

**MCBAIN RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND PROPOSAL
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Why do we need a bond?

A local millage is important to our school district because the funds support our bus fleet, technology and facilities.

What will the money be used for?

The money from the bond proceeds will be used to support bus purchases, technology (1:1 computer program), student safety and facility upgrades. (Please see www.mcbain.org for more specific information)

How much is the bond?

\$14.29 Million

What is the millage rate requested?

1.4 mills above the current millage rate (this results in a level of 3.32 mills).

How much will it cost me?

For an owner of a \$100,000 valued home (\$50,000 taxable value) the additional cost is \$70/year or 19 cents/day.

What is our current millage rate?

1.92 mills

How does our current millage rate compare?

We have the lowest millage rate in the region with the next closest being 3.26. The regional average is 4.1 mills and the State average is 5.25.

How many years is the bond term?

The bond is a 21-year term.

Why use a 21-year bond on computers that don't last that long?

The 21-year term will be used to support projects that will last much longer than 21 years, for example, roofs, boilers, flooring, ceiling, air handlers, parking lots and other building structural improvements. The 21-year bond is a "3 series" bond. What this means is that the first series will be used to pay for the bulk of the student safety and building upgrades. The first series will also pay for 6 buses (1 per year) and a four-year purchase of computers. Phase two and three bonds are not sold until 2023 and 2026 respectively. These two phases are only to support the purchase of additional buses and technology. By doing a "3 series" bond it helps to reduce the amount of interest to be paid.

Why can't you just budget these projects?

In 1994, school funding changed dramatically. Due to past reductions in student funding, increased cost in health insurance, retirement and the cost to educate a student, the dollars are simply not available to support tech, buses and facilities appropriately. Our school district is a base funded district which means we receive the lowest funding amount per pupil possible.

What will happen if the bond fails?

Our district budget is dedicated to approximately 85% for salary and benefits. Therefore, if the bond does not pass, the technology, buses and facility upgrades would need to come from our current budget and the results could be:

- Higher class sizes
- Less staff
- Less competitive teacher and support staff salaries
- Lower employee retention
- Less reading specialists/support
- Less resources for the Arts, Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities

Can the bond funds be used for salary and benefits?

No

Does this bond help build the preschool?

No. The construction of the preschool was made possible by an independent donation and is separate from the bond projects.

How is this bond proposal different from the failed May 2018 proposal?

There are three main differences in this current bond proposal:

- Technology and buses would be supported for 10 years, where in May of 2018 it was 4.
- The relocation of the baseball field to create a large parking lot is not on the current bond proposal
- More dollars are put into student safety and facility upgrades in the current proposal

How old is the track? Roofs? Flooring? Middle School Gym Floor?

Track = 28 years old

Roofs = Those to be replaced are 25 years old

Flooring = The flooring to be replaced is at least 20 years old

Middle School Gym Floor = 60 years old

Why do we need secure entrances?

At the advice of security experts, insurance specialists and law enforcement, we have had to take a dedicated look at our entrances. We need to have specific entrances to monitor traffic effectively, we currently do not. If the bond proposal is approved, we would have an updated and secure entrance at the elementary and middle school. The high school would have a more extensive addition put on facing M 66 at the South entrance (please see the website for a rendering).

Why do we need Apple computers?

The decision was made to go with Apple Computers for our 1:1 program after looking at multiple different device options. Considering that we wanted to keep everyone on the same platform, we narrowed down our options to windows laptops or MacBook's. After looking at the resale value for Mac along with the longevity/build quality that MacBooks have compared to windows, we decided to go with MacBooks/Apple devices for staff and students. The program has been widely successful! Device breakage is around 1% a year, which is outstanding considering that students from age 5-18 have a device and use it every day. With the addition of selling our computers back after 4 years, we can get our device cost within a \$100 of a Chromebook.

My children attend NMCS, why should we support this bond?

McBain Schools and NMCS continue to collaborate in multiple areas:

- Transport NMC students to/from school
- Baseball Team Co-op
- School Safety Cooperation
- Community Library
- Provide HS student Transportation to CTC
- Use of Athletic Track for Events
- We all have McBain Pride

The ballot indicates that bond proceeds cannot be used for repairs, what does that mean?

Repairs that could not be completed with bond proceeds are, for example, painting an existing wall, cleaning existing floors, sanding of gym floors or repair of existing classroom equipment.

Taxpayers should know that all of the bond items indicated on our district website have been approved as projects that can be completed with bond dollars. The legal use of the word repairs with respect to a bond does get confusing.

Where do I vote?

You can vote at your assigned Township Hall or wherever the Township has its assigned location.

When do I vote?

November 5 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Where do I get more bond proposal information?

Please go to www.mcbain.org