



Bond Issue and Income Tax...Two Issues = Two Votes

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Election Day: March 17, 2020

Please email questions to Superintendent Matt Bishop at [bishopm@psarrows.com](mailto:bishopm@psarrows.com).  
We will update this FAQ throughout the campaign.

Last updated: 2/4/2020

### What is on the ballot?

- 3.75 mill 25-year Bond Issue
- .75% 5-year Income Tax

There are **TWO SEPARATE ISSUES** for voters to consider on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The **Bond Issue** would build a new Preble Shawnee Elementary School in Camden for grades PK-5. The **Income Tax** would allow us to use our carryover to immediately begin to renovate the existing Jr/Sr High School, including but not limited to adding much needed air conditioning. Remember, two issues = two votes on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

### What has happened since the last school levy attempts?

Our district embarked on a comprehensive community engagement process. The purpose was to recommend a facilities master plan to our Board of Education. A **Community Advisory Team** met frequently throughout the 2018-19 school year. The group was comprised of many community members with differing viewpoints on the best way to achieve our facility goals. **The Community Spoke...and We Listened** is a theme you will see the district use throughout the election. It signifies the commitment the district has in reaching out to the community, listening to all viewpoints, and developing a plan that is responsive.

### How was the Facilities Master Plan created?

Our Preble Shawnee Facilities Master Plan is based from the following data: OFCC costs and figures, Community Advisory Team meetings, Community Forums, a professional scientific survey, ongoing discussions among stakeholders, and cost estimates from independent contractors.

### Why build a new elementary school and renovate the Jr/Sr High School?

All three of our buildings require extensive renovations. When examining the costs, it was evident that partnering with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) to cover a majority of costs was best. This allows us to reduce the number of buildings from three to two. It was also clear that we should keep the Jr/Sr High School building and use our carryover to renovate the mechanical systems and add air conditioning. The final need was our operating budget. It was evident that we need to return to the amount of local funding we received from 2005-2015.

## What is the Facilities Master Plan?

The Preble Shawnee Facilities Master Plan consists of the following:

- **Construction of a new PK-5 building** on the existing property of Camden Primary, directly behind current structure. We will fund this project with the OFCC paying 66% of the base cost and Preble Shawnee responsible for 34%. We will place a Bond Issue on the March 17, 2020 ballot for the amount needed to finance our share of the project. The local cost of the project will total \$10,155,365 and the millage is 3.75 mills for a 25-year term.
- The **current Jr/Sr High School will undergo extensive renovations** to make the building a great learning environment for the next twenty years (at a minimum). The renovations can happen quickly and will include the following:
  - Initial Renovation beginning Summer 2021 (possibly Summer 2020): adding air conditioning, electrical support, plumbing supply lines, replacing lighting with LED, security upgrades, fire system upgrades, and ceiling replacement
  - Future Renovations as necessary AND as funds are available: replacement of the roof, flooring, windows, cabinets/casework, classroom desks, tables, chairs, etc.; asphalt repairs; and technology upgrades

## What about the large carryover?

We will use **\$4-6.5 million dollars of our current carryover** to pay for the initial phase of the renovation. We will fund further phases through a combination of energy and staffing savings by decreasing the number of buildings operated from three to two.

## Will we need an operating levy?

We need to place a **5-year .75% Income Tax** on the March 17, 2020 ballot for operations regardless of the facility plan. *We cannot move forward with the planned renovations to the Jr/Sr High School without the passage of this levy.* The passage of this levy will return us to the amount of local funding we received from 2005-2015.

## What happens to West Elkton and Camden Primary?

We will close West Elkton Intermediate School and work with the village on the future of the building. There will be money in the OFCC budget to abate/demo West Elkton. We will abate/demo Camden Primary to make way for the new Preble Shawnee Elementary School (parking and bus lots, playground equipment, green space, etc.). Both buildings would close when the new PK-5 building is ready for occupancy. There will not be a need to displace students during the construction of the new Preble Shawnee Elementary School, as we will utilize both Camden and West Elkton during construction.

## What is the project budget?

The projected budget for construction of the new elementary school is approximately \$19,321,809. With the state paying nearly two-thirds of the cost (66%), this translates into \$12,752,394 in state funding. Additionally, the district is adding \$3,585,950 in required and optional Locally Funded Initiatives (LFI's). The state is requiring a partial LFI due to the square footage in the master plan associated with the Jr/Sr High School building. The optional LFI's are for things like a pitched metal roof, upgraded terrazzo flooring in the building which will lower maintenance and cleaning costs, and increase square footage across the facility.

Base cost of new PK-5 building	\$19,321,809
State Share 66%	\$12,752,394
Local Share 34% + LFI's	\$6,569,415 + \$3,585,950
Total Local Cost	\$10,155,365

## How much will it cost me?

The estimated local share is \$10.94 per month for a \$100,000 home in the Preble Shawnee School District. Additionally, there is a .75% Income Tax for operations that will be used as we will be taking \$4-6 million dollars from our carryover to pay for the cost of renovating the Jr/Sr High School.

## How is millage calculated?

Here is an example of how property tax is figured for the levy:

Market Value (determined by County Auditor)	\$100,000
Taxes assessed at 35% of Market Value	\$100,000 X 35% (.35)
Result is your Assessed Value	\$35,000
Assessed Value is multiplied by (.00375)	\$131.25/annually or \$10.94/month

## Is there a quick way to find out what I would pay each month?

If you need to find out your Market Value, visit the following website from the County Auditor:

<http://www.preblecountyauditor.org/Search.aspx>

Here is a table of Market Values and what the annual and monthly costs would be:

<i>Market Value</i>	<i>Annual Cost</i>	<i>Monthly Cost</i>
\$30,000	\$45.94	\$3.83
\$40,000	\$52.50	\$4.38
\$50,000	\$65.63	\$5.47
\$60,000	\$78.75	\$6.56
\$70,000	\$91.88	\$7.66
\$80,000	\$105.00	\$8.75
\$90,000	\$118.13	\$9.84
\$100,000	\$131.25	\$10.94
\$110,000	\$144.38	\$12.03
\$120,000	\$157.50	\$13.13
\$130,000	\$170.63	\$14.22
\$140,000	\$183.75	\$15.31
\$150,000	\$196.88	\$16.41
\$160,000	\$210.00	\$17.50
\$170,000	\$223.13	\$18.59
\$180,000	\$236.25	\$19.69
\$190,000	\$249.38	\$20.78
\$200,000	\$262.50	\$21.88
\$250,000	\$328.13	\$27.34
\$300,000	\$393.75	\$32.81
\$350,000	\$459.38	\$38.28
\$400,000	\$525.00	\$43.75
\$450,000	\$590.63	\$49.22
\$500,000	\$656.25	\$54.69

## Will any of the bond funds be used to operate the district?

No. Bond funds CANNOT be used for salaries, benefits, or operating expenses. Funds collected from a bond issue can ONLY be used to construct and furnish the buildings. If the project is under budget, the remaining bond funds could be used to maintain the building or retire the outstanding debt on the building.

### How long will it take the bonds to be repaid?

The bonds will be repaid over 25 years. However, we will look at every opportunity to refinance bonds when it makes sense for the taxpayer to shorten the term.

### How long will the income tax be collected?

The .75% income tax will be collected for 5 years. At that time, we will ask voters whether to renew the tax, thus providing accountability to the taxpayers.

### What forms of income are taxed for an Income Tax levy?

Income from wages, salaries, tips, interest, annuities, IRA distributions, unemployment compensation, capital gains, self-employment, pensions, alimony, state/local bond interest and dividends.

### What forms of income are NOT taxed for an Income Tax levy?

Income from social security, workers' compensation benefits, child support, welfare benefits, property received as a gift or inheritance, or disability and survivor benefits.

### How does Preble Shawnee compare to other Preble County schools in terms of tax collection?

As you can see from the table below, Preble Shawnee taxpayers have the lowest combined income tax and property tax rates in the county. Even if voters approve both levies in March, Preble Shawnee will STILL have the lowest combined rates. In fact, the 20.00 mills we currently collect for property taxes is the LOWEST allowed by the State of Ohio. When you hear people say we are at the "twenty mill floor," that is what is being referenced.

	TRI-COUNTY NORTH	TWIN VALLEY SOUTH	NATIONAL TRAIL	EATON	PREBLE SHAWNEE	PREBLE SHAWNEE (if levy passes)
Current Income Tax Rates	1.00	1.50	1.75	1.50	1.00	1.75
Current Millage	41.95	39.00	27.50	42.90	20.00	23.75

### What energy saving features are included?

By OFCC standards, new buildings and major renovations must meet LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver standards, as developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. These recognized standards for environmentally friendly construction address human and environmental health, sustainable site development, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. Other LEED® compliant features include the building's open space, proper storm water design, reduced light pollution, and energy and water efficient fixtures.

## How does Preble Shawnee compare to other Preble County schools in terms of spending their tax dollars?

As you can see from the table below, Preble Shawnee Schools have the LOWEST per pupil expenditure in the county.

	TRI-COUNTY NORTH	TWIN VALLEY SOUTH	NATIONAL TRAIL	EATON	
Per Pupil Expenditure	\$11,952	\$14,363	\$12,398	\$10,860	\$10,759

## How will a newly constructed Preble Shawnee Elementary School and renovated Jr/Sr High School improve instruction?

The opportunities a new elementary and renovated middle/high school building will provide for our staff, students, and community are tremendous. Some highlights are:

- **a safe, comfortable, climate-controlled environment that is more conducive to learning**
- vastly improved technology services, which will improve instruction in innumerable ways
- greatly improved interior lighting
- much more natural lighting
- ADA compliant buildings, which are more accommodating to students, staff, and visitors,
- a greater capacity for career-technical education in the middle/high school
- a proper working greenhouse, to be used for science and agricultural education, at the middle/high school
- fewer emergency cancelations, dismissals, and delays due to heat, maintenance, and repairs
- more availability of funds directed towards instruction due to less money being spent on the upkeep of aging buildings

## How will a newly constructed Preble Shawnee Elementary School and renovated Jr/Sr High School improve safety and security?

The new building will include safety and security features not capable of being installed or upgraded in our current facilities. Some examples include:

- a private bus loop at the elementary to separate bus traffic from the public drop-off/pick-up area
- secure building entrances
- integrated, automatic door locking and video surveillance systems
- first-rate fire suppression systems throughout the buildings
- much-improved emergency and exterior lighting
- widened traffic access points at the elementary with updated and more prolific use of signage and signals

### **Where will students go during construction?**

Both buildings would close when the new PK-5 building is ready for occupancy. There will not be a need to displace students during the construction of the new Preble Shawnee Elementary School, as we will utilize both Camden and West Elkton during construction.

### **Will class sizes increase?**

No. Building plans will be designed to maintain current teacher to student ratios, though classrooms will be larger than they are currently.

### **What will the new elementary building look like?**

The buildings will be attractive, energy efficient, and designed around the needs of students, first and foremost. Administrators, staff, and community members will have many opportunities to give input on the design of the new schools. Nearby examples of state co-funded buildings are located in the districts of Madison, Edgewood, Talawanda, Hamilton, Monroe, Eaton, Dixie, Brookville, Milton-Union, and Carlisle.

### **Will any staff lose their job?**

The district is currently staffed efficiently based on the enrollment and services needed for students; we do not anticipate staff layoffs or reductions resulting from moving from three buildings to two.