

NEW MASTER FACILITIES PLAN

UPDATED FEEDBACK & QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY



AUGUST 20-25, 2025

- Can you explain why you asked for a bond in May 2025 if you had this money?
- Will the OFCC actually give us money back? If so, when and how much? I've read online that some people say this isn't true.
- When will you need operating money?
- How much will this cost the taxpayer?
- What are you going to do with the football stadium?
- Is the COPS loan safe? How will we pay it back?
- Why not fix the junior high?
- Thank you for doing this. It's time to finally solve our facility issues. And no new taxes! My question is can the state take away the money to do this?
- New high school. No new taxes. My children no longer attend school at Buckeye. They graduated. But who wouldn't want this? My question. Will you use local union workers to build the project?
- Will the junior high students stay in the school until the new school is ready, and the high school is ready for the current junior high students?
- Where will this go? Will the baseball field have to be torn down?
- How can the district afford to do this now? You've asked for bonds over the past three years. Why didn't you have this plan then?
- BOE, thank you for considering this. We are in full support. Can we get a better explanation on the COPS Loan? This is confusing. Is it safe?
- Will the academics in the future high school best match the needs of our students?
- It's time to move forward. Let's not allow our school district to become like others in the Greater Cleveland area that have not been able to address their school facility issues and as a result students have suffered.
- The BOE should be commended for considering a facility plan to move forward that addresses our facilities and does not increase our tax dollars.
- I'm supportive of the plan, however I am nervous from a financial perspective and hope nothing goes wrong over the next few years if we move forward.
- Concern with the possible location of the future high school on the corner of Wolff and Columbia Roads in relation to water issues.
- Concern about the quickness of the plan. Why so fast? Ask the community for more feedback.
- A request to stop telling the community there are no new taxes as the taxes have already been collected and distributed to the school district.
- A request to self-fund and build a junior high school only now and address other facility issues in the future.
- A few comments related to the curriculum of the school district were presented by a resident.
- Compliments to the BOE for considering a bold yet safe step to address the facility concerns without raising taxes.
- Compliments to the BOE for considering the plan. Also, a request from a resident to stay away from the negative comments on social media.

NEW MASTER FACILITIES PLAN



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE NEW FACILITIES MASTER PLAN?

Building on the work of the Campus and Facilities Task Force, this plan prioritizes Buckeye Local Schools' most urgent facility needs—especially aging buildings—and the need to provide students with modern learning environments that support today's curriculum and tomorrow's career opportunities.

The plan focuses on modernizing and improving district facilities by:

- Constructing a new high school at the corner of Columbia and Wolff Roads
- Repurposing the current high school into a junior high school
- Demolishing the existing junior high school

HOW IS THIS PLAN DIFFERENT?

By paring back the plan and combining key elements from previously proposed plans, we will be able to leverage district resources to self-fund, while still delivering excellent facilities to support our students.

- Funded by district cash reserves
- No new property tax bond issue is required
- No core space included for a future junior high addition
- Appropriate classroom sizes for current and future needs
- Smaller classroom sizes overall
- Alumni Stadium will remain in its current location

WHY WASN'T THIS PLAN POSSIBLE UNTIL NOW?

We previously didn't have the financial reserves necessary to address our facilities without relying on voter-approved bond funding. It wasn't a matter of unwillingness—it was a matter of capability. Our responsible financial practices over the years allowed us to gradually build the reserves required to consider a self-funded solution. In previous years, the district simply did not have the financial capacity to self-fund a project of this magnitude.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



HOW WILL THE PLAN BE FUNDED WITHOUT A NEW TAX?

Thanks to a decade of careful financial management, the district has built significant cash reserves. These reserves will be leveraged through Certificates of Participation (COPs) loans to fund the plan, without requiring a new property tax bond issue.

- Steady build up of cash reserves. These cash reserves are now earning interest which adds to those reserves. Bond Fund residual funds are available in 2026 once bond for ES has been paid off. Realignment of annual capital revenue with long term capital needs (PI and Sales Tax funds) The anticipated COPs loan amount is small enough that it can be serviced with Capital funds and not require additional general fund dollars. The OFCC CFAP funds are most likely available to the district within the next 10 years which can be used to pay off the COPs loan freeing up the capital funds for long term maintenance needs.

WHY WAS A BOND ISSUE PROPOSED IN THE PAST?

Three years ago, the district's financial outlook was different:

- Lower cash reserves were available
- Fewer funding streams were accessible

Today's financial position allows the district to self-fund the project.

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE PLAN?

The estimated project cost is \$59-\$65 million to fully fund the new Facilities Master Plan.

HOW ARE WE PAYING FOR IT?

The project will be fully funded by cash reserves, capital fund allocations, and COPs loans. Partnership with the OFCC is expected to help pay off the COPs loans within the next 10 years.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW HAS THE DISTRICT ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR FACILITIES?

Over many years, our school district has consistently demonstrated strong financial stewardship, which positioned us to move a significant amount of funds into our 070 - Capital Projects account in May 2025.

This move ensured district dollars remained available for future facility improvements. This reflects our commitment to planning ahead while continuing to evaluate all available options.

HOW WILL THE DISTRICT UTILIZE COPS LOANS?

The district will utilize Certificates of Participation (COPs) Loans to borrow needed funds. COPs loans are non-tax loans which will be funded through PI and sales tax dollars—not the general fund. This offers a low, manageable debt level, which we anticipate could be paid off within the next 10 years through partnership with the OFCC.

WHY DOES THIS PLAN WORK FOR BUCKEYE?

This plan addresses the district's aging facilities without raising taxes, offering a fiscally responsible solution that reflects the priorities of our community. It honors the input we've received by focusing on safe, modern learning environments that support student success. Designed to be achievable within current and future resources, the plan ensures we can move forward while maintaining the district's long-term financial stability.

WHY DO FACILITIES NEED TO BE ADDRESSED NOW?

Buckeye Junior High, built in 1957, has reached the end of its useful life. Continuing to invest in costly repairs is no longer fiscally responsible. Additionally:

- Construction costs continue to rise
- Maintenance expenses are increasing
- Delaying the project would be financially risky

Acting now allows the district to maximize available funding without the need for a new tax bond issue. This also eliminates the long-standing issue of facilities and, through a collaborative build plan, allows us to move forward in a positive direction.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY ISN'T THE DISTRICT BUILDING A STANDALONE JUNIOR HIGH?

The district evaluated various options for addressing facility needs and determined that constructing a standalone junior high school was not a fiscally responsible solution. The logistical challenges of relocating students during construction were also a key factor in the decision. By constructing a new high school, the district can demolish the existing junior high school and update the current high school to accommodate junior high students. With this plan, the district maximizes existing infrastructure and resources and will not have to displace students during construction.

WHAT FEATURES WILL THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL INCLUDE?

The new high school will offer state-of-the-art educational spaces designed for 21st-century learning. Key features include:

- Upgraded STEM and arts facilities
- Future-ready technology throughout
- Flexible, collaborative learning spaces
- Expanded course offerings
- A dynamic learning experience
- Fully equipped project-based learning environments

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE NEW FACILITIES PLAN?

- Fall 2025 — Hire Architect and Construction Manager at Risk
- Fall 2025 — Visioning with Community
- Fall 2025 — Begin Design Phase
- Spring 2027 — Target construction start
- Summer 2029 — Anticipated completion