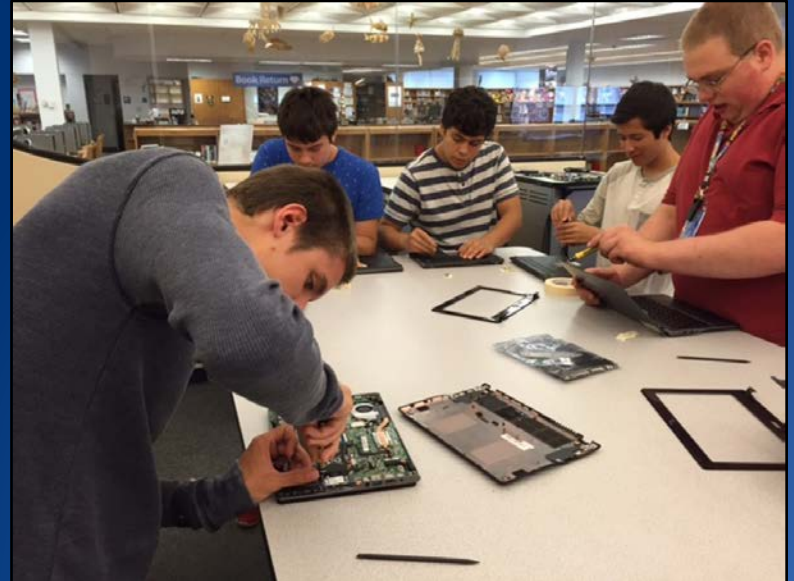


West Chicago Community High School



Capital Improvements Needs
Community Forum

January 10 & 14, 2017



Presenters

Gary Saake, President - Board of Education

Dr. Douglas Domeracki, Superintendent

Gordon Cole, Director of Business Services

Goals for Today

- Explain the capital infrastructure needs as they relate to our mission
- Review the results of the recent survey
- Explain the current financial status and challenges
- Explain the proposed bond referendum
- Answer your questions

Our Vision

- Protect and preserve the community's investment in WCCHS
- Modernize the learning environment to meet the needs of 21st Century instruction
- Make more efficient use of existing facilities
- Evolve the curriculum to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's students

The Challenges

- How do we provide students with 21st Century teaching and learning opportunities
- Introducing new programs and curriculum where space does not exist - Upwards of 95% space utilization
- How do we continue to provide comprehensive programming
- How does the community use the facilities
- Infrastructure approaching 100 years old
- The lifespan of major mechanical systems

Recent Renovations

- Science & Math Classrooms
- College and Career Center
- Student Services Center
- Secured Visitor Entrance
- Student Activities Center
- Family and Consumer Science Classrooms
- Child Development Classrooms
- District Office Relocation

Recent Renovations

- Life Safety Audit
- Pool HVAC
- Parking lot Reconstruction/Paving
- Roofs
- Pool Mechanicals (Pumps, drain line, chemical system)
- HD Security Cameras
- WiFi infrastructure for One-to-One
- Telephone System

Aging Infrastructure/Mechanicals

- Plumbing
- Heating and Cooling Systems
- Building Control Systems
- Windows
- Lighting
- Flooring, ceilings
- 1926 Structural
- Elevator
- Roofs

Instructional Area Needs

- Library Renovation
- Fine Arts Renovations
- Gym Bleachers
- Athletic Field Turf
- Outdoor Track
- Tennis Courts
- Student break-out rooms
- Nucleus-style instructional spaces
- Additional instructional space for evolution of curriculum
- Realignment of space to meet current curricular needs

Community Survey

The District commissioned a scientific poll of 400 residents that was conducted in December 2016

Here's what the community told us....

Survey Results

94.5% of those polled believe that it's crucial to keep our school buildings up-to-date and in good condition to protect the community's investment in those facilities

Survey Results

69.3% rated the nine project areas surveyed as high priorities

1. Roofs/windows/lighting/plumbing
2. Classroom space addition
3. Security Improvements
4. Energy Efficiencies
5. Athletic Facility Repairs
6. 1926/55 Renovations
7. Fine Arts Renovation
8. Vocational Education
9. Auditorium Renovation

Survey Results

83.9% believe the District made a good decision to use existing resources to fund renovations which included the new science area

Survey Results

61% of the community rated District's Job Performance on 10 factors surveyed as Good or Excellent

1. Maintaining a high quality teaching staff
2. Effective and consistent District leadership
3. Encouraging residents to participate in the District's planning process
4. Providing students and classroom with up-to-date instructional technology
5. Building confidence among citizens and staff
6. Attending to the social and emotional needs of students
7. Providing a safe and secure learning environment
8. Providing opportunity for students to gain college credit before graduation
9. Communicating with residents about the District
10. Maintaining high academic standards

Survey Results

You told us you have confidence in the financial management of the District, and for the Administration to make the right decisions about improving education

Survey Results

Over 90% would support maintaining the current tax rate to make sure the quality of education measured up to area districts

What you told us via the Survey

More of you believe that the district is underfunded than overfunded

Three Takeaways...

1. You agree that the capital infrastructure needs and curricular goals are a high priority, and are aligned with the Community's wishes
2. You agree that good schools are important to protect and increase property values
3. You are willing to financially support those needs through a referendum, particularly if it doesn't increase the tax rate.

Current Financial Picture

- We operate with a lower Operating and Total Expense per student than the State Average and any High School District in DuPage County
- If we were to have the same operating revenue/expenses as the state average, we would receive \$3.5 Million more per year!
... But we don't!

We're Fiscally Responsible

- Perfect 4.00 Fiscal Profile Score last 6 of 7 years
- 13 Straight years of “Financial Recognition”
- Never sought an operating funds rate referendum in the history of the District
- Lived within our means with balanced operational budgets, even during economic downturn.
- Implemented many programs to reduce costs, such as energy use reduction (22%) and Special Education Ombudsman+

We're Fiscally Responsible

- Last bond referendum 20 years ago for 1999 addition
- These Bonds were refinanced in 2008 to save taxpayers over \$1.2M
- District will have ZERO debt as of November 2017
- Used proceeds of Highlake property sale and fund balances to complete last three years of major renovations.

The Projected Costs

- Replace Mechanical Systems \$20.5M
- Renovate Existing Spaces \$8.4M
- Increase Instructional Space \$8.6M

Total \$37.5 Million

The Solution...

- Seek authority to sell up to \$37.5M in General Obligation Bonds via referendum on the April 4, 2017 Ballot
- Would result in NO RATE INCREASE in Debt Service Property Tax Levy over current amount
- Bond repayment would be structured to not exceed current debt service levy, which is approximately \$94 per \$100,000 of home value

The Plan...

- Bonds would be issued over 5 years following the referendum, and substantially expended within 8 years.
- Why not all at once?
 - All the work can't be done at once - will be staged
 - All the needs are not immediate, and we want to extend life of items as long as possible (i.e. field turf and roofs)
 - Save taxpayers the most interest expense possible

The Seminal Question...

“Are you willing to continue to pay the same amount of debt service tax as you pay currently and have a renovated school that meets 21st Century instructional needs in return?”

What Can I Do?

- Share our story
- Promote District 94
- Talk with family, friends and neighbors
- Ask any questions you still have
- Vote April 4, 2017
- Stay involved!



Questions?



Thank You for Attending