



Lower Cape May Regional News

Published by the Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education

Winter 2021-2022

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT



Dear LCMR Community Member:

The Lower Cape May Regional School District will be asking its district residents to participate in a \$13,900,000 bond referendum vote on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, to fully air condition all of its school buildings, upgrade existing HVAC systems, and to replace the roof at the middle school. One of the lessons learned during the current health crisis was the importance of a modern, well equipped HVAC system in our schools to support healthy air quality and climate control features which will provide an environment conducive to learning for our students.

As district voters consider this referendum there are several key points I would encourage you to keep in mind:

1. The school district will use this bond referendum to replace existing debt service which is set to expire this year. As such, by simply replacing existing debt service, there will be NO INCREASE IN TAXES TO OUR RESIDENTS AS A RESULT OF THIS PROJECT.
2. The purpose of this project is to improve our facilities to support healthy air quality and climate control in our buildings for all of our students and staff who learn and work in our facilities each day.
3. The district recently received an influx of Federal ESSER Funds designed to aid school districts in their efforts to provide a healthy environment to combat the circumstances brought about by the pandemic. Our district will apply over \$1.7 million dollars of ESSER funds to offset the cost of this project.
4. The LCMR school district qualifies for the New Jersey State Debt Service Aid program which will provide 40% of the cost of this project further reducing the financial burden to the district.

This entire edition of our district newsletter is devoted to providing you detailed information about the bond referendum and the project it will finance. My intention is to provide all district residents with the facts of this initiative to assist in your consideration of support for this referendum. If you have specific questions or concerns about this project, feel free to email those directly to me at castelluccij@lcmrschools.com.

As always, thank you for your continued interest and support of our school district. Our collective efforts and community partnerships are a proven recipe that fosters the quality of education we provide to the young people of our community.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Castellucci
Superintendent

In This Edition



<i>Fast Facts</i>	<i>Page 2</i>
<i>At A Glance Project Lists</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Town Hall Link</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>LCMR/RMT Events</i>	<i>Page 4</i>



What

A special Referendum Question to authorize the District to raise funds through the sale of bonds to finance the **'Building Excellence'** facilities reinvestment initiative is planned for Tuesday, **January 25, 2022**.

The scope of the \$13.9 million referendum includes necessary improvements to the Middle School and the High School.

These projects include replacement of the Middle School roof, and HVAC upgrades and improvements. The District will also apply ESSER and Federal ARP funds for the HVAC upgrades and improvements thus reducing the cost to the taxpayer.

State Aid Now Available

Because of the planning by the Board of Education and its professional advisors, the District is in a position to take advantage of the state's **Debt Service Aid** program.

The State of New Jersey will pay approximately 40% of the cost of all of these projects as part of the aid program. Under the Debt Service Aid program, the District initially funds the entire cost of the projects and the state reimburses the District on an annual basis for the approved projects.

How Much

The all-inclusive cost estimates for the Referendum are:

Middle School	\$7,792,616
High School	\$6,107,384
TOTAL	\$13,900,000

State Share (40%)	\$5,560,000
Local Share	\$8,340,000

The Referendum amount on which we will vote, is the Total Cost of \$13,900,000. The **\$5,560,000** will come back to the District as reimbursement on an annual basis.

*** State Share-All Projects *
Reimbursement to the District
40 cents for every dollar**

Impact on Your Taxes

The District's Financial Advisors have made a preliminary analysis of the costs of the \$13.9 M bonds, minus the Debt Service Aid, over 20 years.

The current estimate for the average **annual** local tax to **actually decrease** over the 20 year loan based on average assessed values in our communities is as follows:

Community	Average Assessed Value	Annual Tax Impact
Cape May City	\$654,179	\$43.46
Lower Twp.	\$232,161	\$24.50
West Cape May	\$466,017	\$49.05

Now is the time

The Board of Education is aware of the difficult economy with which everyone is learning to live, and we are aware that it has an impact on education.

The positive in this economic climate is that **interest rates are near historic lows** and we can take advantage of that now by supporting the district-wide Building Excellence program.

YES, YOUR VOTE COUNTS
Please Remember to Vote



**Tuesday
January 25, 2022
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

- VOTING PLACES -

Go to: www.lcmrschools.com
You can also visit the NJ Poll Place Search on line at
[https://voter.njsvrs.com/
PublicAccess/jsp/PollPlace/
PollPlaceSearch.jsp](https://voter.njsvrs.com/PublicAccess/jsp/PollPlace/PollPlaceSearch.jsp)

More Information

For detailed information visit us at <http://lcmrschooldistrict.com> and look for the **Referendum page**.

Email questions or comments to Joseph Castellucci at castelluccij@lcmrschools.com

TOTAL DEBT COMPARISON			SAVINGS
Community	Debt BEFORE Referendum	Debt AFTER Referendum	BEFORE VS. AFTER
City of Cape May	\$74.14	\$74.01	(.13)
Lower Township	\$41.78	\$41.72	(.06)
Borough West Cape May	\$83.68	\$83.53	(.15)

There are **Tax Impact Calculators** on the District website with which you can input your specific property's Assessed Value and obtain your specific estimated annual tax impact ... *there is no need to calculate from averages.*



At-a-Glance Projects List

Richard Teitelman Middle School

Exterior Renovations

Roof Replacement - Tear-Off to Deck, New Insulation, Drains, Perimeter Metal Panels, etc.

**Cost
Estimate**

**Local
Share**

\$3,276,000

\$1,965,600

Building Systems

HVAC Construction

Rooftop Unit Replacement - Kitchen, Media Center, Science, Offices, etc.

\$920,400

\$552,240

New Rooftop Units for New A/C - Gym & Locker Rooms

\$643,500

\$386,100

Classroom Unit Ventilator Split Systems for New A/C

\$2,096,016

\$1,257,610

Exhaust Fans - Gravity Vent

\$18,200

\$10,920

Exhaust Fans - Exhaust Fan

\$269,100

\$161,460

Electrical Construction

Electrical Infrastructure

\$221,000

\$132,600

Electrical Feeders and Panels

\$348,400

\$209,040

MS Sub-total

\$7,792,616

\$4,675,570

Lower Cape May High School

Building Systems

HVAC Construction

Rooftop Unit Replacement - Cafeteria, Art Rm, Wood Shops, Health, Culinary, Offices, etc.

\$908,700

\$545,220

New Rooftop Units - Gym and Boys / Girls Locker Rooms

\$856,830

\$514,098

Classroom Unit Ventilator Split Systems for New A/C

\$1,533,854

\$920,312

(Total Cost \$2,910,000 - \$1,730,112)

Chiller Replacement - Science Wing

\$1,146,600

\$687,960

Exhaust Fans - Gravity Vent

\$100,100

\$60,060

Exhaust Fans - Exhaust Fan

\$479,700

\$287,820

Electrical Construction

\$1,081,600

\$648,960

Electrical Infrastructure

HS Sub-total \$ 6,107,384

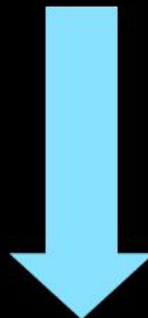
\$3,664,430

TOTAL \$ 13,900,000

\$ 8,340,000

LCMR District Bond Referendum Town Hall

**WATCH THE
RECORDING
ON YOUTUBE**



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XMijiNllsHI>

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Lower Cape May Regional School District

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RMT and LCMR Fall Events

