



A community update **Pontiac School District NEWS**

SUMMER 2015

Property owners will improve their neighborhood schools for just 40 cents a day. This is a WIN-WIN for Pontiac PROPERTY VALUES and for Pontiac SCHOOLS!*

* Based on a home worth \$100,000 with an assessed value of \$50,000.

“Schools with sound roofs, updated heating systems and upgraded security are not only less expensive to maintain, but have been proven to positively impact student learning.”

-Superintendent, Kelley Williams

If the new millage is APPROVED, we will be able to make critical building repairs that will provide Pontiac children with a safe, secure and healthy environment - without compromising educational programs.

VIEW actual photos of real school building needs (along with more voting information) on the Pontiac School District website at <http://tinyurl.com/PSDAug4>

VOTE! Tuesday, August 4th

FORTY CENTS A DAY: The Pontiac School District is seeking 2.87 mills for five years from property owners. This is LESS than the previous 3.87 mills for the 1991 general obligation bond that recently expired. Should this new millage pass, property owners will improve their neighborhood schools for just 40 cents a day. This is a WIN-WIN for Pontiac PROPERTY VALUES and for Pontiac SCHOOLS!

What will the new millage funds be used for?

REPAIR, SAFETY, TECHNOLOGY: The funds will be used on repairing and updating Pontiac school buildings, and making our buildings safe places for our students to learn. The State of Michigan has strict guidelines on what the new millage can fund; school boilers and energy management systems, roof repairs, fire suppression systems, replacement of flooring tiles, lighting improvements, upgrades to bathrooms, security systems for entry doors, communication systems, building repairs, upgrades to technology, paving and playground improvements are some of the projects on the Pontiac School District's list.

What if the new millage proposal doesn't pass?

OUR FINANCES: Pontiac School District has made significant progress on reducing its deficit. In fact, the district was able to reduce its deficit by 24% in just one year (two years ahead of schedule). However more needs to be done: buildings are in poor condition and are in desperate need of repairs, upgraded utilities and new roofs. The budget deficit is improving but there are still not funds available for facility improvements.

OUR STUDENTS: The district has also seen improved student learning, expanded use of technology in the classroom and more stable enrollment with lower class sizes. If the new millage is APPROVED, we will be able to make necessary and critical building repairs that will provide Pontiac children with a safe, secure and healthy environment - without compromising educational programs.

OUR SCHOOLS: If the millage is NOT APPROVED, we will have to continue to delay these much-needed repairs and address only emergency repairs using general operating funds that would otherwise be used to support educational programs for students. Eventually certain school buildings might have to close as the current funding available would not keep them safe for our children. As a result, it is projected that Pontiac School District would run short on the schools needed to house all of our own students due to the deteriorating condition of our facilities. The loss of our neighborhood schools would be a devastating blow to our community.

How will I know the new millage is actually funding our schools?

TRIPLE OVERSIGHT:

- 1) State law requires an independent annual audit of the millage funds, and requires the district to submit the audit results to the state treasurer and are posted on the school district's website.
- 2) As Pontiac School District is operating under a state Consent Agreement, all contracts awarded by the school district after September 18, 2013 require pre-approval by the State Treasurer. This oversight and monitoring will continue throughout the terms of the Consent Agreement (ending in 2023), and throughout the life of the new millage which would expire in five years.
- 3) Oakland Schools provides all Business and Human Resource services for Pontiac School District, and Michigan Department of Education monitors all educational plans.

Building repairs needed

Most of our buildings are in need of some level of repair. Here are a few photos of the conditions our students and staff are dealing with each day.



VOTE!
Tuesday,
August 4

Additional photos can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/PSDAug4>

The Pontiac School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, sexual orientation (subject to the limits of applicable law), age, genetic information, or disability in its programs, services, activities or employment opportunities. Inquiries related to employment discrimination should be directed to the Director of Human Resources at 248.451.6865, 47200 Woodward Ave., Pontiac, MI 48342. For all other inquiries related to discrimination, contact the Director of Legal Affairs at 248.451.6802.

School District of the City of Pontiac
c/o Oakland Schools
2111 Pontiac Lake Road
Waterford, MI 48328

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Royal Oak, MI
Permit No. 869