



Frequently Asked Questions- Updated 2/2/24

1. What is the status of the District's Sinking Fund?

Answer: Currently, the District's Sinking Fund holds a balance of \$755,323.78. As of January 26, 2024, the District collected \$211,857.73 from its Sinking Fund tax levy. The District spent \$144,917.46 in 2023 to address HVAC repairs and maintenance, roof repairs, flooring repairs, and other miscellaneous repairs. In 2024, the District spent \$35,015.42 to address plumbing repairs, window repairs, HVAC repairs, and other miscellaneous repairs. The Sinking Fund is considered the District's "emergency fund" for immediate repairs; it has very limited and specific usage requirements under Michigan law. For example, sinking funds cannot be used for furnishing or equipping school buildings. Conversely, bond proceeds cannot be used for repairs.

2. In summary, what would be the average anticipated annual energy cost for the District for the newly created areas (AMS/OP connector and multi-purpose building), if the bond passes?

Answer: If the bond passes, the District's total energy costs would likely decrease due to the rooftop solar array that would be installed on the multi-purpose building. The gas costs would be expected to increase by \$28,000 over the annual average, but electric costs would be expected to decrease by \$95,227 over the annual average.

3. There have been several questions asked about what exactly would be built inside of the multi-purpose building (field house). For example, would a new band room be included?

Answer: If the bond passes, the specific details for these facilities would be determined through coordination between design experts, District staff, such as the superintendent, band director, and the maintenance director, and community input. The Preliminary Qualification for Bonds Application includes a line item for an addition to the band room.

4. Who will manage and decide what events happen in the multi-purpose building?

Answer: If the bond passes and the multi-purpose building is constructed, the District intends to hire a facility manager, who would be hired in compliance with District hiring procedures. Bond proceeds are not permitted to be spent on employee salaries, and accordingly, the facility manager's salary would be paid through the District's General Fund. All building usage would be required to abide by the District's building use process already established for current facilities.

5. Why does the bond proposal envision connecting the multi-purpose building to the high school, given the security concerns?

Answer: The proposed connection between the buildings has not yet been finalized, as final design decisions would be made during the design phase. Safety would remain as the District's priority.

6) How have French Associates (Architect) and Roncelli (Construction Manager) prepared themselves to take on a school bond project, if passed? What can the community expect to see within six months if the bond passes?

Answer: French Associates (FA) brings over 52 years of K-12 experience to Almont. FA has designed or planned over \$3.2 billion worth of educational facilities across the state since the year 2000. In addition, FA was the original architect for all of the current Almont facilities.

Roncelli manages approximately \$350 million in annual construction projects in the industrial, healthcare, private schools, and higher education industries. Roncelli would utilize a project team that has managed previous bond projects for other school districts.

If this bond were passed, FA and Roncelli would work together with the District to establish a design and implementation schedule for all of the proposed projects. FA would also work with the District to begin the programming and design phases for each of the building additions. The design phase of the Series 1 projects would be anticipated to begin within six months of bond passage.

7) What experience do Roncelli and French have with school solar projects?

Answer: French Associates (FA) has been involved in several recent K-12 projects that included solar panels in their scope, but they have been fairly limited in scope. FA's K 12 engineering consultants that would be utilized on the District's projects also have experience with solar installations.

Although Roncelli doesn't have specific experience with school solar projects, they are working on a \$110 million solar field project for DTE.

8) How would Roncelli and French Associates guarantee the least amount of disruption for our students and staff during construction if the bond passes?

Answer: French Associates (FA) has worked on many major building projects involving additions and renovations while maintaining occupancy. In past projects, FA has been able to minimize disruptions to building operations during construction through careful planning, attention to safety, phasing, and compliance with state codes.

Roncelli would meet with District administrators and staff to create safety plans and logistic plans to ensure minimal interference with school operations. Roncelli has a safety team dedicated to creating safety plans for their work.

9) Why does the proposed work list include items that are not at the end of their life cycle?

Answer: During the bond planning process, the District included all possible equipment replacements with a life cycle ending within the next 20-25 years. In addition, the advancement of technology would be a factor for equipment purchases, as there could be a cost savings based on efficiency of operation for new equipment.

10) Will there be another Town Hall event?

Answer: Yes, the second Town Hall event is scheduled for Monday, February 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the AHS Auditorium.

****Friendly Reminders****

You can check your voter registration any time at the Secretary of State voter information center at michigan.gov/vote. You can register to vote online with a few short questions or go into your county clerk's office or local Secretary of State office. Voters in Michigan can register in person to vote up to and on Election Day, including during the early voting period.

You can find your polling location by visiting michigan.gov/vote and clicking on "Finding Your Polling Place".

Election Day is February 27, 2024.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Alternatively, voters can vote early or vote absentee.