



The Journal

Planning for our students dynamic futures

by Megan E. Papasian-Broadwell, Ed.D.
Board of Education Vice President



It is hard to believe that the 2021-22 school year is coming to a close. During this time of year,

I always look forward to all the events and activities that showcase the talents and accomplishments of our WCS students, such as the WCSPA Spring play, Festival of the Arts, high school honors convocation, Spring sports, high school graduation, plus so much more.

Being a school board member for Warren Consolidated Schools is an honor and a privilege. In my role as board member, I have not only been able to receive a behind the scenes view of how things operate within a school district, but I also have the ability to see students in all different levels of their education grow and flourish because of the education they are receiving in our district. This makes me very proud as a WCS parent, school board member, and community member.

On May 3, Warren Consolidated Schools' residents will be asked to consider a \$150 million, zero tax-rate increase, bond proposal to improve facilities, safety and security, technology and equipment, and athletics, fine & performing arts, and playgrounds.

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WCS Bond Proposal seeks to PLAN, PROTECT, and PROVIDE for students



On May 3, 2022, Warren Consolidated Schools' residents will be asked to consider a \$150 million bond proposal to improve facilities, further advancing the district as one of Macomb County's leading school districts.

The \$150 million bond will be offered at a zero tax-rate increase to the community.

The proposed bond seeks to improve learning environments, replace outdated infrastructure, improve athletic facilities, and upgrade technology for students and staff.

"Safety and security, access to the latest technology, and a healthy learning environment for students are top priorities for the Board of Education," Superintendent Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D. said. "The focus of the 2022 bond is on our students and what is best for them, while continuing the district's mission of student achievement, high expectations, and strong relationships."

Features of the proposal include:

Infrastructure Improvements

- Enhanced air quality with HVAC upgrades
- Update piping, hot water heaters, and energy management systems
- Replace ceiling, carpeting, LED lighting, and flooring

Safety & Security

- Upgrade security cameras and secure card entry

- Upgrade safety/security features, including door locks and fire alarm system equipment
- Replace exterior and interior doors, frames, and hardware
- Upgrade IT power equipment and cameras

Technology & Equipment

- Upgrade classroom instructional technology
- Update and expand wireless network
- Refresh mobile learning devices for students and staff
- Upgrade network infrastructure
- Purchase new classroom furniture

Athletics, Fine & Performing Arts, Playground, & Site Improvements

- Upgrade athletic fields, scoreboards, and playground structures
- Upgrade gymnasium, pool, and lockers
- Make site and landscape enhancements to improve parking lots, sidewalks, and building exteriors

"Under Dr. Livernois' leadership for the past 15 years, the district has shown outstanding, responsible stewardship of the community's tax dollars, while preserving Warren Consolidated Schools." Board President Susan Trombley said. "The 2022 bond will allow us to continue providing security, facility, and technology updates to keep our kids first for years to come."

Teacher of the Year 2022

Warren Consolidated Schools recently named **Rachel Evans**, **Stephen Fiordellisi**, and **Rosemarie LeFavre** as the district's Outstanding Teacher of the Year recipients for 2022.

Rachel Evans

is a language acquisition/ELL teacher at Cromie Elementary. She has been with Warren Consolidated Schools for the past 12 years.



Stephen

Fiordellisi

teaches 9th grade American History and 10th grade World History at Sterling Heights High School. He has taught in the district for the past 25 years.



Rosemarie LeFavre

teaches 8th grade math and science at the district's Middle School Mathematics Science Technology Center. She has been with the district for the past 26 years.



"It is with great pride that the district recognizes these three educators for their outstanding commitment to our district, the high standards they set for themselves, and their dedication to ensuring all students have the opportunity to learn," Chief Academic Officer John Bernia said.

Evans, Fiordellisi, and LeFavre will be honored at the Macomb Intermediate School District Teacher of the Year celebration this spring.

2022 Bond Proposal—Our Kids. Our Community.

by Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.—Superintendent of Schools



WCS proudly serves more than 12,700 students in our schools, and together in partnership with the community, we share the common values of high expectations, strong relationships, and a commitment to student achievement. As both superintendent of schools and a parent of three WCS graduates, I am proud of our students and staff and believe that we must continue to plan, provide, and protect our schools and community for the years to come.

As part of the district's on-going facility management program, a comprehensive review of all district facilities was completed during the summer of 2021. This review identified areas throughout the district that are in need of facility updates and improvements to keep our schools in good shape.

On Tuesday, May 3, 2022, we are asking voters to approve a ZERO-RATE tax increase over the 2021 millage rate to help us

improve safety and security, update our heating and cooling systems, maintain our commitment to technology, and update our fleet of school buses. We have known for many years that great schools make great neighborhoods. In fact, "according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, for every dollar spent on public schools in a community, home values increased by \$20. To learn more, visit www.nber.org/digest/jan03/school-spending-raises-property-values."

In addition to this bond not increasing the tax millage rate from 2021, property tax costs may be lower for senior citizens or households with incomes below a certain level that qualify for the Homestead Property Tax Credit. See graphic below.

The district appreciates its partnership with the community and every vote is important in this election for our schools and neighborhoods. If you have questions or need more information, please call me at 586-698-4044, or visit www.wcskids.net and click on Bond Election Information.

Understanding the Bond Ballot Proposal

UNDERSTANDING THE BOND BALLOT PROPOSAL

WARREN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS 2022 BOND PROPOSAL

Shall the Warren Consolidated Schools District, Counties of Macomb and Oakland, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Fifty Million Dollars (\$150,000,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds, in one or more series, for the purpose of paying for the cost of the following projects:

- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings, athletic fields, playgrounds and other facilities to create a modern learning environment for students and for safety and security, energy conservation and other purposes;
- Acquiring and installing instructional technology infrastructure and equipment in school buildings and other facilities; and
- Preparing, developing and improving sites at school buildings and other facilities, erecting school facilities and additions to school buildings and the purchase of school buses?

\$150 MILLION BOND

The District would sell bonds totaling \$150 million

YES _____

NO _____

The annual debt millage required to retire all bonds of the School District currently outstanding and proposed pursuant to this Proposal is expected to remain at or below the annual debt millage of 4.78 mills levied in 2021. The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than twenty (20) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 0.68 mills (which is equal to \$0.68 per \$1,000 of taxable value); and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of bonds is 1.49 mills annually (\$1.49 per \$1,000 of taxable value).

If approved by the voters, the bonds will be guaranteed by the State under the School Bond Qualification and Loan Program (the "Program"). The School District currently has \$161,645,000 of qualified bonds outstanding and \$0 of qualified loans outstanding under the Program. The School District does not expect to borrow from the Program to pay debt service on these bonds. The estimated computed millage rate required to be levied to pay the proposed bonds may change in the future based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses.)

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

SAFETY & SECURITY

TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT

ATHLETICS, FINE & PERFORMING ARTS, PLAYGROUNDS, & SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- Update HVAC systems and facilities to improve air quality and indoor spaces
- Update security features, roofing, windows, and doors to provide safety for students
- Update technology and equipment for today's modern learning environment
- Update sites, athletic fields, and playgrounds that promote district-wide health, safety, and wellness

ZERO TAX RATE INCREASE

- The bond proposal would result in a Zero Tax Rate Increase over the debt millage taxes levied in 2021
- Bond funds can only be used for physical improvements

Information provided by Warren Consolidated Schools

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT WWW.WCSKIDS.NET

District Millage Rate



Property tax costs may be lower for senior citizens or households with incomes below a certain level that qualify for the Homestead Property Tax Credit. For more information, visit:

www.legislature.mi.gov/publications/ServicesforSeniors.html

Important Voting Information

Election Day Polls are open from 7 am—8 pm.

Residents may register to vote in person with required documentation. To request an absentee ballot, register to vote, or find your voting location, please visit www.michigan.gov/vote.

Papasian-Broadwell—continued from page 1

This bond proposal will allow for WCS to PLAN, PROTECT, and PROVIDE for our students now and into the future and will continue to further advance our district as one of the county's leading school districts.

Area of focus for the proposal include updating HVAC systems and facilities to improve air quality and indoor spaces; technology and equipment focused on today's modern learning environments for our students; updating security features, roofing, windows, and doors to provide safety for our students; and updating sites, athletic fields and playgrounds that promote district-wide health, safety, and wellness. As an educator, I see first-hand how important this bond proposal and proposed upgrades are to our students and the community.

I encourage our WCS residents to get out and vote on Tuesday, May 3 for OUR KIDS. OUR COMMUNITY.

Information regarding the bond proposal, including ballot language, in-depth information, polling locations, etc. is available on the district website WCSKIDS.NET.

I look forward to seeing our students and community members at our upcoming events as we close out the school year. I wish our students and families a successful last few months of school and a safe and restful summer.

Around the District...

Grissom Middle School hosts student success event

Grissom Middle School recently hosted *Keeping It Real*, an 8th grade success event.

The full-day event was open to all 8th grade students and was part of the school's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) model, which is designed to promote and maximize academic achievement and behavioral competence.

Students who participated in *Keeping it Real* rotated throughout the day between four real talk sessions, all of which emphasized respect

through the lens of high school and beyond; empowerment/self esteem/body image; mental health and wellness; and drug awareness.

Warren Consolidated Schools established a Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee in April 2020 to assist students socially and emotionally as they navigated the COVID-19 pandemic in and out of the classroom. The *Keeping It Real* event is another layer of SEL that students will take with them as they move-on to high school and beyond.



A group of 8th grade girls listen to a presentation regarding Empowerment, Self Esteem, and Body Image.



It's a thumbs up from the 8th grade boys who participated in a presentation regarding mental health and wellness.

Students participate in Emergency Preparedness

The 5th grade students at Lean Elementary participated in a virtual Emergency Preparedness class offered through the Macomb County Health Department.

The presentation covered family emergencies and ways each student can be prepared. Students discussed what to do in an emergency, created an emergency plan, and were given an emergency kit and handbook to write down important family contact information.



Strive 4 A Safer Drive event geared toward distracted driving

Cousino High School CTE students, in partnership with Strive 4 A Safer Drive, and the Warren Police Department, hosted a Safe Driving Event to help bring awareness to distracted and impaired driving. The event included presentations from the Warren Police, a safe driving simulator, and impaired goggle simulator. More than 200 Cousino students attended the event.



CTE students awarded

For the past 31 years, the Macomb Career and Technical Education Administrators Association (MCTEAA), has honored Macomb County's most outstanding career and technical education students during its annual MCTEAA Awards Breakfast.

During this year's event, MCTEAA honored WCS students Frank Fantin and Yousif Korkees, and business community partner Shannon McIntosh.

Frank Fantin, a student at Cousino High School and the Career Prep Center, was awarded Outstanding CTE Student.



Frank Fantin

Fantin began his involvement in Radio & Television Broadcasting classes as a freshman. He has hosted numerous live radio shows on 89.1 FM WPHS, created an archive channel for digitization of past programs, and has been instrumental in live streaming to the program's YouTube channel.

Yousif Korkees, a student at Sterling Heights High School, was awarded Outstanding CTE Senior.



Yousif Korkees

Korkees is a second year student in the Graphic Design program. According to his teacher, he is a model student and is always helping other students with their projects. Korkees dream is to become a professional photographer and work in the design field.

Shannon McIntosh was awarded Outstanding CTE Business Partner. McIntosh, an employee with Michigan Schools and Government Credit Union and has provided critical partnerships for the business students at Cousino High School.

Maras named Literacy Ambassador

Christopher Maras, Title 1 Interventionist at Harwood Elementary, was named a #MacombReads Literacy Ambassador by the Macomb Intermediate School District. Maras will represent Warren Consolidated Schools. Maras was chosen because of his passion and belief in the importance of reading. He actively engages in reading for pleasure and serves as a role model for youth. Maras will work to ensure that Macomb County youth have the tools needed to acquire literacy skills.

2021-22 Calendar

May 3—NO SCHOOL—District Wide

May 17—K-12 Early Release

May 27—K-12 half day - AM ECSE only; Senior last day

May 30—NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day

May 31—Classes resume

June 4—High School Graduation Ceremonies

June 14—Half day High School only; High School exams

June 15—Half day High School only; High School exams

June 16—K-11 half day - No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM - High School exams

Warren Consolidated School of Performing Arts Presents... **MAMMA MIA!** May, 20, 21 & 22, 2022 wcspa.net Warren Consolidated Schools Performing Arts Center 12901 Fifteen Mile Rd. Sterling Heights

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Stay connected...



Register TODAY: Early Childhood and Transitional Kindergarten classes

Warren Consolidated Schools is proud to offer high-quality preschool and transitional kindergarten programs.

WCS is currently accepting registration for these programs which focus on kindergarten preparation.

The programs focus on early childhood objectives for development and learning including: social-emotional, physical health, language, cognitive, literacy, mathematics, science and technology, social studies, the arts, and English Language Acquisition.

The following Early Childhood programs are available:

Transitional Kindergarten—

- FREE full-day program
- Five days per week
- For students who are 5 and are born between September 1 and December 1, who would benefit from an additional year of growth between preschool and kindergarten, or who have limited early childhood experiences
- A program that combines academics with critical social and emotional development standards for students not quite ready for traditional kindergarten

World of Fours—

- Must meet income eligibility guidelines and be a Macomb County resident to qualify
- Half-day and full-day programs available
- Must be 4 years old on or before September 1

Tuition-based Preschool—

- 30 week program
- Classes held at Susick and Wilde Elementary Schools

- For students who will be 3 years of age on or before September 1; Class meets two days per week for two hours
- For students who will be 4 years of age on or before September 1; Class meets four days per week for three hours

Early Childhood Special Education—

- Special Education preschool program for children ages 3-6 with a current IEP
- Offers half-day programs and one full-day program
- Classes taught by a certified special education teacher with one paraprofessional per classroom
- Skills taught include: communication, behavior training, fine motor, gross motor, and preschool academics individualized to the student

Project Find—

- Concerns about your preschooler's communication, behavior, physical or cognitive skills?
- Concerns that your preschooler is developmentally delayed or might have autism?
- Call 586.698.4129 to request a Project Find preschool-age child screening today

For more information on the district's Early Childhood programs, call 586.698.4046 or visit WCSKIDS.net.



Students in the Transitional Kindergarten program go to school five days a week and work on academics and social and emotional development. The program is FREE for students.

March is Reading Month Celebrated in WCS

Warren Consolidated Schools recognized the month of March as March is Reading Month. Throughout the month, WCS schools celebrate and encourage the importance of reading by participating in fun activities, theme days, and guest readers.



Superintendent Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D. visited Black Elementary School to read to kindergarten, second, and third grade classes, as part of March is Reading Month. Dr. Livernois spoke to the students about the importance of reading daily.



Wilkerson Elementary students and staff celebrated March is Reading Month with a Charlotte's Web theme.



The theme of March is Reading Month at Holden Elementary School was Camp Out with a Good Book.

