



The Menominee Area Public School District has a one-question bond referendum on the ballot for May 5, 2020. This referendum aims to address facility needs across the district. Strong schools make a strong community.

## MAROON PRIDE STRONG SCHOOLS/STRONG COMMUNITY



## FAST FACTS 2020 SCHOOL BOND REFERENDUM GUIDE

Our facilities have a number of deficiencies and needs that are not going away and only getting more expensive to maintain. The district worked with a community taskforce over four months to develop a plan that addresses our needs responsibly so that we can continue to educate our students for a 21st century world in safe, functional, and flexible spaces.

### THIS ELECTION IS MAIL-IN BALLOT ONLY

According to the Michigan Secretary of State, due to the coronavirus outbreak, the May election will be carried out by mail only. All registered voters in the school district will be sent an application to vote by mail (absentee). This is the optimal and safest way to participate in our democracy at this time. The application will come with a postage-paid return envelope. If the voter applies for a vote by mail/absent voter ballot, that will also arrive with a postage-paid return envelope.

### WHAT IS THE REFERENDUM FOR?

#### NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- To be built on the same site as the Jr./Sr. High School
- Tear down Central Elementary
- Repurpose Blesch Intermediate School
- Modern learning environments
- Latest safety & security designs
- New student drop-off/pick-up configuration

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL

- Projects that extend the useful life of the Jr./Sr. High School
- Safety & security updates including new secure entryway
- Energy saving and cost reduction projects such as HVAC and lighting upgrades
- New parking lots and reconfigured student drop-off/pick-up configuration
- Improved modern learning environments for 21st Century education

### WHY NOW?

The Menominee community is strong and the future is bright. Yet, we have significant needs in our schools. We have a slow but steadily declining enrollment; failing infrastructure, some of which is original to the buildings nearly 70 years ago; and we are trying to educate our students for a 21st century world in schools that were designed for the 20th century. We have a perfect opportunity to "right-size" for our current and future enrollment; reduce our long-term operation and maintenance costs; improve the health and safety of our learning environments; and give students and teachers what they need to graduate students that will be successful in the modern world. Construction costs will continue to grow the longer we wait, however, historically low interest rates make now the time to act for our kids and our community.



## OUR KIDS' FUTURE



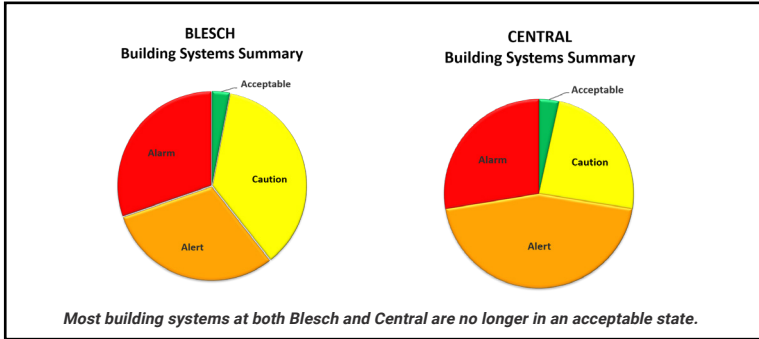
## LONG-TERM VALUE



## HEALTH & SAFETY

# OUR KIDS' FUTURE

- ✓ The design of Central and Blesch schools no longer meet the requirements of our current educational programming, much less the flexibility that the future will call for.
- ✓ A new elementary school will provide our kids with a modern learning environment that allows for 21st Century education and programming to be fully implemented.
- ✓ The referendum projects will provide for an enhanced learning environment at the Jr./Sr. High School that will prepare students for an ever-changing world.



## HEALTH & SAFETY

- ✓ Remodeling of main entrances for safe and secure entryways and access control of school visitors.
- ✓ Replacement of HVAC and other building systems that have outlived their useful life will provide healthier and safer learning environments for students and staff.
- ✓ Reconfiguration of both elementary and Jr./Sr. High School student drop-off/pick-up areas.

**WHAT WILL IT COST?**

**\$11.77\***  
PER MONTH

*\*based on median taxable value*

## Tax Impact

- The total bond issue would not exceed \$44,000,000 and would have a repayment schedule of 30 years.
- The median taxable value of a home in the Menominee Public School District is \$48,350. Please refer to the referendum website for a tax calculator to calculate your own personal tax increase.
- Households that pay homestead property taxes greater than 3.2% of their annual income may be eligible for Michigan's Homestead Property Tax Credit. Eligible households may deduct up to 60% (up to 100% for senior citizens) of the millage increase cost up to a \$1,500 Homestead Tax Credit limit. The eligibility for the credit begins to decrease after household income exceeds \$51,001 and ends completely after the household income exceeds \$60,001.



## LONG-TERM VALUE

- ✓ Due to the age and condition of Central and Blesch, we spend over double the maintenance and operational costs of neighboring districts. A new consolidated school will maximize the use of space and will reduce annual maintenance and operational costs.
- ✓ A new, modern elementary school will likely provide local economic value by attracting new families into the community.
- ✓ Investing in capital improvements to the Jr./Sr. High School will ensure that the school remains in good condition well into the future while reducing current ongoing maintenance costs.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### Q: What happens to Central Elementary and Blesch Intermediate Schools?

*A: Nothing will happen until the new elementary school is ready to open and start serving kids. Once the new school is open, Central Elementary school will be torn down and the new elementary school parking lot and playground will be relocated to its new site. Blesch Intermediate School is not planned to be torn down and will be repurposed. Alternate use(s) important for the school district are currently being explored and community input will help with these decisions.*

### Q: What happens to Blesch Auditorium and Blesch Stadium?

*A: The auditorium and stadium are important community venues and will remain. Upgrades and enhancements are actively being considered. The funding for these improvements will come from regular operating budgets and/or private funding, but not from the referendum.*

### Q: What is the timing for the new elementary school and projects at the Jr./Sr. High School?

*A: If the referendum is successful, engineering and architectural work will begin as soon as possible and include much input from teachers & staff. The new elementary school will hopefully break ground in spring 2021 and open in the fall of 2022. Capital improvement projects at the Jr./Sr. High School will be scheduled on an ongoing basis over the next several years beginning in late 2020. (These schedules could require adjustment as a result of the effects of the COVID-19 virus outbreak.)*

**Additional FAQ's can be found on the referendum website.**

VISIT OUR REFERENDUM WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.MENOMINEESTRONG.COM](http://WWW.MENOMINEESTRONG.COM)