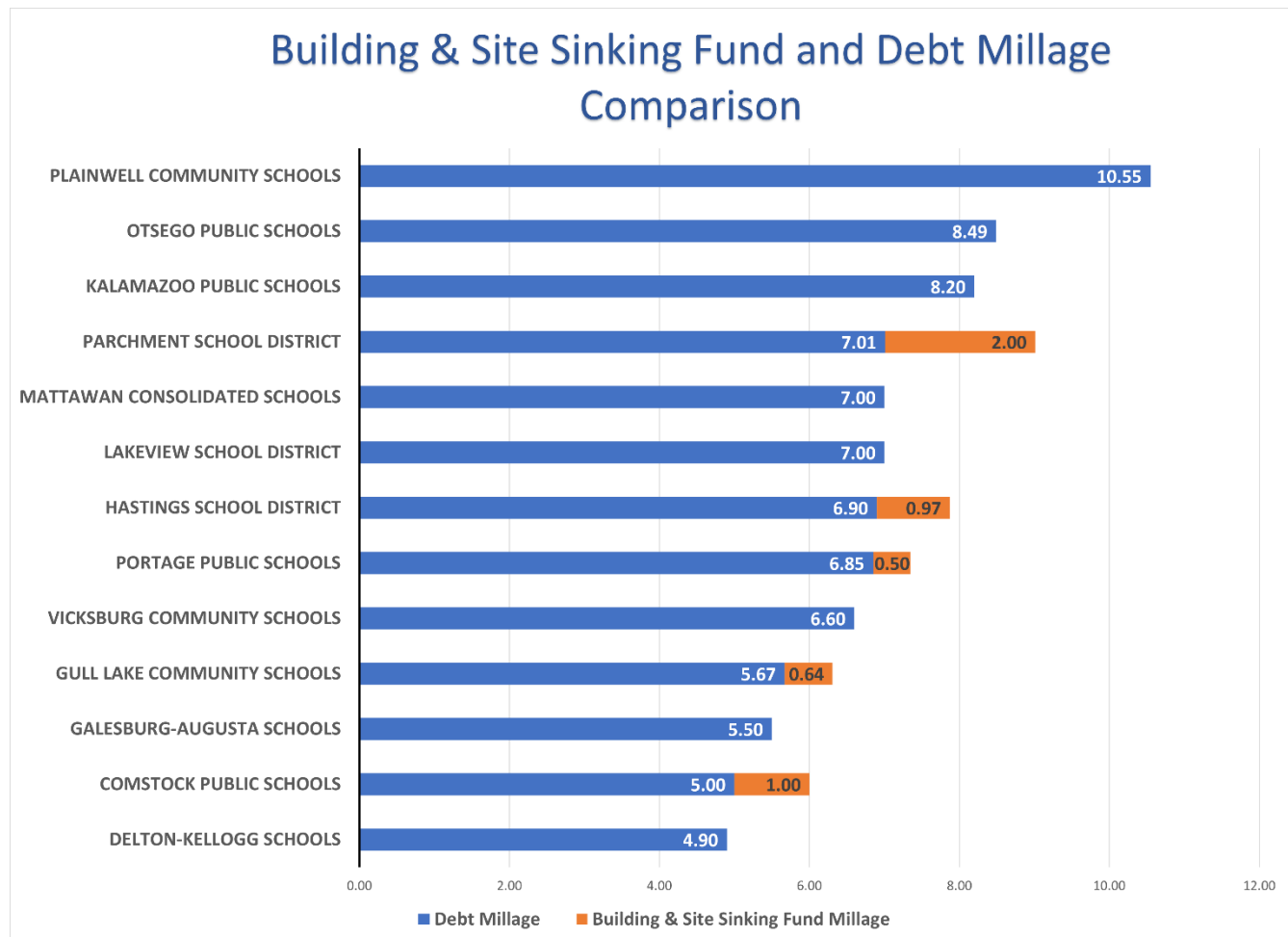
#### **What is the current millage for Gull Lake Community Schools?**

- The current total millage for Gull Lake Community Schools is approximately 6.30.
  - The current debt millage levy is 5.67 mills
  - The current sinking fund is 0.6334 mills



# Gull Lake Community Schools 2022 Sinking Fund RENEWAL Proposal Frequently Asked Questions

**How does Gull Lake's millage compare with other school districts?**



**How does the District decide which projects to prioritize?**

- The District has a 30-year, long-range, facility life-cycle plan and a 10-year facilities maintenance and improvement plan. The Board Facility Committee meets regularly and reviews the list of needed improvements and adjusts as priorities change. The process of review is ongoing.

**Are there safeguards on how the money is spent?**

- Yes, the school district is required by law to have an independent audit of the expenditure of monies generated by sinking funds and the audit is submitted to the Michigan Department of the Treasury.

**Who do I contact if I have questions?**

- Assistant Superintendent Lisa Anderson, [landerson@gulllakecs.org](mailto:landerson@gulllakecs.org) or 269.548.3421

**When is the election?**

- Tuesday, May 3, 2022. The polls are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.