

## Bond Levy - Phase II

The Riverside Local Schools Board of Education voted to place a 5.37-mill Bond Levy on the May 3 ballot during its January 27 Board of Education meeting. If the bond levy is approved by voters, the **District will construct a new 6-12 campus, consisting of a 6-8 Middle School, and a 9-12 High School, on the current Riverside Campus property.**

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If the bond levy is approved by voters, the **District will construct a new 6-12 campus, consisting of a 6-8 Middle School, and a 9-12 High School, on the current Riverside Campus property.** An estimated timeline would have the new Campus ready to open to staff and students by August of 2026.

The proposed bond levy is a result of the District's Facilities Plan that originated in 2014. At the time, the District formed a Facilities Committee – consisting of community members, parents, board members, administrators and staff – to solve issues of enrollment and worsening conditions of the facilities within the District. All District facilities were assessed by the Ohio Schools Facilities Construction Commission (free of charge) and their recommendation in both 2008 and 2013 was to replace all of the school buildings in the District due to poor conditions and infrastructure, with the exception of LaMuth Middle School.

In November of 2016, the Riverside community passed a 1.92-mill bond levy (Phase I) that raised \$38.5 million to construct two larger elementary schools while closing Hadden, Hale, Leroy and Madison Avenue elementary schools, which were a combined 346 years-old. Hadden, Hale and Leroy elementary properties were then sold to various entities for a combined \$660,000. Madison Avenue was demolished and replaced by Riverview Elementary, which opened in September of 2019. Parkside Elementary was built at 12428 Concord-Hambden Road in Concord Township, and also opened in September of 2019.

Since its creation, The District's Facilities Plan had always called for Phase II, which would not only construct a new 6-12 campus at the current Riverside

Campus property, but would also segue into a Phase III part of the plan, which would repurpose LaMuth Middle School into an elementary school that requires **no additional funding from taxpayers**. The District would then close Melridge Elementary and/or Buckeye Elementary depending on enrollment at the time.

If approved, the Bond Levy for Phase II would cost tax payers \$15.66 per month per \$100,000 valuation.

**Funds from a Bond Levy cannot be used for salaries or operational costs.**

*Posted Friday, January 28, 2022*