



UPPER ARLINGTON SCHOOLS

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Dear Upper Arlington community member,

As members of the Upper Arlington Board of Education, we are grateful for the thousands and thousands of residents who have taken the time during the past two years to be part of the second phase of facilities master planning for our schools.

This journey began with the first phase of master planning in 2015, which examined all of our school buildings. Following more than two years of community collaboration, in 2017 the community supported a bond issue and operating levy that allowed the district to continue operations while rebuilding Upper Arlington High School and renovating or rebuilding all five elementary schools. The plan called for a second phase that would focus on the remaining schools.

The second phase of the master planning journey - focusing on Hastings Middle School, Jones Middle School and Burbank Early Childhood School - resumed in 2024. The research and planning process involved hundreds of community volunteers as well as dozens of opportunities for residents to share their thoughts, ideas, feedback and questions, leading to more than 8,500 touchpoints.

All of that work has led to a detailed second phase plan that will bring the remainder of our student learning environments up to current standards with an eye toward the flexibility that will keep them relevant for many decades to come. And thanks to the most recent round of community feedback, the plan also allows us to honor our history by retaining and renovating Upper Arlington's first permanent school, the original 1923 three-story portion of Jones.

During the June 9 meeting of the Board of Education, we took the first official step toward putting this community-created plan into action. In a unanimous vote, we approved the first of two resolutions needed to place a combined operating levy and bond issue on the November 10, 2026 ballot.

The bond issue would raise \$273.5 million (an estimated 2.25 mills above current collections) and fund the second phase of the master plan, including:

- Rebuilding Hastings Middle School on the site of its current athletic field
- Renovating the original 1923 three-story portion of Jones Middle School for school office space while building new learning spaces around it
- Rebuilding Burbank Early Childhood School with additional classrooms to meet community demands
- Installing synthetic turf athletic fields at both middle schools
- Funding spaces to temporarily house Jones Middle School students during construction, including modular units and a third-story addition on the north end of the high school - space that can also be used for future needs



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The 4.9-mill operating levy would allow the district to continue to fund the high-quality academic programs our community expects for its students. Because more than 90 percent of district revenues are fixed, periodic operating levies allow us to keep up with inflation and the increasing costs of doing business. Through careful financial stewardship by the district administration and Board of Education, and despite ongoing inflationary pressures, the district has been able to extend the levy cycle from 3 to 4 years, reflecting our commitment to managing taxpayer dollars responsibly while continuing to meet the needs of our students.

Combined, these issues would add approximately \$1,250 a year (or \$105 per month) in property taxes to a home valued at \$500,000 by the Franklin County Auditor.

We wish to thank the thousands and thousands of you who took part in creating the second phase of the facilities master plan, and we invite all Upper Arlington residents to learn as much as possible about the plan and related ballot issue so that you can cast a vote you feel makes the most sense for your family and our community.

For more information on the master plan, please scan the QR code, visit www.uaschools.org/facilities, call (614) 487-5030 or email superintendent@uaschools.org.



Sincerely,

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