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Holly Area Schools announces bond construction projects through 2022

Projects kick off this summer as part of voter-approved November 2018 bond proposal

HOLLY, Mich. — **Holly Area Schools** is proud to announce its bond project schedule through the summer of 2022, made possible by voter approval of the November 2018 bond proposal. The first phase of bond projects, scheduled for this summer, will focus on school safety and security in all district buildings. The projects will be funded through the recent sale of \$21.5 million of Series 1 Bonds and Series 2 Bonds to be sold in spring of 2021.

“I am proud to announce the launch of our bond construction projects, which will focus first and foremost on the safety of Holly Area Schools students, families and staff,” said **Scott Roper**, Holly Area Schools superintendent. “These projects are made possible by the generosity of our community, which has made a long-term investment in critical school safety and building enhancements, and technology upgrades that help prepare all Bronchos for the modern workforce.”

The largest-scale bond projects are scheduled for summer 2020 and summer 2021. Technology upgrades are scheduled for each construction season.

Summer 2019 projects include:

- Additional security cameras in all buildings
- Enhanced security door hardware in all buildings
- New Davisburg Elementary playground equipment
- Holly Middle School food service and kitchen upgrades
- Final phase of the new Holly High School boilers and chillers

For a full list of bond projects, please visit the 2019-2022 Bond Project Update Page at <https://bit.ly/2R8AaIM>.

Preparations are underway for subsequent construction phases, including meetings with architects, engineers, construction managers and facility consultants. The project team reviewed several factors in developing the project schedule, including:

- Safety and security priorities, based on community input

- Status of remaining/past-useful-life equipment, systems and materials
- Identifying buildings with largest-scale projects
- Maximizing on-site time of contractors
- Awareness of equity issues districtwide
- Available bond funds in each series

Planning for each of the large bond projects will begin more than one year before construction, including programming, schematic design, design development, final construction documents and state review. During the design phase of select projects, building principals will seek input from students, staff and parents.

Additionally, the district has announced the sale of its remaining 2008 and 2009 refunding bonds, saving \$434,154 in interest costs. The successful sale of our Series 1 Bonds and the refunding bonds can be attributed to our improved Standard & Poor's credit rating from "A-" to "A." The rating agency cited the district's stable finances, increased reserves and moderate debt burden in the upgraded credit rating. This news, along with HAS recently being named one of just 14 Most Fiscally Improved Districts by the State of Michigan, sets the district on firm financial footing well into the future.

"Voters have entrusted us with using taxpayer dollars wisely to provide our students with diverse learning opportunities that prepare them for 21st century careers, and we take that responsibility seriously before, during and after school," Roper said. "We will continue to be vigilant stewards of taxpayer dollars throughout bond construction and beyond."

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