

HOMER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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Homer Community Schools Board Approves August Bond Proposal

The Homer Community Schools Board of Education unanimously approved placing a zero-tax-rate-increase bond proposal on the August 4 ballot at its meeting on Monday, April 20, with a primary focus on improving the elementary school.

The \$11.92 million proposal is designed to bring the elementary building up to the same standard as the middle and high school while addressing facility needs across the school district, all while keeping the current tax rate the same. If approved, the school district would replace existing bond debt as it is paid off, allowing these improvements to move forward without increasing the current tax rate.

The elementary school emerged as the top priority through a full facilities assessment and community input process. The building is currently undersized, lacks space for small group instruction, and does not fully meet accessibility standards. These challenges directly impact daily learning for the district's youngest students.

The proposal includes a three-classroom addition, reconfigured learning spaces, refreshed special education spaces, updated interiors, and improvements to safety, accessibility, and building systems. It also includes a new multipurpose space that will support both athletics and performing arts, giving students a dedicated place to rehearse and perform.

“In Michigan, school districts must ask voters to approve funding for major facility improvements,” said Superintendent Michael Leskovich. “This proposal focuses on the area of greatest need and reflects what we heard from our community. It allows us to make these improvements while maintaining the current tax rate.”

Board Trustee Chad Rocco highlighted the impact on student experience. “These new spaces will give our performing arts students a place to practice, perform, and grow,” said Rocco. “It creates opportunities for students at a young age and carries through as they move up through our school district.”

The election will take place on August 4. Absentee ballots will be available starting June 25 through local clerks. More information will be shared in the upcoming months. In the meantime, residents are invited to contact Superintendent Michael Leskovich by phone (517-568-4463) or email (mleskovich@homerschools.net) with any questions.

