

CENTRAL COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #71

PROPOSED 2018-19 RENOVATIONS AND BUILDING ADDITIONS “FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS”

What renovations and additions are being proposed at C.C.H.S.?

Preliminary plans for renovations and expansions include projects ranging from building maintenance upgrades in the HVAC systems, renovations to existing outdoor facilities in need of replacement or upgrade, two building additions that will add almost 9,000 square feet of space to the facility, and renovations of spaces within the interior vacated due to relocation of programs. The projects being proposed are described in five different segments:

1. The HVAC systems on many segments of the oldest areas of the facility are in need of replacement. Many of these units have been in operation since 1996 and now reaching the end of their life. The units are causing the school district continuous repair costs and their replacement is necessary to maintain efficient heating and cooling at the facility.
2. Some outdoor facilities have also had very little renovation or repair for the past several decades. The bleachers, press box, and lighting at the football facility are either original equipment or been in place since the 1990's. All require replacement to be brought up to appropriate standards. Additional renovations are needed to the backstop and dugout areas of the baseball, junior varsity baseball, and softball facilities. The addition of a practice field and irrigation to existing fields will also greatly enhance year-round usage by activities in four athletic programs and the marching band program. Additional storage structures or renovations to some existing facilities are needed to provide adequate storage space.
3. A building addition that provides a modern technologically enhanced Media Center will provide better resource, research, and multi-purpose space for modern student life. The new Media Center will provide small group areas allowing for team-centered learning as well as traditional library usage. This space will have a technology oriented platform and a One-to-One environment with a media and presentation based focus. The new Media Center will allow space for research, small group activities, and classroom sized sessions. It will also be large enough at approximately 5,100 square feet to hold multi-classroom and cross curricular events and activities.
4. A new Band and Music addition to the building will greatly increase space for a growing music program at Central. The current band and music spaces are extremely small with limited storage and functionality. The proposed addition will offer more instructional space for band, chorus, and other music oriented course offerings while also providing more organized instrument and uniform storage space. The new addition will have approximately 3,600 square feet and be placed in a more reserved area reducing the interference for other classes during the school day. This will provide a greatly enhanced area for the instruction of music with better access to outdoor and transportation modes.

5. The areas vacated by the two programs relocating to proposed additions will be renovated to offer at least three new classrooms through a limited, low cost renovation to those spaces. Increasing student enrollments are creating larger class sizes and more crowded classroom conditions. The renovated spaces will provide at least three new large classroom spaces to alleviate some of these concerns. Other existing classroom space will be renovated to include offices for technology personnel and a work area for their attention to exploding technology needs in an integrated environment. As technology needs grow, so do the requirements for space and technology oriented service areas.

Why is C.C.H.S proposing these renovations and additions?

The renovations and additions being proposed will continue to move Central forward in improved building maintenance, advanced technology, enhanced educational space, and more modern facilities for programs such as band and athletics. Many studies show that a school facility plays a large role in student success. Learning is affected by the appropriate size of educational areas, acoustics, lighting, air quality, and how space is integrated with technology use in an individualized education program. Higher performance can be directly related to having the support from appropriate space and furnishings. In order to remain progressive and contemporary, Central needs to provide facilities that reflect and emulate the best offerings in curricular and extracurricular areas. Youth in our community deserve the best services that we can provide. The facilities being proposed allow us to offer those capabilities to our students.

Are there other renovations or building and facility changes planned at C.C.H.S.?

Currently, there are no other extensive projects or renovations being planned at Central. Most of the facility has been renovated or updated by annual projects and effective facility planning. Most recently, a new roof was installed and an extensive renovation to the Commons Area and main restroom facilities were completed. These major projects, along with smaller scale projects, have been completed each year with district funding. These have cleared the way for funding alternatives allowing for the extensive additions and renovations being proposed at this time. The projects being proposed are simply too broad and extensive to be completed from current cash reserves or budgetary amounts.

What is the timeline for completion on each phase of construction?

All of the proposed phases of the project are scheduled from early Summer 2018 through the end of Summer 2019 unless competitive bidding results demand completion from sources outside the issue of Funding Bonds. The completion of the renovations to the HVAC systems and outdoor facilities will begin in late Spring 2018 and are scheduled for completion by the end of next summer. This will avoid any major interference with usage of heating and cooling of the building and need of any programs during the school year. The building additions are planned for completion during the 2018-19 school year and the renovations to existing spaces will be completed during the Summer of 2019. Any additional building projects which may demand completion through the utilization of fund reserves or annual revenues could be scheduled in a building maintenance plan over one to three years.

How will C.C.H.S. fund the projects?

Three sources of funding will be utilized to pay for the renovations and additions. First, the issuance of \$600,000 in Health Life Safety Bonds will be added to current cash reserves in order to fund the replacement of rooftop HVAC units. These bonds will be paid from current H.L.S. balances or upcoming revenue sources without an increase to any tax rate. Second, a Funding Bond issuance for \$4.87 million will fund all the outdoor renovations and building additions being proposed. This bond issue maintains the same payment that is currently being made from the Bond and Interest Fund levy on retiring bonds from a 2005-06 building addition. Thus, creating no raise in tax rates for any member of the community. Finally, any segment of the renovations that are being bid as alternates may require the use of reserve Operation and Maintenance Funds. This would require these alternate segments of the project to be a part of the annual building planning process that has become a part of normal school activities each year.

How will the renovations and building expansion projects affect my property tax bill?

There will be NO CHANGE! The school plans to fund the new HVAC systems with the current Health Life Safety levy that is already being assessed. The district currently administers a 5 cent levy per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation of property. Since the HVAC units qualify for the usage of those funds, bonds will be issued and paid for over a six-year schedule from a portion of that existing tax rate.

At present, Central Community High School District #71 is also administering a bond and interest levy taxation rate just under 13 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation of property for bond and interest payments. A new funding bond issuance will simply continue this existing circumstance. This means that a levy for these purposes currently on a \$100,000 home will remain approximately \$40.22 annually. The taxation rate for the funding of the renovations and building additions would remain the same because repayment of the new bond and interest debt will be equivalent to the payment level the district is presently making. The new funding bonds will have a lifespan of seventeen years at an extremely low and secured interest rate of approximate 3.75 percent. The tax levy rate will also likely decrease as equalized assess valuation of property increases.

Any segment of the project that may not be completed within the self-imposed cap levels of bonding as mentioned above will become part of the annual building maintenance planning process and be completed over the course of future years in the district operation and maintenance fund levels. This also will result in no change to tax expectations on the local property owner.

Therefore, the rate of taxation to finance the proposed renovations and expansions on property within the school district will NOT increase for any property owner! The combination of these projects, the phases of completion, and the desire of the district not to impact future tax rates were all part of a decision making process undertaken by the Board of Education. Our goal is to make certain that the school could provide these great enhancements without creating additional

burden on members of the community. All things considered, this is a great opportunity to move forward with necessary renovations and additions at our school.

What impact will the projects have for C.C.H.S. students?

These renovations and additions will greatly enhance opportunities for students. The student enrollment at C.C.H.S. has been steadily growing creating larger class sizes and more crowded classroom conditions. Projections of future enrollment figures demonstrate a continued trend. In addition, Central has offered increasing curricular opportunities for students such as the enhanced integration of technology, growth of career and technical programs, increased college preparatory courses, and more specialized courses in all subject areas. The recent move to a One-to-One Chromebook technology environment has created greater needs for multi-dimensional facilities and services. Central also continues to grow in its offerings of more extracurricular activities at different levels of competition and with a higher involvement level of students. All of these factors create needs for improved spaces and additional facilities in order for students to be prepared for lifelong learning in a complex society. In general, the renovated spaces and new additions will enhance the quality of educational and extracurricular services for students and provide for anticipated growth for years to come.

How can I find out more about the proposed renovations and building additions?

Anyone with questions is encouraged to contact Mr. Kevin Meyer, Superintendent at the Central Community High School office to inquire about more information. The monthly meeting of the C.C.H.S. Board of Education is held on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M. in the high school office.