

# Richmond Community Schools

## *A Message from Brian J. Walmsley, Superintendent*

Dear Voters of Richmond Community Schools,

At the August 12, 2019 Board of Education meeting, the Richmond Board unanimously voted to call a special election on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 to ask the voters of Richmond Community Schools to consider a **\$38.71 MILLION BOND PROPOSAL**. The bond proposal addresses four major need categories:

1. **FACILITY UPDATES**, including roofing replacements, upgrades to electrical and heating and cooling systems, improving energy efficiency, and replacement of school buses;
2. **STUDENT SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS**, including adding a secure entryway at the Richmond Middle School, upgrades to PA, fire alarm, and clock systems, replacing sidewalks and parking lots, and adding emergency generators;
3. **IMPROVING THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** by updating classrooms, maximizing current instructional spaces to accommodate projected student enrollment increases, and constructing additional classrooms to support preschool and early childhood programs and projected enrollment growth at Will L. Lee Elementary School; and,
4. **IMPROVING ATHLETIC FACILITIES**, including construction of an auxiliary gym at Richmond High School, installing synthetic turf on the football/soccer field to improve student safety and to allow for expanded use of the field, replacing fencing at the athletic complex and fields, improving baseball/softball dugouts, relocating and remodeling weight rooms, and replacing lockers.

Voter approval of the bond proposal will increase the current tax rate by a projected 1.45 mills, which will cost the owner of a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 (estimated market value of \$200,000) about \$12 per month. The increase in taxes could potentially be offset by the Michigan Homestead Property Tax Credit, which provides a tax credit to qualifying Michigan homeowners and renters. Homeowners pay property taxes directly and renters pay them indirectly through their rent. For most people, the amount of the tax credit is based on a comparison between property taxes and total household resources. For more information, please go to [www.michigan.gov/taxes](http://www.michigan.gov/taxes) and see the *General Reductions Table and Senior Credit Table* on the District's website. To determine eligibility, please contact a tax professional.

**THE RICHMOND SCHOOLS' COMMUNITY, CONSISTING OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND AND TOWNSHIPS OF CASCO, COLUMBUS, LENOX AND RICHMOND, ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED BOND ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 AT 1:00PM IN THE RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM.** Doors will open at 12:00pm with light refreshments served. Immediately following the presentation, the Community will have an opportunity to tour the facilities and see first-hand the areas that would be renovated, upgraded, or replaced by the passage of the Bond.

I welcome all community members to visit the District's website ([www.richmond.k12.mi.us](http://www.richmond.k12.mi.us)) to learn more about the Bond proposal, read the *Frequently Asked Questions* and use the interactive *Tax Calculator*.

Sincerely,  
Brian J. Walmsley, Ed.S.

*Guaranteed Learning for All Students!*