



Students Community You

Lexington 4 School District voters on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 will be asked to decide whether to allow the district to borrow \$25.4 million to renovate athletics facilities, construct a multipurpose performing arts center, and provide classroom expansions for career and technical educational programs that would impact our students and our community.

HOW WERE THE PROJECTS SELECTED?

In May of 2014, a facilities study committee was formed after a Swansea High School student addressed the school board to request and present a heartfelt plea for the board to consider providing better classroom space for the arts and a performing arts center. The student, who has since graduated, cited the lack of facilities available for band and chorus concerts, school events and drama and music productions. He expressed that having to perform in the high school commons area and school cafeterias was becoming more and more of an issue because of cramped space for standing room only audiences, poor sound and visibility.

In March of 2015, a community member spoke in public forum about the need to update athletic facilities, namely softball and baseball areas, including bathroom and locker room facilities. Another requested that a dance program be added to the current performing arts offerings, and another recommended to the board that they begin looking strategically at long- range plans for facilities in the district.

WHICH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE BOND REFERENDUM?

Renovations and improvements to athletic complex

- Re-position the softball and baseball fields
- Create a central area to include updated bathrooms, a canteen, and dressing areas for our student athletes
- Resurface track
- Add new bleachers
- Upgrade handicapped accessibility for the entire athletic complex
- Upgrade parking areas, including those at Doug Bennett Field
- Add lighting and controlled access points to improve security

Construction of a performing arts center at Swansea High School

- Construct a 1,200 seat auditorium, which will provide adequate seating, acoustics, and backstage area large enough to hold theatrical performances, concerts, pageants, award ceremonies, Veterans Day programs, etc.
- Renovate front of the school to provide one central entrance to the building, with up-to- date bathrooms and lobby area between the auditorium and gymnasium
- Move band, chorus, art and other fine arts classrooms to the new center, opening up existing classrooms for expanding Career and Technology Education (CATE)
- Build loading area and practice rooms similar to surrounding fine arts centers
- Provide opportunities for community to use for various events

Expansion of high school CATE and dual credit courses

- Convert current fine arts classrooms to expand Career and Technology Education (CATE) courses and dual credit course offerings for students. These offerings will be based upon factors such as student interests and workforce needs. Possible course concentrations include emergency medical services, cosmetology, pharmacy technology, heating and air conditioning, electrician certification, mechatronics, etc.
- Offer more dual credit courses or college credit courses such as those currently being offered through a partnership with Midlands Technical College

Renovations and improvements to address safety issues

- Create a central entrance near the front office to help staff better monitor visitors entering the building
- Increase outdoor and parking lot lighting as an additional safety measure for evening events

WHAT IS A BOND?

The sale of bonds is a form of long-term borrowing that spreads the cost of major capital improvements over a set period of time. Similar to an individual or a family obtaining a mortgage on a residence to spread the cost of home buying over a number of years, bonds spread the cost of major capital improvements over a number of years. This method of financing ensures that current and future users help pay for the improvements.

WHY ARE BONDS NEEDED?

South Carolina school districts do not receive state funding for school facility construction or renovation and are limited in the total amount they can borrow for construction and renovation needs without voter approval. It has been 9 years since Lexington Four has had a referendum on the ballot.

In 2007, Lexington 4 voters approved a \$19.8 million bond referendum plan that built our early childhood education center. The Lexington 4 Early Childhood Center opened in the fall of 2010 and has become a model for early childhood education across the state. The center hosts many visitors every year, including legislators, business leaders, State Education Superintendent Spearman, and local school board members, teachers and school/district administrators from surrounding districts. The Lexington Four Early Childhood Center was one of the original Transform South Carolina schools in the state.

WHAT WILL THIS COST?

A person owning a \$100,000 home would see an increase of approximately \$200 per year (\$16.66 per month) in total debt service for a home assessed at 4% for a legal residence. This information is based on tax information from the county assessor's office.

For More Information
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