

# **ATTENTION PARENTS**

## ***Quick Facts*** ***School Bond Referendum***

This referendum deals with security and safety upgrades in all schools, site improvements and drainage issues and ADA compliance issues.

### **REFERENDUM INCLUDES:**

- *Security Vestibules in all Schools*
- *Video Surveillance Upgrades*
- *Card Access System for all Doors*
- *Visitor Management System*
- *Window Film*
- *Security Motion Detection System in all Schools*
- *Security/Panic System in all Schools*
- *Security Gates*
- *Telephones in NE/SE Classrooms*
- *Site Improvement and Drainage Issues at SE School*
- *NE School will become ADA Compliant*
- *Generator in HS*

### **FUNDING:**

- *State Debt Service Aid of \$1,185,926* – *only if the referendum is approved*
- *Cedar Grove portion is \$1,778,890*
- *Estimated Net tax impact is \$44/year for the average assessed home*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

**TUESDAY, October 2, 2018**  
**POLLS OPEN FROM 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

# **Cedar Grove Bond Referendum**

**Tuesday, October 2, 2018 - Polls Open 2:00 to 8:00 PM**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **1. What is the Bond Referendum for?**

The Bond Referendum addresses security and safety upgrades in all schools, site and drainage issue improvements and ADA compliance issues.

Security Vestibules – Area that will be built in each school to secure the entrance doors from having the public enter without approval.

Video Surveillance Upgrades – New cameras located inside and outside of each school. Fiber upgrades to all surveillance systems for easier and quicker use and system integration.

Card Access System – Wireless entry system to all doors in district. Doors will remain locked at all times.

Visitor Management System – System that will scan a driver's license and check against the National Sex Offender Registry and the District's Visitor Restricted list.

Window Film – Film placed on all first floor windows and doors to help deter the ability to break or shatter them.

Security Motion Detection System – Burglar Alarm systems placed in all schools.

Security/Panic System – Software installed to provide integrated, real time information on what is happening anywhere in each school. Used for daily incidents/crisis events by using a graphical floor plan of each school. Panic buttons, strobe lights, integrated electronic locks and cameras are all part of the system. Police will have access for real time surveillance during crisis situations.

Security Gates – Gates placed in schools during off hours to prevent access to parts of the building.

Telephones in Classrooms – Installation of new telephones into the classrooms of North End and South End Schools to have contact with main office.

Site Improvement and Drainage Issues – Upgrade walkway to South End School and correct drainage issues around school.

ADA Issues – Install handicap ramps throughout North End School so school is ADA compliant.

Generator – Install new generator at High School.

### **2. Why do we need a Bond Referendum?**

A Bond Referendum is required so that the voters of Cedar Grove can grant the Board of Education the ability to raise money through the sale of long-term tax-free bonds. Without this approval, the Board of Education cannot borrow money.

The total cost of the rehabilitation projects is far beyond the ability to pay for within the annual operating budget of the school district. In order to get the work done in a reasonable time, the district would borrow the authorized funds by selling bonds. The district would then pay back the borrowed money over a 10 year period.

**3. Is Cedar Grove eligible for State Debt Service Aid?**

Yes. The Board of Education submitted all the required architectural specifications to the state in May 2018. In July 2018, the state Office of School Facilities approved our request. Debt Service Aid will be 40% of the qualified school improvements projects. Voter approval of a bond referendum is required in order to be eligible to receive the Debt Service Aid from the State of New Jersey.

**4. How much will the bond referendum cost the tax payers?**

The total cost of the project for the district is \$2,964,816. Debt Service Aid from the State of New Jersey is anticipated to be \$1,185,926. The net amount of \$1,778,890 will require bonds to be issued by the Board of Education. Re-paying these bonds will work similar to a home mortgage loan. Assuming a 10 year loan pay-back at current rates of 3.0%, the cost to the average Cedar Grove home assessed at \$467,100 would be \$44 per year or \$3.66 per month.

School	State Share	Local Share	Total Cost
High School	\$456,284	\$684,427	\$1,140,711
Middle School	\$210,324	\$315,486	\$525,810
North End	\$342,843	\$514,265	\$857,108
South End	\$176,475	\$264,712	\$441,187
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,185,926</b>	<b>\$1,778,890</b>	<b>\$2,964,816</b>

**5. When would my taxes be impacted?**

There will be a phased in approach over time to the funding and execution of the projects. Bonds will be sold only after public bidding on the projects is complete and actual costs are known. Because of the lead time required for this, it is likely that the initial tax impact may not occur until the 2019–20 tax year.

**6. Why is now a good time to fund these projects?**

Cedar Grove anticipates Debt Service Aid from the State of New Jersey for the eligible projects, totaling \$1,185,926. This significantly reduces the cost of the project. These funds are available only if the referendum is approved.

**7. What work is planned for the High School?**

The High School will have a security vestibule constructed by the front entrance of the school, installation of a burglar alarm system throughout the school, window film installed on all first floor windows and doors, installation of new video cameras, network infrastructure upgrade, fiber installation, visitor entry system installed in the security vestibule, electronic access control system installed throughout the school, security gates, new police radio for the principal and vice principal, electric upgrades for video cameras and installation of a new generator.

**8. What work is planned for South End School?**

The South End School will have door locks installed in the security vestibule, installation of a burglar alarm system throughout the school, window film installed on all first floor windows and doors, installation of new video cameras, network infrastructure upgrade, fiber installation, visitor entry system installed in the security vestibule, electronic access control system installed throughout the school, security gates, new police radio for the principal, electric upgrades for video cameras, new card access system for all doors, new telephones installed in every classroom, site improvements on walkway to school and drainage issues upgraded around school.

**9. What work is planned for North End School?**

The North End School will have door locks installed in the security vestibule, installation of a burglar alarm system throughout the school, window film installed on all first floor windows and doors, installation of new video cameras, network infrastructure upgrade, fiber installation, visitor entry system installed in the security vestibule, electronic access control system installed throughout the school, security gates, new police radio for the principal, electric upgrades for video cameras, new card access system for all doors, new telephones installed in every classroom and new handicap ramps installed throughout school.

**10. What about Memorial Middle School?**

The Memorial Middle School will have a security vestibule constructed by the front entrance of the school, installation of a burglar alarm system throughout the school, window film installed on all first floor windows and doors, installation of new video cameras, network infrastructure upgrade, fiber installation, visitor entry system installed in the security vestibule, electronic access control system installed throughout the school, security gates, new police radio for the principal and vice principal, electric upgrades for video cameras and new card access system for all doors.

**11. What about the Leonard R. Parks (LRP) building?**

No work is planned for LRP.

**12. Will construction impact students?**

Minimal impact is expected. Most of the work will be scheduled when school is not in session. The large volume of work that needs to be completed will be during the summer of 2019.