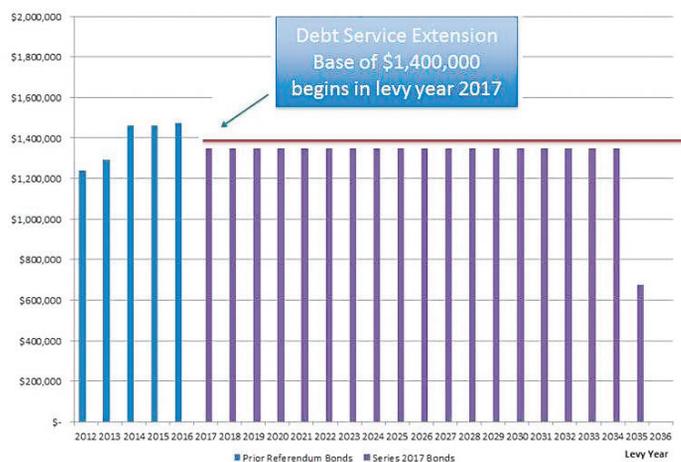


# District 34 Engages the Community in Master Facility Planning

Antioch School District 34 has been engaging the community in its master facility planning process. Schools are the heart of a community and contribute to home values. As part of District 34's continuous improvement efforts, school facilities are being evaluated to determine how best to improve the quality of learning spaces for students. There are several objectives that serve as desirable outcomes of the master facility planning process, which can be categorized into four specific areas:

1. **Shift to a K-5 Grade Level Configuration** - In the current District 34 configuration, students attend three different schools during their K-8 school experience. Hillcrest Elementary School serves as the Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and first grade center. Students then attend one of three elementary schools that serve a grade 2-5 population (Oakland, W.C. Petty, and Antioch Elementary School). All students attend Antioch Upper Grade School (AUGS) for their remaining sixth through eighth grade years. District 34 is planning to change the configuration to a K-5 structure, which will reduce the number of required school transitions. The proposed configuration also creates neighborhood schools and allows for more efficient bussing.
2. **Eliminate Portable/Mobile Classrooms** - Over the years, District 34 has acquired 16 portable classrooms to accommodate growing student populations. These learning spaces are not ideal and require students and staff to travel out of doors to access the main buildings. Not only will the elimination of portable classrooms enhance student and staff safety and security, but it will also provide greater aesthetic value on our school campuses.
3. **Create Greater Equity of Learning Spaces Across all Schools** - There is a wide range of quality of learning spaces as a result of the age of school buildings ranging from 15 years old to 90 years old. Some schools have central air conditioning while others do not. Some schools have separate spaces for the gymnasium and cafeteria while other schools have a combined gymnasium/cafeteria space. There is also a wide range of fluctuation in the size of the classroom space, quality of lighting, room temperature, and other variables that impact student learning. In the master facility planning process, District 34 hopes to increase the equity of learning spaces across the District.

4. **Capitalize on the Timing of Retirement of Debt Obligations** - District 34 has the opportunity to replace existing debt that is due to retire in 2017. The District 34 community has the ability to replace current debt payments through the successful passing of a referendum in April, 2017, without increasing the amount of annual property taxes paid by a homeowner for the District's bond and interest payments. View the illustration below, which demonstrates how annual payments would be replaced by lower payments.



To ensure transparency in the master facility planning process, several community engagement forums are planned to seek input from the community. The first community engagement meeting was held on May 23, 2016, and included more than 160 participants. Two more sessions are scheduled for the fall of 2016 to continue to seek feedback and input as the master facility planning process unfolds.



In addition, a master facility planning steering committee has been organized to provide additional oversight and input into the process. The steering committee is made up of parents, staff, Board of Education members, government representatives, residents, and community members. All information related to the master facility planning process is available on the District website or by scanning the QR code. The website will be used to provide public access to any and all information that is being considered in the master facility planning process.



Although early in planning stages, initial thoughts include renovations primarily at W.C. Petty Elementary and Oakland Elementary schools. All school facilities will be reviewed to determine what other renovations are necessary. Concepts being explored are identified in the following draft key priority statements:

- Implement learning technology in classrooms and other learning spaces
- Modify schools to more effectively embrace and support 21st Century teaching and learning
- Enhance learning environments (indoor air quality, temperature, humidity, and acoustics)
- Create separate spaces for physical education, student dining, and other large group activities
- Remove mobile classrooms and provide permanent space for art, music, and science programs
- Re-align libraries into Library Media Centers
- Provide dedicated small group spaces to address the unique educational needs of students and offer collaborative learning opportunities

In order to fund the projects associated with the master facility plan, the District will ask voters to approve a Debt Service Extension Base (DSEB) in the April, 2017 election. This would generate an estimated \$18.8 million in bond proceeds without increasing the current amount of annual property taxes paid by a homeowner for the District's bond and interest payments, as previous debt will be retired. The District also intends to contribute an estimated \$4.5 million out of its reserve funds toward projects associated with the master facility plan. The estimated amount of funds for construction projects would total \$23.3 million.

Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, the District intends to implement a K-5 configuration. If the referendum passes, the District intends to operate three K-5 elementary schools (Hillcrest, W.C. Petty, and Oakland). Antioch Elementary School would be repurposed and remain as a District asset. Possible uses for the facility include converting the school to an early childhood attendance center; utilizing the space as a training and professional development center; using the facility for clerical and office space; leasing the space to other entities; or a combination of any of the aforementioned uses. In the event the referendum does not pass, the District would operate four K-5 elementary schools, with Antioch Elementary School serving as a K-5 school.

Antioch School District 34 encourages the community to participate in the master facility planning process. The next community engagement forums are scheduled for September and November, 2016. Postcard reminders will be sent to all Antioch School District 34 residents several weeks before the events. We look forward to your participation.

