

Answers to
Community Questions
since the October 4, 2023
Presentation to the
Bowling Green City Schools
Board of Education

October 17, 2023

What are some of the safety features that would be incorporated into a new high school?

Student safety is of utmost importance at Bowling Green City Schools. The building would be outfitted with state of the art school safety equipment. Below are some of the safety features expected in a new building:

- Hardened windows (shatter proof glass) at entrance ways, first floor areas, and lower windows.
- Barriers (natural or manmade) at entryways to protect the building from outside forces.
- Automated lockdown doors separating academic learning areas from the more public spaces.

...safety features that would be incorporated into a new high school?

More of the safety features expected in a new building:

- Scaled back/limited access points (outside doors).
- Network based whole school communication emergency management system connected with local first responders.
- Clear path of surveillance in and out of the building.
- State of the art technology for access and control of the building.
- Fire suppression system (sprinklers) throughout the entire building.
- Alarm monitoring system.

...safety features that would be incorporated into a new high school?

This would all be in addition to the safety measures we currently have in place such as:

- Secure vestibule.
- Individual classroom door barrier devices.
- Camera system.

A complete security audit would be completed during the finalization of the plans with proper safety stakeholders.

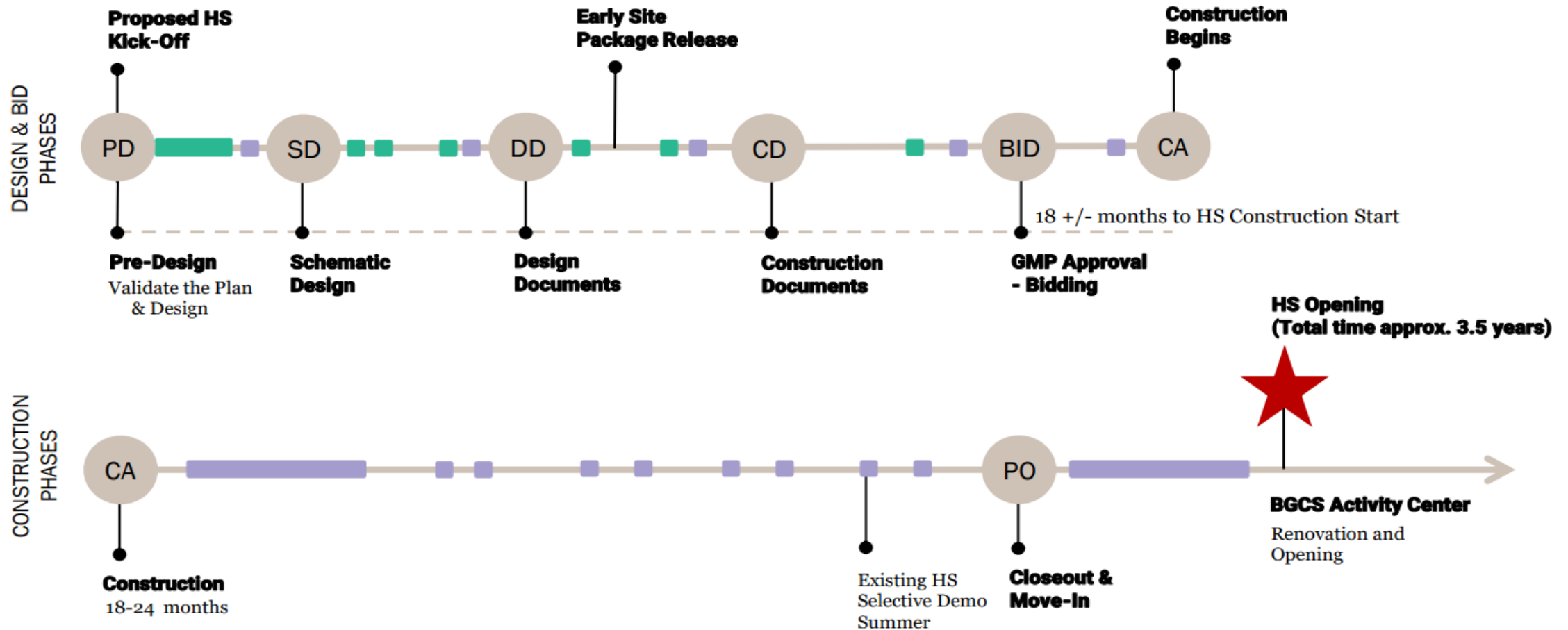
If the bond issue passes, what kind of changes can be made to the current plan?

While a number of decisions have been made, there are still many decisions in front of district administration and the Board of Education. Many more meetings will take place with stakeholders to discuss and finalize the design should the bond issue pass.

TIMELINE

What Comes Next?

- Engagement and Meetings – BGCSD Stakeholders
- Documentation Review and Approvals, Cost Estimate Reviews
Reviews: BGCSD, Construction Manager, and City Site/Building



The proposed new high school design shows a beautiful entrance doorway to the high school. But, why is it so far from the new parking lot? A visitor would have to walk partway around the building from the parking spot to get to the front entrance of the school.

There will be a parking and traffic pattern study completed by engineers during the next phase of construction should the levy pass. It is likely a small visitor parking lot would be added closer to the main front entrance.

I can imagine a new facility would be much more cost effective to operate, but academically, what will a new high school offer that isn't available in the current high school?

The proposed new high school would offer many items to improve academic opportunities not available in the current high school. A few of them include:

- All classrooms will be designed with the appropriate size of high school classes in mind for 21st century learning opportunities.
 - Student collaboration
 - Use and implementation of technologies
 - Cross-disciplinary teaching and learning
- All science classrooms would include the necessary tools to allow appropriate science labs to increase student learning and experiences.
 - Water
 - Gas

...but academically, what will a new high school offer that isn't available in the current high school?

- All science classrooms would include necessary safety mechanisms.
 - Proper ventilation equipment/Chemical Fume Hoods
 - Proper eye washing stations
 - Proper safety showers
- All classrooms would include proper instructional technologies.
 - Audio systems
 - Interactive boards

... but academically, what will a new high school offer that isn't available in the current high school?

- Proper space for our special needs classrooms.
 - Sensory room
 - Kitchenette (life skills training)
- A recording studio for performing arts and related activities.

The job of a PK-12 school district is to provide opportunities and experiences for our students allowing them to be successful now and in their future.

School funding is a complicated subject.

- Revenue—How funds are collected.
 - Types of levies
 - Collection of the dollars
- Expenses—How funds can be spent.
 - General Fund dollars
 - Permanent Improvement dollars
 - Grant dollars
 - Federal dollars

The county is in a reevaluation year and the Wood County Levy Estimator has a disclaimer that amounts could change. How does this all impact what I would pay?

From the Wood County Auditor website:

DISCLAIMER: The calculations listed above are estimates of proposed property tax levies that are to be voted on in an upcoming election. The estimated tax amounts are based on the current tax duplicate and do not reflect potential changes in value** or adjustments to the tax rate. Please note that there are many factors that may impact property taxes and actual amounts may differ if the levy is approved by the voters.

** Any change in value for a future year will not be reflected in this estimate. This would include changes due to a Revaluation, Triennial Update, BOR, New Construction, Changes in Owner Occupancy or Homestead Eligibility, or any other valuation adjustment.

...reevaluation year.. How does this all impact what I would pay?

The BGCS bond issue will collect a fixed dollar amount—\$72.8 million—no more, no less. As property valuations within the school district increase, the millage on the bond will decrease resulting in a collection of the correct amount of funds for the district, \$72.8 million—no more, no less. With this year being a reevaluation year, Wood County properties will all have new values in 2024—but that will not impact the amount collected by BGCS as the millage will decrease keeping the collection at \$72.8 million. This is state law and algebra at work.

...reevaluation year.. How does this all impact what I would pay?

County auditors are required to complete reevaluations every six (6) years and triennial updates every three (3) years. In three years, new values will again occur; however, because of this law, BGCS will still only collect \$72.8 million.

How will this current revaluation impact each property owner based on this levy estimator? Some may pay a little more than what is shown on the levy estimator and some may pay a little less than what is shown on the levy estimator.

(Please see slides 11 & 12 of my September 19, 2023 presentation)

The district's Five-Year Forecast shows the district has carryover money. Why not use the carryover money to decrease the amount needed to build a new building?

The most recent Five-Year Forecast (May, 2023) shows a cash balance, or carryover, of approximately \$17,000,000 in our General Fund. This money is used to pay our daily operating expenses such as staff salaries, fuel for transportation, utilities, books, technology, etc.

Using this General Fund money on a project of this scale would be similar to a homeowner using up all of their savings to purchase a new house. It would decrease their monthly payment but they would not be able to put food on the table the next week to feed their family, put fuel in their car, or pay the utility bills.

...Five-Year Forecast... Why not use the carryover money to decrease the amount needed to build a new building?

This General Fund amount sounds like a lot—and it is! However, BGCS is a large organization and serves lots of students. Our daily operating expense is over \$97,000 per day!

Additionally, as of September 30, 2023, the district has approximately \$1,600,000 in our Permanent Improvement fund (PI) and \$3,500,000 in our Capital Project fund (Rover Pipeline). We should not deplete these funds either as we have other facilities to continue to maintain and upkeep. Furthermore, the pipeline revenue is under appeal by Rover Pipeline and in the court system (who knows for how long or the outcome).

Thank you for sharing the Wood County Levy Estimator. It has been useful and we understand the cost of this bond on our residential property. However, what is the cost on CAUV property?

The cost on agricultural land, or CAUV property, varies just like residential property. The cost varies from approximately \$3.00 to \$4.00 per acre on CAUV properties. Using the levy estimator on the Wood County Auditor's website, here are a few examples of cost increases on agricultural land should the issue pass:

- A property that is 240.0 acres and valued at \$1,920,700: the BGCS bond issue would cost the property owner \$783.02 per year (\$3.26 per acre per year). That parcel number is: 132-410-210000009000
- A property that is 80.0 acres and valued at \$639,800: the BGCS bond issue would cost the property owner \$269.58 per year (\$3.37 per acre per year). That parcel number is: 132-410-090000013000

...what is the cost on CAUV property?

Using the levy estimator, here are a few more examples of cost increases on agricultural land should the issue pass:

- A property that is 76.21 acres and valued at \$649,600: the BGCS bond issue would cost the property owner \$266.98 per year (\$3.50 per acre per year). That parcel number is: I32-410-160000002000
- A property that is 40.85 acres and valued at \$292,500: the BGCS bond issue would cost the property owner \$141.18 per year (\$3.46 per acre per year). That parcel number is: K40-409-150000017500
- A property that is 40.0 acres and valued at \$321,800: the BGCS bond issue would cost the property owner \$148.43 per year (\$3.71 per acre per year). That parcel number is: R63-510-290000028000

With the exception of the middle school our schools were built in the 1950 and 1960's. Why has the District not been putting money away and saving to build new buildings since then?

School districts should not be collecting and stockpiling money from community members for 60+ years to build new buildings at a later date. Schools are not like homeowners or businesses in that manner. If BGCS had stockpiled \$72.8 million, the community would be upset, and rightfully so! Had the district done that, we would not have been a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

Second Level Questions...

Please note, a few questions received would be considered “second level” questions. These are questions that cannot be answered until the next phase of the process or questions that do not impacted the first question, which is: will the district be constructing a new high school?

Some of these second level question topics included:

- How many geothermal bores will be constructed for the geothermal heating and cooling system for a new building?
- Paint color of the classrooms and hallways?
- Floor coverings?

The main focus right now has been on the higher level details of a potential new high school facility.

The Perfect Solution...

I recognize that a “perfect solution” for every single stakeholder will be impossible due to varying and quite diverse perspectives.

There has been a lot of input from many stakeholders thus far (with more to come should the bond issue pass) to create a solid plan with the finer details to be determined.

Our community will be the ones to make the final decision and give the most input to the main question....will the district be constructing a new high school?

In Closing

This is the last anticipated Question and Answer presentation. However, you are invited to direct any additional questions to the Superintendent's office or a member of the Board of Education.

This Q&A presentation has been uploaded and is available on the district's website.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the High School building tour will begin.