



School Building Improvement Project

Frequently Asked Questions

BOND ISSUE INFORMATION

What is on the ballot?

The Canfield Local School District has placed a 7.5 mill, \$105 million bond Issue on the November 7, 2023 ballot.

What are the financial specifics of the bond issue?

Financials	
Bond Amount	\$104,955,000.00
Millage	7.5
Interest Amount	4.8%
Length of Bond Issue	37 years

What is the breakdown of the spending for the \$105 million bond issue?

OFCC recommends rebuilding if the renovation cost exceeds 66.3% of the rebuild.

- **New K-4 building: \$40,043,458**
 - » Hilltop Renovate \$20,115,897 vs Rebuild \$23,399,909
◊ **(86% of rebuild)**
 - » C.H. Campbell Renovate \$22,954,429 vs. Rebuild: \$23,374,554
◊ **(98% of rebuild)**
 - » Rebuild two separate elementary schools \$46,774,463 + 7% increased cost per year = **\$50,048,675 for two new elementary vs \$40,043,458 for consolidated building.**
- New middle school: \$47,400,305
 - » Renovate: \$52,590,551
◊ **(87% of rebuild)**
- **High School renovations: \$15,000,000**
- **Hilltop renovations for Admin Offices: \$383,681**
- **Abatement/Demo (CH & CVMS): \$2,127,469**
- Maintenance (mandated by OFCC): .5 mill or \$360,000 based on current assessed valuation must be designated by the school for maintenance of the new facility, NOT from the levy.

Would the Permanent Improvement Levy be dropped if the Bond Levy passes?

No. We will still need those PI funds to purchase school buses and make needed repairs across the district.

What is the length of the Bond Levy?

37 years

If the district is able to pay off the bond before the 37 years, what will happen?

The millage is no longer assessed and will not appear on your tax bill.

PROJECT COST

How do I figure out the cost to me?

Visit the Mahoning County Auditor's website at <https://oh-mahoning-auditor.publicaccessnow.com> and follow these steps:

- Go to "Owner Search"
- Type in your last name
- Go to "Search"
- Click on your property address
- Retrieve the total value of your property under the "Current Value" column
- Multiply the total by 35%
- Multiply that answer by .0075
- The result is your annual increase

How much does the levy project cost, and how is it broken down per segment?

Project Costs - Recommended Master Plan	
Scope	Budget
Select renovations to Canfield High School for 759 students in grades 9-12. (163,965 SF)	\$15,000,000.00
New 5-8 Middle School for 841 students. (112,464 SF)	\$43,800,305.22
New K-4 Elementary School for 997 students. (108,882 SF)	\$38,743,458.12
Abate/Demo C.H. Campbell Elementary School	\$494,698.41
Abate/Demo Canfield Village Middle School	\$1,632,770.17
Hilltop Site Safety Allowance	\$300,000.00
Total Co-Funded Amount	\$99,971,231.92
Additional Gym Spage	\$3,600,000.00
Hilltop Potential Road Updates	\$1,000,000.00
Renovate existing Hilltop for BOE/Administration - Select Reno	\$383,681.00
Total Locally Funded Initiative Amount	\$4,983,681.00
Total Project Amount	\$104,954,912.92

What is the cost to a \$100,000 homeowner?

The estimated monthly tax with a valuation increase of 30% is \$16.83 for a homeowner with a \$100,000 property value.

Is there a calculator for what it will cost me, specifically?

Yes, a cost calculator is available on the district web page. Please visit www.canfieldschools.net/facility-project.

When partnering with the state, are districts required to raise any money for the upkeep of these buildings?

Yes. 0.5 mill is required to be set aside in order to ensure a funding source for the maintenance and upkeep of the newly constructed buildings. These dollars will come out of our Permanent Improvement Fund.

What is the current operating budget to maintain buildings as-is?

There is an ongoing permanent improvement one mill levy that provides these funds, which is around \$600,000 per year.

When will the district receive the 16% OFCC credit?

We do not know at this point in time. OFCC bases its funding timing on equity ranks. Currently, there are many school districts ahead of us on the equity rank list, so we are anticipating several years before it is our turn.

Is furniture included in the bond issue cost?

Yes.

Why hasn't the school set aside money for this project?

Construction of schools is funded through bond issues voted by the community.

PROPERTY REAPPRAISAL

What is the impact to the bond issue with the new reappraisals for Canfield?

The County Auditor has informed the district that due to the increase in district valuation, we will not need to collect 7.5 mills as approved months ago. At this time, it looks like the needed millage will be close to 5.8 mills and now cost the \$100,000 homeowner around \$16.83 a month vs. \$21.88 as initially stated.

Will my property taxes go up the same percent as the tentative fair market value of my house?

Your property taxes will not go up the same amount as the projected increase to the assessed value of your property. House Bill 920 protects property owners from inflationary increases brought on by property reappraisals.

Will the district receive additional funds on voted millage due to the recent reappraisals?

The current voted millage on existing property will not bring additional dollars to the school district due to House Bill 920.

How will this levy affect property values?

Property values are correlated positively with strong school districts. To maintain a strong school district, we need to ensure Canfield is home to schools equipped to prepare our students to be competitive in the 21st-century career and college environment.

What is the difference between my taxable property value and the value I see on Zillow?

There is a considerable difference between what the county assesses vs. your projected resale value. Please look up your home on [Mahoning County Taxes: Property Search](#).

If our appraisal going up causes our millage to go down, is the bond issue still going to be for 7.5 mills?

We cannot change the bond issue language or scope because it was set when we filed to be on the November election. But after it passes, we can reduce the amount collected.

Will the ½ mill that is collected for maintenance be reduced if the 7.5 is reduced?

No. The ½ mill is assessed on the current valuation in the district.

Isn't it misleading to tell people that if the millage is reduced from the original ask of 7.5, their taxes will go down?

With the millage being projected to be reduced, the amount of money paid per month as compared to six months ago will decrease per \$100,000.

BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT INFORMATION

What is being planned with this additional funding?

- Construction of a new K – 4 building that would replace the current two elementary schools located at the current Hilltop site.
- Construction of a new middle school to replace the 24-101-year-old middle school on the site of the current middle school.
- Major renovations of the high school building, including new parking surfaces, roof replacements, and foundation repair, along with internal upgrades to some flooring, classrooms and lighting/windows.

What will be the benefits to staff/students if new buildings are constructed?

Benefits will include state-of-the-art technology, safety, improved air ventilation systems, and a learning environment with much more natural light, warm colors, and flexible learning spaces. In the elementary building, we will see a more equitable distribution of class size. These areas are designed to promote more collaborative learning. Research has shown that all of these factors improve teachers' abilities to teach, improve the overall learning experience for students, improve attendance, and improve the overall mental health of students and staff.

What is the project timeline?

The project is estimated to take three years from start to finish.

What are the concerns with C.H. Campbell and Canfield Village Middle Schools?

C.H. Campbell and Canfield Village Middle Schools need millions of dollars in repairs and ongoing maintenance as the old buildings decline.

What will happen to Hilltop?

- The old Hilltop building will not integrate into the new structure. It will house the district's administrative offices (currently located at CVMS).
 - » Additional community partners will be solicited to use the additional space at Hilltop, i.e., Special Education and/or Preschool consolidation, private mental health facility, counseling, repurposing of the gym for school sports or flex space.

It would also be possible to host community partnerships to benefit a wide breadth of the Canfield population, i.e., senior center, community center, etc.

Does the money spent on the Hilltop upgrade address the issues presented as reasons not to use the building for a school? If the building is not fit to house students, how much will it cost to make it ready to house outside groups?

- The assessment for renovation presented by the OFCC is \$20,115,897 to renovate Hilltop fully for students, reconfiguring classrooms, replacing HVAC, windows, doors, lights, roof, outer envelope, and furniture, along with modernization of the facility. Even with this massive overhaul, classroom square footage would still be insufficient for the class sizes needed.
- Until the purpose of the unused section is determined, there cannot be an estimate of renovation for the parts not used by the administration.

What happens to C.H. Campbell after the new elementary school is completed?

There is money budgeted for abatement/demo of the current building. The property at C.H. Campbell will first be offered to the Mahoning County Commissioners for first right of refusal based on the deed to the property. It could be kept for future use, sold off to the city, turned into a park, or any myriad of possibilities. At this time, the focus is on consolidating the schools, but this is a valuable piece of land that the school will retain ownership of after the abatement/demo until a course of action is determined.

Does this address the aging/falling down bus garage?

No - the community committee decided this was not a priority to voters.

Will the bus garage be moved to Moreland Drive (C.H. location)?

It is not anticipated that the buses will be moved from the lot on Wadsworth Street.

After the May 2022 bond issue failed, what process did the district take to get to this point?

2022 Planning Roadmap

July 6-29	Community Survey
September 26	Community Meeting
October 19	Hilltop Elementary School Building Data Review & Tour
October 26	C.H. Campbell Building Data Review & Tour
November 26	Canfield Village Middle School Building Data Review & Tour
December 7	Canfield High School Building Data Review & Tour

2023 Planning Roadmap

January 23	Educational Visioning Session	March 23	Master Planning Meeting #7
January 31	Master Planning Meeting #1	March 30	Master Planning Meeting #8
February 7	Master Planning Meeting #2	April 4	Community Open House
February 23	Master Planning Meeting #3	April 6	Master Planning Meeting #9
March 2	Master Planning Meeting #4	April 20	Master Planning Meeting #10
March 9	Master Planning Meeting #5	June 1	Board/Master Planning Meeting #11
March 16	Master Planning Meeting #6	June 14	Recommendation to Board of Education

Why not build a new high school?

Renovations and repairs would adequately address the high school facility's needs. The needs of the middle and elementary schools exceed those of the high school.

Does the school district have a maintenance plan going forward with the two new and two existing buildings?

This will be developed by the school district utilizing the current one-mill improvement levy along with the funds from the capital levy.

What input has the community had in the planning process?

There have been two citizen committees, one for the original levy and another group of 73 volunteers composed of parents, residents, community partners, retirees and school staff. For this current levy, 14 months, 11 meetings, four school tours, a community meeting, an open house, and educational visioning sessions were conducted.

The full list of the committee can be found [here](#).

Why not renovate the C.H. Campbell Elementary School and Canfield Village Middle School?

The cost of renovations for the two schools is estimated to be \$75,544,980. Even if CLSD spent the money to renovate the two schools, we would still be left with inadequate facilities when it comes to teaching and learning. Lastly, Canfield would still have four separate school buildings and the inherent additional costs of a separate vs. consolidated elementary.

Is the proposal to meet a minimum of requirements? Is the new building better than the current one (is there a space for groups that currently do not have space, such as athletics at the middle school, such as wrestling)?

The specifics of the new buildings will be determined during the planning phase for the exact layouts and specifications. Community feedback and priorities will be key in this step.

How is a plan only 48% of the Facility Committee voted for the best one?

There were three plans that had positives and negatives at the final vote, so it was unlikely that anyone would garner a majority vote. The plan the Committee sent to the board addresses most of the problems that were given to them to address. It is a plan that was given favorable reviews from a majority that attended the community forum. It is also the plan that the committee members have said that most people in the community prefer, most notably, to keep the MS separate and in the same location.

But people just want a new middle school; they can't afford to do everything.

We can't afford NOT to do everything. By the time a new middle school is built and the school board inevitably comes back to the community for funding a new elementary school, the building conditions will be considerably worse, and the cost to build the new school will be much higher. *The net cost would be more to the taxpayers by waiting.*

It looks like we are going to build the new elementary school at Hilltop on the existing playfield. Will we lose our playfield?

We will relocate the playfield to another area on the site.

What is the C.H. Campbell land worth?

We do not have an anticipated value at this point in time.

What are the plans for the C.H. Campbell property?

The plans are to abate (remove asbestos) and demolish C.H. Campbell Elementary School. However, the deed for the school/property states the County Commissioner gets the first shot at taking over the property/building.

When will construction start?

The district will hire an architect within a few months after the bond issue passes. The design typically takes about a year and the construction typically takes 2 years.

Our elementary & middle schools will have great new facilities that provide modern space and new technology. But then they finish their education by coming to an older, existing high school. How is that going to affect those high school students?

While the technology in the high school may not be as good as the new elementary & middle schools, we want it to be and will address the technology and renovation needs as we can with the high school.

Are there fire suppression systems in our schools?

No, our schools do not have sprinkler systems.

Where will the middle school students go during construction?

The students will remain at the existing Canfield Village Middle School during construction and will move into the new school once construction is completed. Then the existing school will be demolished.

In most school districts, high schools are the gems. Any plans in this project for the high school? How long do we project to keep this high school in place?

The current project has select renovations for the high school. We anticipate keeping this school online for another 20 years.

BUILDING DESIGN

Do we have renderings of what the new buildings could possibly look like?

At the recent Board meeting, Mr. Knoll shared the following renderings:



Will teachers and staff members have input on what the new buildings look like?

Yes. After the bond issue is passed, the next year will be spent planning how the building will look, inside and out. A facility design team of administrators, teachers, staff, community members, architects, and OFCC representatives will be able to give input in the process.

Will local contractors be able to bid on the construction of the facilities?

Local contractors will be able to bid, and as stated under Ohio Revised Code, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder will be selected to construct our new facilities.

Hilltop Elementary is designed with an open concept, which makes learning spaces open and noisy. For the new school, are we going to have classroom and library spaces that are like this?

We plan for our spaces to be flexible and adaptable, but secure. The 1970s open concept will not be repeated in the new school's design.

If we are building a new school while the existing school is in place, how are we going to manage traffic during construction?

The construction manager will develop a site safety and security plan which will manage traffic, address our unique site challenges by best practices, and ensure the safety and security of the students and staff.

When there are events at Hilltop Elementary, cars are always backed up onto the street. What will happen now that we are doubling the students at that site – are we getting more parking?

On-site parking will be provided to support the new school's staff and enrollment. However, event parking is always a challenge in almost all schools and there may be some events where the street may still be utilized for these occasional events.

Elaborate on the traffic and roads at Hilltop. We already have a problem with traffic. How are we going to address this problem?

During early design, the district will have a professional traffic engineer study conducted that will make recommendations to manage the traffic. Best practices typically include managing influx of traffic on the site, rather than on the roads. Thus, drives adequate in length provided on site to support the bus and car drop off staging will be designed as well as a thoughtful ingress and egress flow patterns.

When the new middle school is being built, will there be shuttles for existing school drop off?

The construction manager will develop and safe site accessibility plan to best manage the safe traffic and site accessibility during construction.

WHY NOW?

Why is the levy needed?

The two elementary and one middle school buildings can no longer be repaired and maintained cost-effectively. Additional considerations include the following:

- Efficiency:
 - » By combining the two elementary schools into one building, we reduce maintenance and heating costs. Modern lighting and HVAC are much more efficient than those in existence.
 - » Simplified staffing and standards consistency, all the teachers in the same place.
 - » Class sizes in the elementary building will be equitable.
- Safety:
 - » Dedicated officer in the elementary building all day instead of traveling back and forth.
 - » ADA compliance will be part of the new build.
 - » Integrated security and fire suppression/alarm system, along with a camera system for real-time situational awareness.
 - » Radio repeater to ensure coverage for first responders in all parts of the building.
 - » Passive safety design for both foot and car traffic will improve greatly.
- Educational Adequacy:
 - » Increase space allotted for student learning and storage for teachers and students.
 - » ALL students can have a comfortable and healthy learning environment with proper Air Conditioning and HVAC.
 - » Flex space allows for more specialized classes such as STEM, music, art, and literature to have a place in the building and curriculum.

The high school needs major renovations, repairs and safety upgrades, which we can achieve in a building that is still adequate for the needs of the students.

How old are Canfield Local Schools?

Facility	Year Built	Oldest Section
C.H. Campbell Elementary School	1961	62 years
Hilltop Elementary School	1970	53 years
Canfield Village Middle School	1922	101 years
Canfield High School	1966	57 years

Each of the buildings has had renovations and additions over time, but the core of each building is between 53-101 years old.

Hilltop was built in 1953. How old is the addition?

A 12,000-square-foot addition was constructed in 1999.

Why don't we just do the middle school now and elementary schools later?

- The costs for building and financing increase year over year. Through a combination of inflation and rising costs in goods and services, every year, we wait, which means more money for lesser plans.
- School funding in Ohio is based on property valuation and median income. New valuations go into effect next year, and with Canfield continuing to appreciate, the 16% in state funds we receive may be reduced in the future.
- If we piecemeal this project, it will cost the taxpayers more over time.