

November Ballot Proposal

Over the summer, school Board members held planning sessions on the direction for Eaton Rapids Public Schools. Two of these sessions were devoted to improving the learning environment for students. Today, we have been able to provide a quality level of staffing but have not been able to make any capital improvements or purchase equipment. Board members decided in late June to pursue a bond project that must be approved by voters in the school district at the time of the election on November 2nd.

There are three important questions to start the discussion about the merits of the bond proposal: Why now? Why not use funds from the district's operating budget? What are the benefits of the 2010 bond?

Why Now?

- Our facilities require upgrades to stay current and competitive, and to provide a top quality learning environment for our students.
- Interest rates, construction, and material costs are low.
- Improved schools help preserve home, business, and property values.
- New work will be generated for local qualified contractors and suppliers.
- Passage of this bond will NOT INCREASE an individual homeowner's current property tax millage rate.

Why not use the District's operating budget?

The District's operating funds are used for classroom instruction and maintaining our facilities. If there is money left over, we can use it for capital improvements. However, a majority of that money comes from the State and that money is decreasing. Our financially-stressed operating fund has little room to pay for capital projects.

What are the benefits of the 2010 Bond?

- Improve safety and security for students, teachers, and staff
- Provide our students and teachers with state-of-the-art technology and equipment—improving the quality of education.
- Allows the district to meet 21st century educational opportunities with updated technology tools.
- Reduce operating expenses and provide savings in energy consumption and costs.

I will outline specific pieces of the bond proposal starting next week. Happy Labor Day to you and your family. We are very excited about the day after it!!!