

Lockport Elementary School District 91

808 Adams Street

Lockport, Illinois 60441

Donna J. Gray, Superintendent

www.d91.net

"Education is our connection to the future"

June 14, 2017

Dear District #91 Parents/Guardians:

Each month, I am happy to share bulleted points to keep you in the loop regarding the board of education meeting. This month, I am reaching out with more detailed information about a bond issue the board has been considering since March 2017. The members have been weighing the pros and cons of refunding the existing 2007 bonds and/or issuing a small amount of additional debt in order to address some needed capital projects in both of the district buildings. After careful deliberation, at last Tuesday's Board of Education meeting on June 13, 2017, the Board of Education approved a resolution declaring their intent for the District to issue \$400,000 Working Cash Fund Bonds. The process of refunding the bonds is anticipated to result in lower annual payments toward debt service for the taxpayer through 2026. For fiscal years 2027 through 2032, the payment is anticipated to remain the same as it is today. Essentially, the District is using the "equity" it will gain through refunding of the 2007 bonds, to generate dollars for capital projects, while extending our bond payment for three years.

The proceeds of the bond issuance will be used to address needed capital projects in both buildings. Specifically, to address the following needs:

- Replacement of the fourteen (14) rooftop units at Kelvin Grove. These units provide air conditioning and heat in each of the rooms in the middle school hallway and are currently two (2) years past their life expectancy.
- Replacement of the steam traps in the fourth and fifth-grade hallway at Kelvin Grove to balance the temperature in that hallway and conserve energy.
- Replacement of all four entrance doors at Milne Grove, which are deteriorating, causing frequent maintenance issues. Addressing this need now ensures that we maintain a safe and secure environment going forward.

Additionally, if the budget allows, the following projects would be included:

- Replacement of the seventeen (17) year old rooftop condensing units in the Kelvin Grove pod to ensure continued cooling in the area.
- Replacement of the forty-eight (48) year old air handling unit in the Milne Grove gymnasium, to ensure proper heating in the winter.

Milne Grove School

565 East 7th Street

Mrs. Jaime Koziol, Principal

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Kelvin Grove School

808 Adams Street

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In 2015, Newman Architecture conducted a Future Facility Expense Forecast Study as well as our Health Life Safety Survey on behalf of Lockport District 91; the former was a proactive measure taken by the board and the latter is state required every ten years. These reports helped the board set clear priorities regarding the capital enhancements that are necessary to ensure the continuance of a safe learning environment. Over the past two years, the board has been seeking funding avenues to accomplish the work while maintaining (and expanding) educational programs. If the District does not refund and issue bonds, it will not be able to afford to address these capital projects.

The financial outlook for schools in the state of Illinois is grim. Our district has suffered proration and missed/delayed payments from the state for nearly a decade and the current budget stalemate in Springfield provides no assurance that this problematic trend will soon be rectified. It is projected that by the end of the current fiscal year (June 30), the State will owe the District approximately \$300,000. In addition, without a State budget, we cannot be sure that we will receive the money owed to us or the amount of FY18 funding next fiscal year. Despite these issues, we have worked hard to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Every year since 2007, we have earned "Recognition" status in Illinois State Board of Education's Financial Profile Rating System. A profile score is issued to every district in the state and is determined by an analysis of many fiscal health components; ours is the highest rating.

Thank you for entrusting me to lead the education of your children; the faculty, staff, board, and I are committed to ensuring each child has a safe and comfortable environment in which to thrive in District 91.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Donna Gray
Superintendent

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