

What is the time period for the tax increase?

The bond issue part of the issue is 2.8 mills and is for 30 years. This part is to repay the \$17.9 million and is similar to a home loan, only on a bigger scale. The other part of the issue is a 0.5 Mill tax levy. This part is required by the State and helps cover the cost of improvements and maintenance that will be necessary over the life of the building. This small part is ongoing.

What Happens if the Prime Interest rate increases?

Our Treasurer, Joel Parker, has already planned for this possibility. Our bond financier has indicated that there is room to modify the loan terms to absorb minor inflationary increases. This assumes the bond levy is passed in 2018. The longer we wait to finance, the risk of the Federal Reserve Board changing the Prime Interest Rate (to control inflation) the greater the risk that the amount needed for a building project could grow increases. Please remember, that future interest rates cannot be predicted.

If we do not build the Elementary building, what happens to the high school credit we have?

That is a difficult question to answer. Garmann-Miller is not aware of any school system stopping midway through a project, so there is no way to know for sure what the State would do. However, the way the law is written, seems to indicate that to receive the high school credit, we have to complete a portion of the master plan as defined by the Ohio Facilities Commission recommendations. The belief is that if we don't proceed with the project, we will not get any money back from the State.

Why will the building be 2 stories?

There are many reasons why, cost saving, energy efficiency and best use of available space. For example, we would require much more roof to cover the building if it was one 1 story but since it is 2 stories, one roof covers two parts.

Will the middle school be remodeled or replaced next?

There are no plans, at this time, to ask for money to upgrade the Middle School. Please note, that a major investment was made in that building to upgrade the HVAC system. The parking lot has also been modified to improve school drop-off and pick-up. The money utilized was from our existing permanent Improvement account.

Are you taking down the big tree behind the school?

This is a good question, we hope not as it does provide shade for youth sports. It will be tested to see if it is healthy but, until we get the bond levy approved and can finalize all planning, we won't know for sure.

What happens to students during the construction phase?

There will be some changes throughout the project but the new building will go up behind the current building and construction should not interfere with building activities. Once the levy is approved, we can start detailed planning to verify any school impacts.

What kind of new safety features will be included in the building?

At this point only the square footage, locally funded initiatives and placement on site have been planned. When the bond issue is passed, then design work can commence. The staff and community will have an opportunity for input at that time. This is different from how the high school project worked.

When the 5th grade returns to the elementary, will they start at the same time as the K through 4th grade, 9:00 am?

The 5th graders will start at the later elementary time. This will require adding more and updating bus routes to accommodate more children riding at the later time. This may also eliminate some routes during the High School/Middle School routes.

Do new school buildings help improve test scores?

We want to give our teachers the best tools in their chest to be able to serve all students. A new school building will make several improvements, including but not limited to, improving the health of the school environment, improve classroom comfort, improve morale, reduce absenteeism, reduce teacher turnover...all of which can lead to improved test scores. Research confirms that school conditions matter when it comes to student achievement. The best tools come with a new building. A new building also gives our community the opportunity to bring \$18.1 million in taxes BACK to Elida. Those are all of our taxes and isn't it better to bring them back to Elida than sending them to another community?

How much will this tax cost me?

See the levy calculator towards the bottom of the website. Use the value of your home as provided by the Allen County Auditor. There is a link to the Auditor's website if you are unsure of your home's value.

Why don't we wait on a better plan?

We built our high school on our own, so we could lock-in our State reimbursement share. We are receiving approximately \$7.5 million from that project. If we wait the project will only cost more, due to inflation, and only increase what we will have to pay for the project. Now is the time!!

Why does the tax have to be on our property? Why not use an income tax?

Our community has overwhelmingly said NO to income taxes twice before, November 2003 63% said NO and November of 2012 60% said NO

What happened or is happening to the Gomer Building?

We are currently in the process of accepting bids on the Abatement and Demolition of the Gomer Building? A planned sewer project in Gomer will require us to tap into the sewer if the building is still standing. This would be a wasteful use of what could be in excess of \$100,000 to the district.

What are benefits of a new building?

Improved infrastructure, increased learning spaces, flexible learning spaces, PreK – 5th grade all together in age appropriate spaces, elimination of all district modulars for classrooms, improved technology, and better security are just a few.