

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

By, Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

Reminder to Vote on November 3, 2015

Our school district has the building and site (sinking fund) request on the ballot for a vote by our community residents on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Please be sure to add this date to your calendar and exercise your right to vote.

As a reminder, the request is for 1 mill for 10 years. It will cost the average Charlotte property owner (taxable value of \$49,000) approximately \$4.00 dollars per month, or about \$49.00 per year. The request, if supported by our community, will generate approximately \$535,000 annually and provide maintenance and repair revenue to care for the 800,000 square feet of district owned buildings and 120 acres of our sites.

The proposal is a pro-active approach our Board of Education has taken, to protect the investments the community has supported in the past. The Board feels the proposal is reasonable and affordable for our community to ensure quality school district facilities. I appreciate the vision and commitment the Board has for our district and community. This is exactly what residents should expect from their elected officials, which is assessment of needs, being proactive by developing a long term plan with costs attached, fully disclosing all of the information in an open and transparent manner (CPS website and Facebook) and ultimately requesting a vote of the community. Your Board of Education has done just what you would expect as elected representatives of the community in seeking this millage.

On the flip side, if we are not proactive, we will put our school district in the position to be reactive in the care of the facilities and grounds maintenance. This money will be taken out of the General Fund and thus taken away from the classroom. Simply, our current funding structure from the State of Michigan does not allow school districts to adequately fund the significant building and grounds projects that are necessary to maintain a high quality learning environment for our students.

My request for our community voters is simple; please be completely informed about the millage request. All of the information is on our website and has been for months. Read and review the information at your convenience, especially the facility audit which identifies infrastructure equipment and components across the district.

Our Board knows and understands that this proposal is asking residents to support a tax increase. The increase is directly tied and required to be expended on maintaining the school facilities, which are community assets. The investment you make in your school district can directly correlate back to an investment in your own property and assets.

If we, together, do not make the investments in our school district, then who will?

Requesting this millage is the right, proactive thing to do for our district and the community. The vote is yours, please exercise your right to vote on November 3, 2015.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!