



EASTWOOD LOCAL SCHOOLS

HOME OF THE EAGLES

PO Box 837
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Pemberville, OH 43450
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www.eastwoodschoools.org

Brian W. Hughes
Superintendent

Monica Leppelmeier
Treasurer

4/24/2026

Summary: Community Meeting #1

From my very first week on the job back in August, one of the most frequent topics of conversation has been our school facilities and the possibility of future improvements. That level of interest speaks to what makes Eastwood special. This is a community that truly cares about its schools, its students, and its future.

Eastwood Local Schools have long been a source of pride. Our schools are more than just buildings, they are where students learn and grow, where families connect, and where traditions are built and carried forward.

As someone who previously taught here at Eastwood, I've experienced firsthand what makes this district unique. The culture, the people, the staff, the students, and this community are what make being an Eastwood Eagle so special. It's also why I returned, because I believe deeply in what this district represents.

Eastwood has a strong reputation across Northwest Ohio as a great school district. However, as I've shared before, our goal is not simply to remain great. The challenge in front of us is to continue building on that legacy: to move from great to exceptional.

That brings us to where we are today. Over the past 15 plus years, the district has worked with a Facilities Task Force and gathered community input to explore options for our school facilities. This continues to be an ongoing, community-driven process, and your voice remains a vital part of it.

During our recent community meeting, we shared several important points. First, the world our students are preparing to enter looks very different than it did even a generation ago. Today's students learn in ways that emphasize collaboration, problem solving, hands-on experiences, technology integration, and real-world skill development. Our facilities must be able to support these evolving needs if we want to prepare students for success beyond graduation.

We also reviewed the current condition of our buildings. The high school, originally built in 1961 with an addition in 2000, and the middle school, built in 1970, both require significant updates. These needs include major mechanical systems such as heating, cooling, and electrical, along with improvements related to safety, accessibility, and overall infrastructure.

As part of the discussion, we looked at the difference between renovating our existing buildings and constructing new facilities. Current estimates place renovation costs for both buildings between \$54 and \$56 million, with an expected lifespan of approximately 25 years.

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In comparison, new construction would provide a lifespan of 50 plus years. State guidelines suggest that when renovation costs exceed 66% of the cost of new construction, replacement should be strongly considered.

We also discussed the potential role of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, or OFCC. Through this program, the state could contribute up to 36% of the total project cost, or approximately \$17.5 million, with the remaining 64% being a local share. The OFCC provides what is known as a “base plan,” which serves as a starting point for funding consideration. Final costs will ultimately depend on the decisions we make locally regarding the size, scope, and features of any project.

At this stage, multiple options are still being explored. These include renovating existing buildings or constructing a new 5–12 facility. There are also discussions about potentially incorporating parts of the existing high school, such as the gym or auditorium. Additionally, factors like site location, traffic flow, accessibility, existing structures, and land conditions, including areas of bedrock, will all play a role in determining what is feasible and fiscally responsible moving forward.

Looking ahead, we will continue working with our Facilities Task Force and planning partners while gathering additional community feedback. This process will lead to the development of more defined options and cost estimates. Throughout the spring and summer of 2026, planning and engagement will continue, followed by potential board and state approvals later in the summer. The earliest opportunity for a ballot issue would be November 2026.

We encourage all members of our community to stay informed and involved as we continue this important work. This is about making thoughtful, responsible decisions that position our students, staff, and community for long-term success.

Together, we will build on our strong foundation and continue the work of moving Eastwood from great to exceptional.

Built on Tradition. Designed for Tomorrow.

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