DIALOG

SPECIAL EDITION
BOND UPDATES

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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OUR JOURNEY SETS STAGE FOR FUTURE OF LPS



This special issue of the Dialog serves as an update for the community on bond and sinking fund projects that are ongoing in Livonia Public Schools, thanks to the tremendous support of our community. We hope that you enjoy reading all about these enhancements for our schools and that you share in our pride in not only maintaining but improving our spaces throughout LPS.

It is an amazing time to be in Livonia Public Schools! The word "excitement" doesn't begin to describe the feeling of seeing all of the improvement projects that are taking shape throughout our school district. Innovation and inspiration have guided our design and implementation for this work.

When we embarked on a major renovation journey back in 2012 to plan for a bond proposal to be placed on the May 2013 ballot, the amount of physical work that would be completed within five years of the bond passing was nothing short of astonishing. Even with that $195 million investment in our 23 school buildings and facilities, there was still much to be completed. Prior to 2013, the vast majority of our facilities were "living" in 50-60 year-old spaces that had not seen renovations on a large scale since their initial construction.

That journey continued in May 2021 with the passage of a second bond issue, which is now paving the way for continued improvements to our more than 3 million square feet of facilities. We truly realize how fortunate we are to have such a supportive community that allows us to enhance our school environments to be more energy efficient, modernized and conducive to the needs of today's learners. Inside this special issue, we will detail some of those enhancements.

As a destination school district for families and staff, we are thrilled to be able to create, update and innovate the spaces where our more than 13,000 students and 2,000 staff members learn and grow together each day.

With a grateful heart and great pride in our community,

Andrea Oquist, Superintendent

BEING STRONG FISCAL STEWARDS

As responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars, Livonia Public Schools is constantly evaluating the bond market, refinancing to save tax payers millions in interest costs and consulting wth bond market professionals to improve our bond rating. Just recently, our district's bond rating was upgraded by Standard & Poors to an **A+ rating** based on our exceptional fiscal responsibility which, we are proud to say, will result in a savings to LPS taxpayers of $900,000 in interest on the current bonds!

2021 BOND PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

- Modernize school library media centers
- Create Idea Factories at all K-8 schools
- Update school kitchens & serving areas
- HVAC upgrades; air conditioning in all classrooms & offices
- Renovate Livonia Career Technical Center (LCTC)
- Construct new Robotics facility and competition field at LCTC
- Construct state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center
- Further enhance school & facility security
- Upgrade school furniture & classroom equipment
- Renovate restrooms & office spaces
- Continue playground equipment enhancements
- Ongoing bus replacement cycle
- Expand STEM opportunities K-12



NEW LPS EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER – A WORLD OF EXPLORATION



A view of the Early Childhood Center from Newburgh.



LPS Board of Education & Superintendent Oquist officially broke ground on the site to kick off construction!

A joyful and engaging place for young children to learn and grow. That's the idea and the dream behind Livonia Public Schools' new early childhood center, which broke ground this spring.

Rising from the 55-year-old former Dickinson school site on Newburgh, north of Six Mile, the Early Childhood Center will be an all inclusive, state-of-the-art facility that will house early childhood programs including childcare and preschool as well as special education programs for preschool-aged children.

"Every element of the design is child- and family-focused," said Superintendent Andrea Oquist. "From the 'mud room' areas at each entry, designed for ease of families during arrival and pickup, to the demonstration kitchen where children can develop their culinary curiosities, the new ECC will be a beautiful world of exploration for our youngest learners."

The 72,000-square-foot facility, designed by TMP Architects, will occupy the current footprint of Dickinson and four "pods" will stairstep across the property, stretching northwest from the current footprint.

"The current footprint of Dickinson is set back from Newburgh Road, but this design brings the building in a natural flow, closer to Newburgh, utilizing that front space of the property," said Phillip Francis, assistant superintendent of district services. "People will really notice this stunning building as they pass by on Newburgh."

The ECC will house 28 rooms for instruction, a library area, large motor skills areas, spaces for occupational and physical therapy, family activity areas, a demonstration kitchen, mud rooms with lockers and benches, built-in visual and sensory features throughout the building, four entry points, conference spaces for parents and staff and, of course, outdoor play equipment.

"This is a vision that our district has had for quite some time," said Oquist. "To see it come to fruition is truly exciting for us. We know that this is a significant investment in our community, our school district and most of all the children we serve. We cannot wait to welcome our families in the fall of 2024."

The Early Childhood Center is made possible through the bond issue that was approved by voters in May 2021. It is the first new-build in Livonia Public Schools in more than five decades. Current programming housed at the Jackson Early Childhood Center will move to the new facility and the district is currently determining how it will utilize the Jackson facility once the ECC is open.

"There are a lot of intriguing ideas of how our district can utilize the Jackson Center," said Francis. "We will continue to explore and finalize those ideas as we move through the construction phase for the new center."

LPS will announce the grand opening date and invite the community to come and celebrate this new addition to Livonia Public Schools. Stay tuned!



A birdseye-view of the planned facility's exterior.

Renderings by TMP

FUTURE FORWARD



Renderings by TMP

Renovations at the Livonia Career Technical Center are taking shape as we speak and will be ready for a fall grand opening of the all-new Robotics wing located on the north side of the building on Newburgh Road.

LCTC offers career-focused programming in areas such as medical, construction trades, automotive, criminal justice, hospitality management, fashion merchandising, video game design, graphic design, computer networking, architecture and more!

The renovation includes a new student commons area, which stretches across the front of the school; new classrooms and a simulation lab for medical classes (our largest field of study); a new secure entrance and a massive addition for our LPS robotics programs!

The new robotics area will have a competition-size practice arena, building lab and collaboration spaces and the rooms will have a flexible component for hosting meetings and events.

“Our students will benefit from these cutting-edge innovation stations,” said Kevin Etue, Director of Secondary Programs. “This space will go a long way in enhancing our career-technical, robotics and STEM oriented programs here in LPS.”



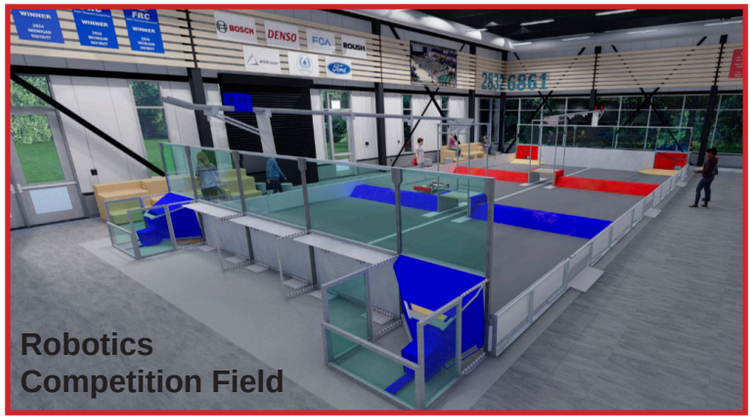
Medical SIM Lab



Collaboration Commons



Robotics Lab



Robotics Competition Field

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LIBRARIES, KITCHENS, AND MORE!







The bond work continues to elevate our offerings for our students, with the full renovation and modernization of all Library Media Centers (LMCs). These projects are being completed in phases, with a total of 23 LMCs being completed within the next few years.

Designing for collaboration and innovation is the main focus of the design for each of the LMCs.

Features include intentionally designed furniture and spaces for students to work together on projects; an Idea Factory for hands-on STEM learning and ingenuity; group meeting spaces for media/technology group instruction and small spaces for quiet reading and research.

“As these spaces begin to be unveiled, students and staff are eager to learn and collaborate in these re-imagined areas,” said Superintended Andrea Oquist.

“Our school kitchens are original to each school, so on average, they are between 50-60 years old. We are excited to bring new design and equipment to increase efficiency and flow in these high-traffic areas of our schools,” said Phillip Francis, Assistant Superintendent for District Services.

Other renovations include restrooms, office areas, staff workrooms and other spaces that were not completed during the previous bond.

For continued updates, visit livoniapublicschools.org.

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