

November 7 School Bond Issue

Remarks from Superintendent John C. Hamstra:

We are thankful for the support of our community in the passage of this school bond issue. The residents have clearly indicated that they value education, our students and this community. Throughout this process, there were people who shared their opinions and challenged the district, helping us better understand and address people's concerns and questions; we know that not everyone may have voted for the bond issue, but it is evident that everyone in this community supports quality education and the success of our children. The positive outcome of the election shows their willingness to make the type of investment necessary to ensure the success of current and future students. In fact, this decision will positively impact this community and our students both now and for the next 50 years!

We also want to thank the multitude of volunteers who generously gave of their time and made financial donations to support the bond issue throughout the process. It started with the more than 1,000 community representatives who provided input through numerous forums, helping us whittle the ideas and dreams down to one master plan. We applaud the many local churches, businesses and the Greater Harrison Chamber of Commerce who stood for our students and for our future!

In direct support of the campaign, there are many, many individuals who knocked on doors, distributed informational literature, answered questions, displayed yard signs, made phone calls and otherwise helped get this bond issue passed. Their commitment, perseverance, leadership and boundless energy are to be commended! The passage of the bond issue is a testimony to these volunteers and this community's priority of putting students first.

As we now look to next steps, we want to maintain the momentum by continuing to involve the community. The district will soon begin working with the State of Ohio to select an architect and design firm. In the meantime, we will create a process to solicit the public's input on the design and development of project plans for each school. Construction is projected to begin in 2019 and we expect the new schools to be ready for students in 2021.