



The Leadership at Kentwood Public Schools is committed to the careful management of public funds.

Kentwood Public Schools has a history of being good stewards of taxpayer funds. Examples of this include the use of in-house project managers, technology to eliminate printing costs and a district-wide energy management program.

Every project promised to the community in the 2003 bond proposal was completed as planned and 90% of the projects came in under budget.

Kentwood Public Schools seeks to save taxpayer funds. During the 2003 bond proposal, approximately \$6 million dollars was saved through refinancing over a 10 year period. This resulted in a savings on the mills levied to taxpayers.

Kentwood Families Value Education

Over 85% of Kentwood graduates attend college. Over \$3 million dollars in academic scholarships was awarded to Kentwood graduates in 2015.

Kentwood Public Schools
5820 Eastern Avenue, S.E.
Kentwood, MI 49508



An update from The Kentwood Public Schools on the KPS Bond Proposal

A letter to you, the voter

Dear Voter:

In November, our school district is asking the community to consider issuing ten year bonds for the ongoing capital maintenance of school facilities, including updating technology and replacing aging buses. The state assumes that district leaders will inform the community of the reasons for the request and respond to questions.



As you vote it is important that you know three things:

1. The proposed bond issue would be lower than the 4.6 mills rate that expired in 2014.

The proposed rate being requested is 4.25 mills. For a homeowner, the proposal would cost about 72 cents per week for every \$100,000 in market value of your home. This investment maintains critical dollars for our students as well as ensuring the long-term viability of our district.

2. School districts maintain their facilities in partnership with the community: While the general fund finances operational costs such as personnel, textbooks, and teaching supplies, bond funds provide the dollars that ensure facilities are maintained and repaired. If bond funds are not available, the costs for significant maintenance and building repairs come from the general fund and reduces the classroom dollars available or districts may not have the ability to maintain facilities or make significant repairs.

Building improvements have been deferred and technology and bus purchases delayed until they are absolutely essential and now, the district has reached a critical point. To remain competitive, three primary areas of improvement were identified:

- a. Updating technology
- b. Replacing aging buses to ensure student safety
- c. Building renovations focused on student safety (entryways) and longer term maintenance items (i.e., plumbing, heating/cooling, windows and doors).

3. Students succeed at Kentwood due to clear expectations, strong teacher/student relationships, and an unwavering effort by the staff aimed at excellence and academic achievement. Kentwood Public Schools has been recognized for academic excellence by Bridge Magazine with five of our elementary schools being Academic State Champs, more than any district in the state. Five of our other elementary schools were named as exceeding expectations. In addition, the success of our district speaks through our graduates. The East Kentwood High School Class of 2015 earned over \$3 million in academic scholarships to colleges and universities.

Students at Kentwood are prepared to learn and lead in a global society.

Our schools are a place of community involvement for all ages from grandparents to pre-schoolers. The request for bond funds reflects our desire to maintain this tradition. If you have any questions about the bond vote, please do not hesitate to contact me or our Superintendent Michael Zoerhoff at (616) 455-4400.

Sincerely,

Mimi Madden
Board of Education President
Kentwood Public Schools



Investing in our Children and Community