

Wolverine school voters to see \$7.3 million bond proposal

Wolverine schools will be placing a \$7.3 million, 30-year bond proposal before voters in a May 3 election. The Wolverine School Board's decision to place the proposal before voters was made at the board's January meeting.

Among the items funded by the \$7.3 million would be: heating and electrical systems in both the elementary and high school buildings; installing emergency generators in both buildings; updating fire and safety systems; replacing the temporary structure high school students have been using as a cafeteria with a permanent building; renovating the classrooms; replacing flooring and suspended ceilings; updating classroom furnishings and weight room equipment; updating locker rooms; upgrading LED lighting; replacing playground fencing; installing new exteri-

or and interior doors and windows; updating power supplies in classrooms; replacing drinking fountains.

In terms of millage, the initial millage levy for the bond would be 3.1 mill. The estimated average millage over the 30 years is 2.54 mills. However, that figure could vary. The school currently has a 1.25 mill annual levy for a sinking fund. That millage will expire in 2025 and if the bond passes, the school would not seek to extend the sinking fund.

A mill is \$1 for every \$1,000 of a property's taxable value. For a home with a taxable value of \$50,000, a 3.1 mill tax levy would cost the taxpayer \$155 per year.

Wolverine Superintendent Matthew Baughman said, "The last major work done in Wolverine (school) was 1993,

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Wolverine school bond proposal

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when the gymnasium was constructed. At that time, our Middle School science lab and classrooms were constructed and we added a temporary cafeteria. We have not fully updated any of the district's original classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, electrical or mechanical systems since the buildings were constructed, which was in 1974 for the elementary and 1934 for the high school. These are not wants,

they are needs.”

Baughman referred to an elementary school boiler fire that occurred in 2020. He said, “We have gotten to the point where continuing to try to fix things is not only likely going to cost more in the long run, it's actually a safety hazard to kids. When the boiler caught fire, our fire alarm didn't even go off before evacuating the kids to the high school. Later that day, the back up boiler died too.”