

FAQ's

1. Q. Is there any state funding available for this project?

A. No, Marion Local completed an Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) state-funded project in 2002 and OFCC is still funding school districts that haven't been funded through this first round. There is no future plan for school districts that have already been served by OSFC in the past.

2. Q. Where can I find information about the proposed design and funding of this project?

A. The presentation from both community meetings (October 30th and March 6th) has been posted on our website under "District News". Many questions can be answered by going through the slide presentation.

3. Q. How will this project be funded?

A. This project will be funded three different ways. A combination of property (5.3 mills) that will generate \$12,315,000 and income tax (0.5%) that will generate \$9,000,000 will be voted on at the November ballot. These are 30 year terms on both the property and income tax. The Capital Improvement (fund that the Board of Education has set aside money over a period of time from the general fund) will pay approx. \$1,998,800 towards this project.

4. Q. How can I determine how much I as an individual will pay for this project based off my property and income?

A. Please follow the instructions in the supplemental handout found on our website under "District News, 2nd community Meeting". The handout contains information on how to use the tax estimator to find the financial impact according to your property. For the income tax portion take 0.5% ("half percent", not 50%) times your gross wages found on the W-2 Wages Box 1a (page1), Business Income (Schedule 1 Part 1 Line 3), Farm Income (Schedule 1 Part 1 Line 6), Earned Partnership Income (Schedule 1 Part 1 Line 5), or 1099 Income from Non-employee compensation (Schedule 1 Part 1 Line Z).

5. Q. What is included in the proposed facility?

A. 9 academic and special education classrooms, Agricultural Education complex suite (including two additional classrooms) and greenhouse, 2-court high school competition gymnasium (approx.. 2,000 seats), K-8 cafeteria and commons, 4 locker rooms (2 of which would be large enough to serve the football programs as well), and an administrative office suite.

6. Q. Who developed this proposed design and funding option?

A. Approximately 40 community members volunteered to serve on a Facilities Task Force committee that met 6 times from August through April. This group represented the community to offer insight to the Board of Education and Administration. Garmann Miller facilitated the process and assisted the Facilities Task Force to prioritize the desires of the community and to offer multiple revised designs and options for the Facilities Task Force committee to choose from.

7. Q. Why is this proposed building and funding option being offered?

A. The number one reason is the increase in enrollment that we are experiencing within our school district. Details of our projected growth can be found on the “handout” which was posted to our website under “District News, 2nd community meeting”.

8. Q. What is the rationale for choosing the combination funding model of property tax (5.3 mills), income tax (0.5%) and approx. \$2 million of general fund money?

A. The Facilities Task Force committee, Board of Education, and Administration have been collecting feedback on community member’s preference to fund this proposed project. The goal is to fund this project to fairly distribute the cost to our community residents. Through gathering input from the Facilities Task Force it was evident that a combination of property and income tax for a duration of 30 years and the Board of Education contributing approximately \$2,000,000 of Capital Improvement funds was the preferred model. After the completion of our community meeting on March 6th we received additional feedback about increasing the income tax portion from 0.25% to 0.5%. We were made aware that Mercer County is going through a reappraisal. Taking that into account, the Facilities Task Force committee, Board of Education, and Administration generally favor a 0.5% income tax versus a 0.25%.

9. Q. When will “Phase 2”, a complete high school building, be added to this new facility?

A. At this time, we can’t provide an exact answer to that question, but we have invested in the high school building by recently installing a new chiller and replacing corroded building structure floor joists in a certain area. Currently, we are planning to replace a large portion of the roof and fix miscellaneous plumbing issues this summer. This investment will help us extend the life of the building another 15-30 years until we are financially ready to add phase 2.

10. Q. Why are we not making the project a new 7-12 building and tearing down a portion of the high school now?

A. Our debt limitation is \$27 million and we would not be able to complete that large of a project and fall within our debt limit.

11. Q. How will we fix some of the priorities listed by the community that are not included in the scope of this project?

A. We are currently looking into options to provide more restrooms at the football field, improving the sound and lighting in the current high school gym for our drama productions, and renovating our existing district office into classrooms.

12. Q. Will nine classrooms be enough to house the number of students we are projecting?

A. Currently, we believe with the addition of these nine classrooms, our ability to renovate the district office into two additional classrooms, and having the option to renovate the kitchen and cafeteria into usable academic space, that this will be adequate. Please remember that we are projecting future enrollment to the best of our ability.

13. Q. Will Marion Local stop offering open enrollment to help reduce the number of students?

A. No, the Marion Local Board of Education and Administration is committed to continuing open enrollment. We have approximately 75 students who open enroll from adjacent districts throughout K-12. Since they are sprinkled throughout those grade levels, discontinuing open enrollment would not have any impact on lessening the number of teachers needed or classrooms needed for the future. Open enrollment has been very positive for our district and we value the families that made a decision to enroll their children.

14. Q. Will Marion Local displace the two preschool units that currently rent space from them to free up more needed classrooms?

A. No, these preschools provide a great service for the preschool aged children in our district. If they were displaced it would create a greater hardship on the families in our community from an educational, location, and financial standpoint. The students attending these two preschools are future Marion Local students and we value our relationship with not only these two preschools but also Daycare Discoveries in the Industrial Park.

15. Q. What is the difference between “earned income” and “unearned income” since this school income tax will only tax earned income?

A. Earned income is considered from work activities and is subject to the school income tax which includes: ***(please note that it will only be imposed on individuals that reside within the school district and not those that work within our school district and reside in another district.)***

- W-2 Wages Box 1a (page1)
- Business Income (Schedule 1 Part 1 Line 3)
- Farm Income (Schedule 1 Part 1 Line 6)
- Earned Partnership Income (Schedule 1 Part 1 Line 5)

- 1099 Income from Non-employee compensation (Schedule 1 Part 1 Line Z)

Unearned income is not subject to the school income tax and includes:

- Interest
- Capital Gains
- Unearned Partnership income
- IRA & 401 (k) distributions
- Social Security
- Dividends
- Rent Income
- S-corporation income
- Pension income

16.Q. What is the current gym seating and what is the seating capacity in the new proposed gym?

A. The current seating in our gymnasium is approx.. 1,700, but when our aging bleachers need replaced it will cut seating down due to ADA requirements. The seating capacity in the proposed gym will be approx.. 2,000.

17.Q. How will the combination property/income tax issue appear on the ballot?

A. For this combination tax levy to pass it is dependent on both the property and income tax portion to both pass. It is considered “all or nothing.” Example: this project can’t be funded if only the income portion passes and the property fails, and that is why it is set up to be dependent upon both needing to pass.

18. Q. What areas in the existing elementary building will be renovated if the proposed facility is built?

A. The proposed facility includes a new kitchen, commons, and central administrative office. This will “free up” those spaces in our current elementary to be repurposed and renovated for other intended use. Possibilities for these spaces include... renovating the central office into two classrooms and renovating the kitchen and cafeteria into usable spaces such as classrooms, storage, etc... This renovation will be paid for with permanent improvement or general fund dollars and is not included in the levy.

19. Q. How will the new proposed kitchen and commons benefit the student lunch schedule?

A. The proposed commons in the new facility will be larger and able to accommodate more students. Currently we struggle serving and seating students in our current facility and this would assist in creating more desirable lunch times for our K-8 students and accommodating the increase in enrollment that we are projecting.

20. Q. Is an architect needed or can we directly use a general contractor?

A. The architect firm Garmann Miller, has facilitated the task force meetings to assist us in determining what our community truly desires in this proposed new facility. In the future we will need to conduct a “Request for Qualification” process to determine what architect firm we would like to design our facility. When dealing with a public facility and all the codes, it would serve us well to contract with an architect firm to make sure this project is done correctly. With the potential investment our community would make, it would be financially responsible to contract with an architect firm instead of directly going to a contractor. During the RFQ process, we are required by law to select an architect by qualifications and not price. Architects relatively charge the same percentage of the total project cost.

21.Q. How will it appear on the ballot?

PROPOSED BOND ISSUE AND TAX LEVY

Majority Affirmative Vote is
Necessary for Passage

Shall the Board of Education of the Marion Local School District, Counties of Mercer, Auglaize and Darke, Ohio, be authorized to do both of the following:

(1) Impose an annual income tax of one-half percent (0.50%) on the earned income of individuals residing in the School District, for thirty (30) years beginning January 1, 2024 for the purpose of current expenses?

and

(2) Issue bonds for the purpose of new construction, improvements, renovations and additions to school facilities, together with equipment, furnishings, technology, site improvements and all necessary appurtenances thereto, in the principal amount of \$12,315,000 to be repaid annually over a maximum period of thirty (30) years, and levy a property tax outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the County Auditor to average over the bond repayment period five and three-tenths (5.3) mills, for each \$1.00 of taxable value which amounts to \$186 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

	FOR THE INCOME TAX AND BOND ISSUE
	AGAINST THE INCOME TAX AND BOND ISSUE