

Tipp City Exempted Village Schools

Issue 5 – March 15, 2016 Bond Issue – Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

What is Issue 5 and what does it provide?

Tipp City Schools' Issue 5 on the March 15, 2016 ballot is a 3.98-mill bond issue. Voter approval of Issue 5 will provide funding for a new prekindergarten (PreK) through 3rd-grade building on the site of Broadway Elementary School – to replace three outdated, deteriorating buildings: Broadway, Nevin Coppock and Tipp Central.

What is wrong with the existing elementary school buildings?

Both elementary buildings are more than half a century old; Nevin Coppock was constructed in 1958, and Broadway was originally built in 1951 with an addition added in 1967. The schools are deteriorating and present multiple safety issues. They are extremely outdated and cannot accommodate the 21st-century educational technology our community's youngest students need to prepare them for the future. A 2015 Assessment by the Ohio Facility Construction Commission (OFCC) cited major deficiencies and recommended that the buildings be replaced. Some of the issues the state documented in its assessment include:

- Asbestos, structural deterioration, and leaking and failing plumbing
- Insufficient and outdated heating, ventilation, and electrical systems
- Antiquated security and fire systems – not compliant with building codes or state school guidelines
- Cracking foundation, deteriorating masonry, and lack off any exterior insulation
- Classrooms that are too small and do not meet today's educational standards
- Obsolete electrical systems and infrastructure that cannot support modern educational technology
- Multiple issues with ADA accessibility – do not meet ADA requirements

What about Tipp Central?

Tipp Central, which is connected to Broadway Elementary, was built in 1912. The OFCC's assessment totaled renovation costs for the building at nearly \$5.9 million. Issues cited in the state report include heating, roofing, plumbing, fire and security systems, and foundation in need of replacement. Tipp Central does not house any district classrooms. The three-story building is currently used for storage and houses a private preschool and enrichment program on one floor. Estimated abatement and demolition costs of approximately \$520,000 would be covered by the funds raised through voter approval of the bond issue.

Can't we just repair and/or renovate the elementary buildings? Why build a new school?

According to the 2015 OFCC Assessment, the renovations needed for the two elementary schools alone total a cost of nearly \$26 Million – more than 85% of the total project cost for a new, up-to-date PreK through 3rd-grade school. Spending millions of dollars to repair these aging buildings would still not bring them up to today's educational standards.

What is next? When would the new building be ready for students?

The project schedule calls for additional community input and planning through March 2016. With voter approval of Issue 5, abatement/demolition of Broadway Elementary and Tipp Central would occur during the summer of 2016 after classes end, and community engagement in the design process would continue. Site work would begin in the fall, followed by project bidding in January 2017, and then construction of the new school would begin and continue in 2018. The summer of 2018 would be used for move-in, so that the building would be ready for our students and staff at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

What would the new elementary building look like?

Parents, neighbors and residents have been invited to provide input into plans for the new school at numerous public meetings over the course of several months, and the planning process is scheduled to continue through March 2016. Preliminary concept designs from project architect, Ruetschle Architects of Dayton, take into consideration the neighborhood location of the site and our history. The designs call for a red-brick building oriented for entry aligned with Sixth Street and incorporate characteristics of both Broadway Elementary and Tipp Central, as well as The Castle (built in the 1890s and demolished in the mid-1960s), with exterior features such as arched windows, a grand entry with arches, and stone medallions.

What about LT Ball Intermediate and Tippecanoe Middle School?

The Board of Education and Administration know our immediate, critical priority is addressing the elementary schools but recognize there are other facility issues that also need to be considered and included in future plans. Voter approval of Issue 5 would provide some funding (as much as \$750,000) to help address needed infrastructure improvements for both LT Ball and the middle school. These updates would be focused on equipment replacement and repairs in need of immediate attention to allow the district and community time to thoroughly consider, discuss, and plan for next steps in the facility plans.

What about state matching funds?

The Board of Education voted in May 2015 not to accept state matching funds for this facility project. While the state's offer would have provided approximately 25% of the total project – their requirements also increased the overall project costs. Accepting state dollars places numerous significant restrictions on the project and lessens local control; eliminates the district's flexibility in choosing its own architect and construction manager; and pushes the project's start and completion dates out substantially. The Board and Administration do not rule out pursuing state matching funds for future facility projects, but ultimately felt the disadvantages outweighed the benefits for our community in this situation.

What about the levy passed last year? Can't those funds be used to build a new school?

Operating levies are designated for the day-to-day operating costs of our schools, things like utility costs, textbooks, classroom materials, and salaries. Those funds cannot be used for building new schools or other permanent improvements. Likewise, all of the bond issue funds must be used for new facilities, building renovations, and other permanent improvements.

How much would Issue 5 cost taxpayers?

The cost to taxpayers for the Issue 5 would be less than \$12 a month per \$100,000 of property value to generate approximately \$29.9 million. It is for 3.98 mills for a maximum of 37 years.

When is the election?

Election Day is Tuesday, March 15, 2016. Early voting begins February 17, 2016.

What if I have additional questions? Where can I get more information?

Additional information, background on the facility and community engagement process, state reports, photos of some of the existing building issues, and presentations shared at community meetings are available on the district's website at www.TippCitySchools.com by clicking on *Our District* and then selecting *Our Facilities*. For other questions or for assistance, please contact Communications Coordinator Liz Robbins at 937-669-6302 or via email at LRobbins@TippCity.k12.oh.us.