

## **\$41 million zero tax rate increase bond issue set for fall**

*Funds would enable completion of projects on Pattonville's new facilities plan*

The Pattonville Board of Education on June 22, 2010 approved a new facilities plan for the district and decided to ask voters to approve a \$41 million zero tax rate increase bond issue during the Nov. 2, 2010 election to fund [projects in the plan](#). The [new facilities plan](#) addresses issues related to maintenance, repairs, safety and fitness and includes projects at every school in the district.

Nearly all of Pattonville's schools are between 40 to 50 years old and require ongoing repairs, updates and improvements. For this reason, Pattonville updates its facilities master plan every four to five years. The district has a long tradition of involving parents, staff and community members in developing these plans. The district worked with staff and parents at each school to develop a preliminary plan. Feedback on the draft plan was gathered through the Pattonville Legacy Program. This program - which was guided by a facilitating team of parents, staff and community members - gave Pattonville residents a chance to review the proposed facilities plan and provide their feedback before it went to the Board of Education for approval. During the month of April, representatives of the Legacy program attended 45 different events in the schools and community to share information and gather feedback, engaging an estimated 4,000 individuals in the process. Information and feedback options were also provided on the district's Web site and through the district's "Pattonville Highlights" newsletter, which is mailed to every home in Pattonville.

The [Legacy Facilitating Team](#) presented [its findings to the Board of Education on June 8](#). Team members said they received positive feedback from the vast majority of participants at events they attended, and the majority of written responses were also positive. There was a high level of support for items related to maintenance, repairs and safety, and residents liked the fact that a new facilities plan would not require an increase in the district's tax levy. Projects related to fitness and student involvement were well received. Several comments were made about the pool, with more supporting the construction of a pool than opposed. The team voted unanimously to support Pattonville moving forward with the facilities plan as outlined in the draft document and supported funding the plan through the use of a zero tax rate increase bond issue.

Pattonville can issue \$41 million in bonds to pay for items in the new facilities plan without increasing the debt service tax rate residents pay. By law, the debt service tax rate cannot be used to fund the day-to-day operations of the district, including items such as salaries, textbooks and transportation. It can only be used for the sole purpose of paying off bond issues used for large-scale capital

projects. Pattonville's debt service levy of 49 cents has been unchanged in more than 10 years.

Pattonville's new facilities plan addresses three areas:

- **Ongoing maintenance and repair needs of aging schools**, including heating and cooling equipment replacements, new windows and doors, roof repairs, lighting replacements, new ceiling tiles and asphalt repairs;
- **Enhancing school safety and security**, which includes replacing fire and intrusion alarm systems at all schools, installing additional security cameras, fencing some playgrounds and renovating nurses' offices; and
- **Providing facilities to support lifetime fitness and student involvement**; this includes tracks at the middle schools and a new stadium, field and pool at Pattonville High School.

For more information and a complete building-by-building list of what was approved for each school in the facilities plan, visit the Pattonville Legacy Web site at [legacy.psdr3.org](http://legacy.psdr3.org).

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