

NEWS FROM ALGONAC COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Today's date: January 30, 2018

For release: Immediate

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Algonac Schools place sinking fund proposal on May 8 ballot

The Algonac Community Schools Board of Education has unanimously approved placing a comprehensive two-mill sinking fund proposal on the May 8 ballot.

The primary purpose of the 10-year proposal is to enhance school security and student safety, to remodel and upgrade schools and school facilities, and to upgrade and add technology equipment and technology infrastructure. A similar proposal was defeated by 30 votes in May 2017.

“The needs we expressed a year ago have not gone away,” said school superintendent Alan Latosz. “More than before, we need to repair and renovate our schools. We need to expand our ongoing efforts to improve school security and student safety. And, we need to upgrade our instructional technology.”

Latosz said that the sinking fund proposal will affect every Algonac student and reflect on the well-being of the Algonac community. “We believe the best way to address the school district’s priority needs is with a pay-as-you-go sinking fund,” he said. “With a sinking fund, the school district does not accumulate debt and does not pay interest on sinking fund revenue.”

The list of priority projects is quite extensive, according to Latosz. “It includes such things as upgrading HVAC systems, replacing roofs, doors, and windows, renovating restrooms and locker rooms, installing energy efficient LED lighting, repairing and replacing parking lots, and improving school sites, including playgrounds. There are no frills on the project list.”

A complete list of sinking fund projects will be posted on the school district's website (www.acsk12.us) and displayed in each school's lobby."

School Board President Andrew Goulet believes the sinking fund is necessary to support Algonac's educational program and to assure that schools and school facilities are up-to-date and in good repair. "It is essential that we address the sinking fund projects that school staff members and citizens have prioritized," he said. "Quite simply, this is a no-nonsense plan for addressing repairs and renovations that are necessary and need immediate attention."

If approved by voters, the two-mill sinking fund will generate about \$1.2 million each year for ten years. It will cost a person living in a \$100,000 home about 27¢ more per day in property taxes. While some people will pay more, most residents of the school district will pay less than 27¢ per day.

Goulet emphasized that voter approval of the sinking fund proposal would enhance Algonac's education program and likely have a positive effect on property values in our community.

Superintendent Latosz said that the school district will produce informational materials to explain the various sinking fund projects. "A year ago, we didn't do as well as we should have to inform the community about the sinking fund proposal. This year we want to make sure members of the community understand every aspect of the proposal and that all their questions are answered before the May 8th vote," he said.

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