

SCARSDALE SCHOOLS BOND REFERENDUM FACT SHEET

- The Board of Education, after months of consultations with stakeholders, is calling for a bond referendum on **Thursday, December 11, 2014**, in the amount of \$18.12 million for repairs, upgrades, and limited new construction in buildings throughout the District.
- Tight annual budgets in recent years have caused the District to fall behind in facility repairs and upgrades. In addition, new demands on education to equip students with 21st century skills call for reconfigured facilities that support this learning.
- In 2015, annual debt service of \$1.7 million from previous bonds will drop off. The new debt service from this bond would be about equal to this amount, making it tax-neutral. Issuing a bond now would also enable the District to take advantage of historically low interest rates.
- The Board initiated a careful review process last year to consider possible projects. It asked building-level committees to set priorities, convened a District-wide steering committee to assess the proposals, and conducted numerous public meetings with the District architects.

Specific Projects to be Funded Through the Bond:

- **Throughout the District, Technology** infrastructure needs critical upgrades, including wireless capacity, to support student and teacher use. [\$1,400,000]
- At **Quaker Ridge**, part of the roof is now beyond repair and must be replaced. [\$908,000]
- At **Edgewood**, the library will be expanded and renovated: it is undersized and subject to flooding. The main office will be moved closer to the entrance for security [\$3,560,000]
- At **Heathcote**, a new multipurpose room will provide additional lunch space, enabling physical education classes to return to the gym. New rooms are proposed for special education services, currently taking place on the auditorium stage. [\$3,387,000]
- At the **Middle School**, the music program has outgrown its space and is using the auditorium stage for classes; a new orchestra room will free up the auditorium and safeguard instruments. Reconfigured classrooms will house the Exploring Music program. [\$2,097,000]
- At the **High School**:
 - A Learning Commons is proposed to alleviate significant overcrowding in the cafeteria and library by creating a space where eating and group study can take place. Gym A will be renovated to add ventilation and improve lighting. [\$5,091,000]
 - The abandoned auto shop will be repurposed as a Design Lab. A grant from the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation will cover the costs of renovating the space; bond funds will cover relocation and renovation of storage and offices. [\$677,000]
 - Additional long-deferred repairs at the High School are also included: repairing the courtyard drainage behind the auditorium to alleviate perennial flooding, new auditorium seating, and other renovations. [\$1,000,000]
 - The Fitness Center will move to a larger space below Gym 3-4. This is not included in the bond proposal: it will be funded by the Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation. The Madoff family is donating equipment in memory of their son Tyler.

**VOTE ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014
AT THE SCARSDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL, 7 AM TO 9 PM**