

ISSUES 15 & 16

BOND ISSUE

OPERATING LEVY

AVON LAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Statement of Facts Regarding Bond Issue & Operating Levy: November 2024

The Avon Lake City Schools has placed two issues on the November 2024 ballot, Issue 15: a bond issue, and Issue 16: an operating levy. This was done after having listened to the feedback from the community, incorporating updated enrollment projections, and implementing cost-saving measures while maintaining the integrity of the original master plan created by the facilities committee from years ago. New operating dollars have not been asked for since 2013, prompting the need for Issue 16, the operating levy. If passed, the combined cost to homeowners would be an estimated increase of \$29.04/\$100,000 valuation per month. This document shares the current considerations on the ballot and a timeline of how the ALCS has arrived at this point. You can learn more about Issue 15 and Issue 16 on the district home page, www.avonlakecityschools.org.

With the November 2024 bond issue and operating levy, the ALCS plans to...

- Build a new 115,774 SF PreK-5 elementary school on the Troy Site
 - Consolidate Pre-Kindergarten in this school to maximize teacher collaboration and resources
- Build a new 89,386 SF K-5 Elementary School on the Eastview Site
 - A smaller school footprint to minimize traffic on Learwood and maximize space on a smaller site
- Build a new 128,050 SF 6-8 Middle School on the Learwood Site
 - The new building would connect to the recently completed 2010 Auxiliary Gym Building
- Update Avon Lake High School to increase its longevity
 - This includes a partial roof repair, augmenting the existing HVAC upgrade plan, and a new secure entry
- Abatement and Demolition of Learwood MS, Troy Intermediate, Eastview ES, Erieview ES, and Westview ES

- The new buildings are aligned with the most recent district enrollment figures, but still provide space for future community growth.

- Introducing the ***bond issue alongside an operations issue was direct feedback from the community*** and highlights their input on looking holistically at both the district's needs in operating revenue and addressing our facility needs. According to a district survey after the Nov. '23 ballot attempt, 92% of those who participated felt that district operation costs should be incorporated into future plans. The ALCS listened to this feedback and has proceeded accordingly.

Timeline of How ALCS Has Arrived at this Point and Milestones Along the Way...

- In December of 2020, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) conducted facility assessments of the Avon Lake City School buildings. Their report found that bringing each school up to current Ohio School Design Manual standards would cost \$93.6 million (2019 Cost Set). They recommend replacing a school when its renovation cost exceeds 66% of the cost of building a new school of the same size. 6 of the 7 buildings are at or beyond this threshold.

- The majority of ALCS buildings were constructed in the 50s and 60s, and have reached the end of their lifecycle. Due to age, they aren't well suited for modern educational practices which require collaborative, technology-rich spaces to prepare students for future grades. Additionally, population growth and traffic have created safety issues and overcrowding in neighborhoods and schools. Due to this, the Board decided to explore a facilities solution.

- In May 2021, Avon Lake City Schools formed a committee to review all district schools and develop a long-term facility master plan. The committee consisted of 39 individuals representing parents, staff, community members and a representative from the BOE. Using the OFCC report and guidance from consultants they met regularly to define a plan.

- In November 2022, after over a year of work examining 10 different plan configurations, and touring surrounding schools, the committee narrowed their configurations to a single plan. This reflected a broad consensus of the group.

- Starting in November 2022 and ending in July 2023, the committee along with the district hosted community meetings to gather public input on the plan. They answered questions and incorporated feedback. The Board then voted to place the agreed-on plan on the November 2023 ballot. This ballot issue was defeated in November 2023 by approximately 3%.

- In response to this feedback from the community, in early 2024 the district re-examined the \$170 million facility plan streamlining aspects to further reduce the cost to around \$155 million. This allowed the district to address both an operations increase and the facility needs simultaneously, while remaining below the total November 2023 issue amount.

- Consequently, the ALCS has placed this current bond issue, and operating levy, on the November 2024 ballot.

