



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Draft Facility Plan Addresses Capacity Needs; School Board to Finalize SPLOST VI Projects

A draft facilities improvement plan presented to the Paulding County Board of Education at its regular meeting Tuesday calls for constructing a new middle school in the northeast quadrant of the county to provide capacity relief for North Paulding High School and McClure Middle School. The plan is the result of public input from five Community Conversations on enrollment growth and facility needs held earlier this year.

Contingent on public renewal of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) this November, the plan also provides for classroom additions at Moses Middle School, Roberts Elementary School, and Russom Elementary School to help relieve projected overcrowding at surrounding schools. Approximately \$16 million would be designated for renovations at district schools, and another \$6 million would be designated for safety and security upgrades district-wide. Just over 30 percent of projected SPLOST proceeds would be used to continue retiring bond debt that the district took on years ago to fund capital improvements at schools. SPLOST is a five-year, one-cent consumer tax that is “pay as you go” and requires no long-term debt. The current SPLOST V expires on March 31, 2021. The November 2019 referendum on SPLOST VI would allow the district to get a head start on much-needed projects if approved.

“At the January Community Conversations we asked our school community to help identify the best approaches to address capacity needs in the most critical areas of our county,” said Superintendent Dr. Brian Otott. “We believe this plan does exactly that by constructing what will become a new McClure Middle School. The current facility, meanwhile, will become an annex building for North Paulding High School. By building one middle school, we will provide critical capacity relief at two schools.”

At the January 2019 Community Conversations held at the district’s five high schools, stakeholders were asked to assess the current enrollment growth climate and discuss potential solutions for capacity needs. A recent enrollment study projects the student populations at North Paulding High School and McClure Middle to continue growing well beyond capacity over the next few years.





Stakeholders expressed a preference for addressing capacity needs by constructing new schools and/or adding classrooms to existing schools. Redistricting was the least-preferred method of dealing with capacity needs, with the caveat that a newly constructed school will require some redistricting to populate the new building.

Following a 10-year period of flat enrollment, the Paulding County School District is once again seeing growth, particularly in the northeast quadrant of the county. To assess the current growth patterns as well as the most efficient and effective utilization of classroom space at schools across the county, the school district engaged Education Planners, LLC, to conduct an enrollment and classroom utilization study in 2018, conduct five Community Conversations in January 2019, and to develop the draft SPLOST VI plan presented to the Board of Education on Tuesday.

In addition to a new McClure Middle School, new classroom additions, renovations and safety improvements, the SPLOST VI proposal includes a total of approximately \$7.5 million for technology upgrades, fine arts initiatives, physical education improvements and athletic facility upgrades. Another \$13.8 million will be set aside for future facility needs that may arise over the course of the five-year SPLOST program. If the SPLOST VI referendum is approved by voters in November, the school district could use advance short-term financing to begin construction of the new McClure Middle School as soon as possible. The aim would be to open the new school in either the 2022-2023 school year or the 2023-2024 school year.

The next step for the Board of Education will be to finalize the resolution that will be presented to voters on the November ballot. As the 2019-2020 school year kicks off in August, the school district will commence with a community awareness campaign to share details of the final plan with stakeholders leading up to the Nov. 5, 2019 referendum. More information about Planning For The Future of Paulding Schools can be found here: www.paulding.k12.ga.us/planningforthefuture



More information about SPLOST V can be found here: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/39250>

A draft summary of SPLOST VI revenue and planned expenditures can be found on the next page.

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Draft Proposal for SPLOST VI revenue and expenditures:

Paulding County School District	
Projected SPLOST Funds	
Projected SPLOST Receipts 60 months	\$113,250,182
Projected State Funding	\$ 9,949,992
Local Funds	\$ 8,200,000
Total Funding	\$131,400,174
Projected Expenditures	
Debt Service	
Series 2014 Debt Service	\$ 40,982,000
Construction Bond Debt Service	\$ 2,613,377
Priority 1 Projects	
New Middle School	\$ 32,500,000
Additions at Moses MS, Roberts ES, Russom ES	\$ 12,300,000
Renovations	\$ 15,782,797
Priority 2 Projects	
Safety and Security Upgrades	\$ 6,010,000
Tech Enhancements	\$ 2,500,000
Fine Arts Initiatives	\$ 1,560,000
Physical Education Improvements	\$ 1,420,000
Athletic Facility Improvements	\$ 1,900,000
Priority 3 Projects	
Future Facility Needs/Improvements	\$ 13,832,000
Total Expenditures:	\$131,400,174