

BH Bloomfield Hills S c h o o l s

Let it Snow! Winter 2020

News Created by BHS Staff & Students

PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT: MAY 5, 2020

In January, the Bloomfield Hills Schools Board of Education voted to put a \$200 million bond on the May 5, 2020, ballot.

The proposal would address security and aging infrastructure needs. The proposal also addresses the district's challenges related to maintaining the current level of programming - something that has been a struggle for the past few years.

"The district has done a tremendous job in maintaining the buildings and protecting these incredible assets," said Superintendent Pat Watson. "This plan proposes utilizing the best of what we have, renovating portions of it, building a few needed additions, and reducing the overall number of facilities being used and maintained each year. It respects the investment taxpayers have made, yet provides students and staff with what they need for modern teaching and learning. We are doing everything we can to ask for only what we really need to maintain and enhance learning in Bloomfield Hills Schools," he added. "That said, it's a real challenge to maintain the current level of programs with the students spread across three middle schools and in aging facilities," he said.

Continued on center spread

This plan proposes *utilizing the best of what we have...and reducing the overall number of facilities* being used and maintained each year.

- Pat Watson, Superintendent



What are the major elements of the proposal?

SCHOOLS

BHMS "North" at Lahser site & BHMS "South" at BHMS site would each receive additions and renovations, becoming two middle schools for all district students in grades 6-8.

Conant, Eastover, Lone Pine, and Way: Eastover would move into the current EHMS site; Lone Pine would move into the current WHMS site; and Conant & Way would receive renovations and additions.

Bloomin' Preschool would serve students at Eastover & Conant.

SAFETY

Controlling access to our schools is vitally important. In this plan, Bloomfield Hills Schools would continue to maintain a safe learning environment by adding:

- New safe and secure entries
- More security cameras
- Safety film on select windows (safety film helps to fortify the glass)
- Digital attendance methods to free up more time for instruction
- Technology that better supports a safe and secure digital experience

COMMUNITY

Enhancing the Bloomfield Hills Schools Community:

- New Middle School/Community Ed pool at the North Middle School
- Creation of STEAM and Collaboration Spaces
- Farm expansion for new community experiences
- Nature Center enhancements for new community experiences
- Enhanced spaces for family recreation and performances in schools

IMPORTANT ROLE OF COUNSELORS

National School Counseling Week 2020, "School Counselors: Helping Build Better Humans," is being celebrated this week, from Feb. 3-7, 2020, to focus public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. First, let's give Mr. Tom Kalanquin special recognition for being Bloomfield Hills Schools longest serving counselor, over 21 years! Mr. Kalanquin wanted to share the spotlight with fellow counselor, Mr. TaMarcus Southward.

Mr. Southward professes, "In 2006 I did my internship with Tom at East Hills. It was my experience working with him and at East Hills that prompted me to move my family to Bloomfield Hills. In 2017, when a counseling position opened up at East Hills," Kalanquin grins, "I sought out TaMarcus at East Hill's Ice Cream Social, letting him know to apply for the position."

Kalanquin began as a teacher in Flint. He was part of a program that taught students who failed two grade levels by the sixth grade how to get back on track. Kalanquin points out, "Graduation rates for these students failing twice was very low. We had a building dedicated to helping two hundred students gain back a year of studies. After one year, these students would then enter high school as a freshman and then only be one year behind. The graduation rates then improved with these students." At this time, Kalanquin decided to pursue his masters in counseling. Kalanquin commuted to MSU in the evenings after a full day of teaching to acquire his degree. "It was when I moved to Imlay City and taught there, that the 90 minute drive one way was a lot! It was all worth it in the end."

Mr. Southward and Mr. Kalanquin's offices are the first you will see when you enter East Hills. "It's important to us that our students feel comfortable coming into our offices. We partner with the teachers and faculty to form a culture of acceptance, early identification and intervention of children's academic and social/emotional needs."

We *partner* with the teachers and faculty to form a *culture of acceptance*, early identification and intervention of children's *academic and social/emotional needs*.



NEW DHH COUNSELOR ENJOYS HELPING STUDENTS WITH NEXT STEPS

Cheryl Reger is new to Bloomfield Hills Schools, but not to school counseling. Reger has been in counseling for 16 years, having previously worked as a high school counselor in Genesee County and before that as deaf educator. Currently serving as the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Counselor, Reger spends three days a week at Bloomfield Hills High School and two days a week at East Hills Middle School. The position is a pairing of two things Reger loves and knows well, deaf education and school counseling.



"I love working with students to get them where they want to be," exclaims Reger. As a high school counselor, Reger once had a student who was qualified academically and was an Eagle Scout, but was wait-listed at a first-choice major university. In the end, the waitlist period had the student looking at other schools and finding one that was a better fit. "I was so proud of that student for looking at the big picture instead of just one specific goal," says Reger. "And, that other university really deserved that student. It is great to see students look at their future and grow, so those are the parts I enjoy."

Beyond the DHH counseling position, Reger teaches beginning American Sign Language (ASL) through the online education provider Michigan Virtual Academy, and is brushing up on more advanced skills by taking an advanced ASL class.

Overall, the move to BHS has gone well. "I'm so happy," Reger says. "This is a great transition for me, and I love it here. I wanted to help kids and adults and support them in a way that was academic and social-emotional along with providing the staff with the extra help that the students need. I love the small groups and the one-on-ones, being able to meet needs that you don't really see until you get to know people."

...being able to *meet needs* that you don't really see until you *get to know people*.

BHS 2020 SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS

Established in 1923 and presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards are the nation’s largest, longest-running, most prestigious visual and literary arts program recognizing creative accomplishments of students in grades 7–12. They are a symbol of excellence that can bolster resumes, college applications, and scholarship applications.

Bloomfield Hills Schools is proud to announce that more than 55 honors have been awarded to our students. For a complete listing, visit www.bloomfield.org/scholastic.



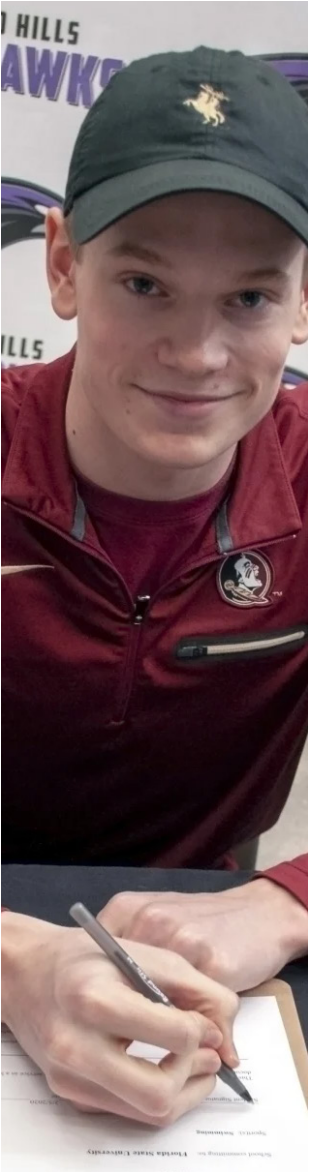
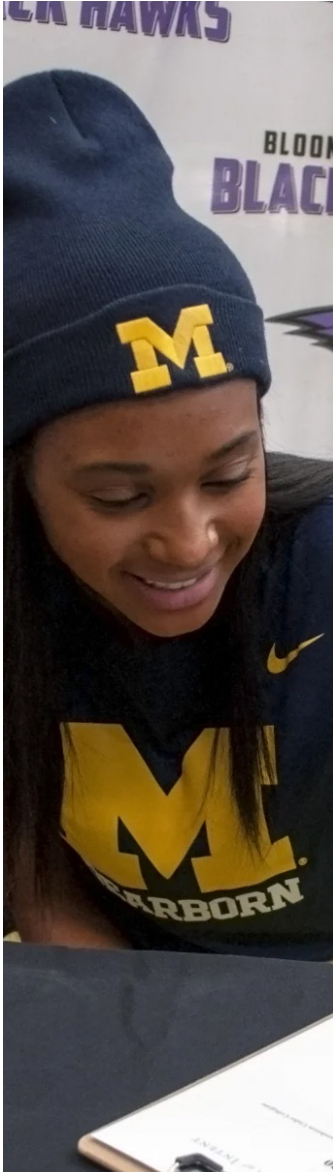
ALAN JAROS 2020 CLASS OF OAKLAND COUNTY 40 UNDER 40

Alan Jaros is a visionary leader specializing in farm-based education. Jaros’ work is emphasized by building strategy and leading teams to connect youths, adults, and communities to food and agriculture through outdoor learning environments. Jaros leads numerous initiatives that bring meaning and authenticity to the educational experience focusing on quality programming that enhances teaching and learning for local schools. Jaros area of expertise is in farm-based education, outdoor education, and youth development.

Jaros serves as the Director of the Bowers School Farm, leading the expansion of the educational facility since 2016. With nearly 40,000 visitors annually, the Bowers School Farm is a premier learning center for agriculture and the environment in the greater Detroit area. Youths and adults explore food production through events, school field trips, and community programs.

Jaros serves on a number of community associations and professional societies. Currently, Jaros serves on the Preservation Bloomfield and the Friends of Bowers Farm Board of Directors, and the Michigan State Fair Steering Committee. Jaros is also the past President for the Detroit Association for Talent Development.

Jaros holds an MS in Management from Walsh College and a BS in Human Resource Development from the College of Education at Oakland University. Jaros also holds a certificate in Small-Business Counseling from the MSU Product Center and Facilitative Leadership from Michigan State University.



BLOOMFIELD HILLS HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATED NCAA COLLEGE SIGNING DAY

The following BHHS athletes signed their NCAA Letters of Intent to play college sports in the fall of 2020:

- Jordan Banks, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Basketball
- Devin Holmes, Gallaudet University, Football
- Matthew Kowalski, Florida State University, Swimming

BHS RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING EXCELLENCE

The Finance team of Bloomfield Hills Schools has been recognized by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO). The team was awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for their work on the fiscal year 2019 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

“This award represents a very significant achievement and reflects our commitment to the highest standards of school system financial reporting. It takes hard work and dedication from many Bloomfield Hills Schools staff to compile the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in accordance with ASBO’s strict reporting standards. Thank you to all who contributed in leading this successful effort. Everyone’s tremendous efforts year-round contributed to receiving this award,” expressed Tina Kostiuk, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations.

To view the fiscal 2019 CAFR, visit www.bloomfield.org, select the Transparency icon and select “Audited Financial Reports.”



A Closer Look at the May 5, 2020 Bond Proposal

Q: When is the election?

A: Tuesday, May 5, 2020. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Absentee ballots will be available after March 21, 2020 and can be cast through Election Day.

Q: How was this proposal developed?

A: To best serve our community's investment in Bloomfield Hills Schools, our district utilizes a process for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of all school facilities. Working with construction, technology, and architectural specialists, the district's research into future possibilities began with the Master Property Planning work in 2014. The research completed when a Scope & Design study began in the summer of 2019. This in-depth facility study engaged 25 residents of the district, and included a review of student safety, grade configurations, the educational program, and facility needs. The findings of the Scope & Design group were reviewed by students, staff, families, and community members in a series of focus panels conducted on October 1, 2019. In addition, focus panelists participated in follow-up online surveys during the balance of the Scope and Design process. The Scope & Design process and the Scope & Design recommendations were reviewed by the Board of Education and placed on the May 5, 2020, ballot.

Q: What can bond proceeds NOT be used for?

A: Salaries, service contracts, lease payments, installment contracts, and supplies; Repairs, maintenance, or maintenance agreements; Purchasing automobiles, trucks, or vans; Portable classrooms purchased for temporary use; Uniforms; Textbooks; Upgrades to an existing computer operating system or application software; and Computer training, computer consulting, or computer maintenance contracts.

Q: How will the grade levels be reconfigured?

A: We will use existing schools to become a preschool, K-5, 6-8, 9-12 school district. This standardized reconfiguration will improve learning opportunities across BHS and reflects the priorities recommended in the Scope & Design study. The following are the reconfigurations that will occur: Eastover will serve students in grades K-5 and will be located at the current East Hills Middle School site. Lone Pine will serve students in grades K-5 and will be located at the current West Hills Middle School site. Conant and Way will remain in their current locations and receive renovations and additions to improve their learning spaces. Bloomin' Preschool locations will exist on both the current Eastover Elementary site and at Conant. Bloomin' Conant will receive an addition and renovations and Eastover will receive renovations. There will be two middle schools - Bloomfield Hills Middle School North (at the current Lahser site) and Bloomfield Hills Middle School South (at the current Bloomfield Hills Middle School site). To equalize these facilities, the school district will add an auditorium and space for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programming to Middle School South. At Middle School North, we will add a classroom wing and a swimming pool for student and community use.

Q: What previous bond proposals have been asked of voters by the school district?

A: Bond Requests:

- June 1961: Pool: Fail
- June 1962: Pool: Fail
- June 1963: Pool: Fail
- June 1964: Facilities: Pass
- April 1966: Facilities: Pass
- Feb. 1978: School Reno: Pass
- Sept. 1988: Facilities: Pass
- January 1990: Tech/Facilities: Fail
- Sept. 1997: Tech/Facilities: Pass
- May 2007: High School: Fail
- November 2010: High School: Fail
- May 2012: High School: Pass

“Just as an unhealthy physical environment *impedes learning*, a healthy and well-designed school and classroom can *benefit and boost learning*.
- Sean Slade (The Whole Child)”

Q: What is the primary purpose of the bond proposal?

A: Safety & Security: Construct Secure Entries; Improve Traffic Patterns; Install Window Safety Film; Install Fire Sprinkler Systems; Install Video Surveillance; Install Visitor Management Systems; Upgrade Entrance Intercoms; and Upgrade District Wide Public Address System.

Equity & Access: Improve ADA Accessibility (barrier-free spaces); Improve ADA Accessible Playgrounds; Improve Special Education Learning Spaces; Create New Sensory and Therapy Rooms; Middle School/Community Education Pool @ North Middle School; Creation of STEAM and Collaboration Spaces; Farm expansion for new community experiences; Nature Center enhancements for new community experiences; Grass/park space possibilities; and Enhanced spaces for family recreation & performances in schools.

Support for modern teaching and learning: Improve Classroom Environments; Install Classroom Interactive Displays & Sound Systems; Upgrade Technology Infrastructure; Update Architectural Components; Improve Lighting & Indoor Air Quality; and Upgrade and Enhance Media Centers.

Innovation & collaboration: Create STEM and Collaborative Work Environments.

Programming: Appropriate spaces for athletic and enrichment programs, such as elementary physical education space improvements, middle & high school field improvements; Performance Stages; Increased Seating Capacity; and Improved Art and Music Rooms.

Q: Why “inclusive” and not just “ADA Compliant”?

A: It's one thing to provide ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant spaces - it's another to provide an inclusive education for all learners. In Bloomfield Hills Schools, we want to ensure all students have a strong sense of belonging, which starts with all students having the ability to easily access learning environments, playgrounds, technology, and curriculum. This proposal would enable Bloomfield Hills Schools to create barrier-free playgrounds, classroom spaces, and ensure all experiences meet the needs of all learners.

Q: Why does the district need new furniture?

A: Students are asked to collaborate in the course of their learning experience more than ever before. Flexible furniture that can be moved and easily reconfigured helps students collaborate easily and effectively.

Q: Can't the Sinking Fund cover the \$33 million in critical needs?

A: The Facilities and Tech assessment, which was presented to the Board of Education in the 2018-2019 school year, revealed \$33 million in critical needs over three years (2019/2020, 2020/2021, and 2021/2022 school years).

A sinking fund is a savings account into which a local school district can deposit voter-approved local millage revenue in order to pay cash for the most urgent building projects or repairs as they arise. The current Sinking Fund covers approximately \$2 million in work each year. Without another funding source, the district will need to manage the decline of both technology and facilities.



Ready to learn more? Visit
www.bloomfield.org/bond for
more information.



PREPARE U, COMING SOON TO BHHS AND BOWERS ACADEMY

Prepare U, a program developed by The Live Network, will be new in Bloomfield Hills High School Health classes, and in Bowers Academy English classes, this school year. Ryan Beale, a West Bloomfield native, is the founder of Prepare U, a program which is in its third year of positively impacting the mental and emotional health of students and their families. The program is taught in 31 schools in seven states; within just two years of its inception, over 6,000 students have benefited from Prepare U. Beale explains, “within fifteen class sessions, we created an experiential process where students are engaging in an intentionally designed combination of watching videos, doing workbook activities, having group circles in the classroom, building camaraderie, and creating the chance to work through tension while building resilience. Prepare U covers social emotional learning and mental health education, and we blend them together in this program to help students get the most out of it. The students are building relationships, and start getting into heavier topics around Class 6, thinking about what it means to lead a meaningful life. We’re getting to the root of the problems, not just looking at symptoms. We want students to build awareness and have intentionality. Our whole program is about mindfulness. We’re teaching teachers to help the students engage in the process, get out of their way, be a safe facilitator, and allow the process to unfold.”

BHHS Health and Physical Education teacher Amy Scott, who has been teaching in Bloomfield Hills Schools for twenty years, is excited to start the program in Health classes in mid-October. Scott, along with BHHS teachers Bobbi Greer and Kathy Abbott, and Bowers Academy teachers Julia Hanson and Aileen Myer, will teach Prepare U in their Health and English classes. Scott explains, “we are going through two other units first so that we can establish a relationship and rapport with our students in the classroom before we take on the Prepare U unit. I think it is imperative to get to know the students and create a climate of respect and comfort before we start the mental health unit. The more open and respectful the classroom climate is, the more the students will get out of it.”

Prepare U was developed by The Live Network’s Therapy Live team, a team that consists of 6 full time individuals including a psychologist, two psychotherapists, two technology experts, and a head video team member. Beale shares, “We all have shared goals, and want to create solutions to complex problems, to empower people. Our organization The Live Network started with the premise: how do we empower therapists to bring more empowerment to people? It started with us developing technology. We recently got a patent from the US Patent Office to optimize treatment. We know there isn’t enough time in a day to see all the individuals who need care. Around 90 million individuals don’t have access to therapy services that need them, in the United States alone. We want to provide access for therapists to have greater reach and expand their knowledge, and be able to help more people. Our team started to do research around the transition point of middle and high school. We saw that this was a critical transition, especially ages 13-15, where there is a 400% increase in deaths due to behavioral health issues. Suicide is in the top three reasons for deaths. We created a program that can be taught by every day teachers that are passionate, and will take students through a process that will metabolize for them. We use evidence based tools to create a process that sticks and builds resilience.”

Scott shares, “I am excited to give the students life changing tools. The students have the potential to come away with empathy, respect for life and a greater sense of self. Their self confidence should improve while they form connections that will strengthen their bonds to the BHHS community. I think the greatest benefit for our school community will be empowering our students by giving them the tools to strengthen their mental health. This will strengthen our community because the students will have a deeper understanding as well as the knowledge to help themselves or others. We are taking the first steps toward trying to find coping strategies that work, and empowering our students with a voice in a community where they feel safe.”

In 18-month follow up studies of students who have gone through the Prepare U program, Beale shares, “students are reporting that they have less anxiety, have more purpose and meaning, and have more social and emotional support. Prepare U creates within the schools a shared language and culture. Students are learning to build support within the classroom, learning to remove the stigma around mental health. Kids who used to have a veneer of being tough and protecting themselves all of a sudden become comfortable talking, and the stigma is gone.”

A new and integral online component of Prepare U is Home Edition, encouraging families to engage in discussions around mental health, and allowing families to see what students are learning in their Health classes at school. Beale explains, “the Health teacher will unlock the Home Edition when the students have completed that session. If

a student missed a class, the family has access; they can watch the session, go through the workbook, download activities for each session, and lead to conversation with the family. Every class has different tools based on what they’re learning in that session. There’s also an ice breaker, that promotes questions related to that session. And there’s a personal insight tracker. It all stays confidential, and students can answer questions, and can gauge with graphs how everyone in the family is doing regarding sleep, and how close you feel with your family. Home Edition allows the family to have the same tools as the students, and reinforces those tools. For parents to sit down with their kids and be vulnerable allows the family to grow together. We’re guaranteeing that families will have meaningful conversations.”

Scott’s passion for the new Health program is palpable: “In my opinion, this curriculum will be beneficial to students, families and the school community as a whole. We will be moving toward a climate of understanding and action. If we sit back any longer, we may miss out on an opportunity to reach a young person, and I am not okay with that. We have the opportunity to empower these teenagers, to show them how much each one of them matter and help them create goals for their future. If we can ignite the students in our class, show them how important they are and help them find that inner strength while creating a safe place where they begin to raise each other up, imagine what they can do outside of the classroom walls!”

For more information about Prepare U, check out <https://www.prepareu.live/> And to learn about Home Edition, head to https://www.prepareu.live/home_edition



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR SUMMER CAMPS

Mix and match different summer camp opportunities and spend your summer exploring with us.

Recreation programs include sports, trips to the beach, games, crafts, weekly field trips, canoeing, and more. Bowers Farm campers experience caring for animals and learning about agriculture on our 96 acre farm. Campers navigate trails, learn about wildlife, visit the log cabin, fish, craft, and more at the Johnson Nature Center.

Need a full day experience for your child? Add before and/or after care options to extend their summer fun to cover the work day.

Details can be found at www.bloomfield.org/summer.



The district is hosting meetings to inform citizens about the bond proposal on the May 5, 2020 ballot. All are welcome to attend. Meeting dates will be added as they are requested, so please check the website for a complete listing at www.bloomfield.org/bond

- 1

Lone Pine Elementary School
3100 Lone Pine Road
3/19 at 9 AM in Fine Arts Wing
- 2

West Hills Middle School
2601 Lone Pine Road
3/11 at 8:30 AM in Media Center
- 3

Wing Lake Developmental Center
6490 Wing Lake Road
3/11 at 6 PM in Media Center
- 4

Booth Center
7273 Wing Lake Road
3/2 at 1 PM
3/8 at 4 PM
3/25 at 7:30 AM
- 5

Bloomfield Hills Middle School
4200 West Quarton Rd
3/12 at 8:30 AM in Media Center
- 6

Conant Elementary
4100 West Quarton Road
3/13 at 9 AM in Media Center
- 7

Bloomfield Hills High School
4200 Andover Road
3/16 at 6 PM in Knowledge Market
- 8

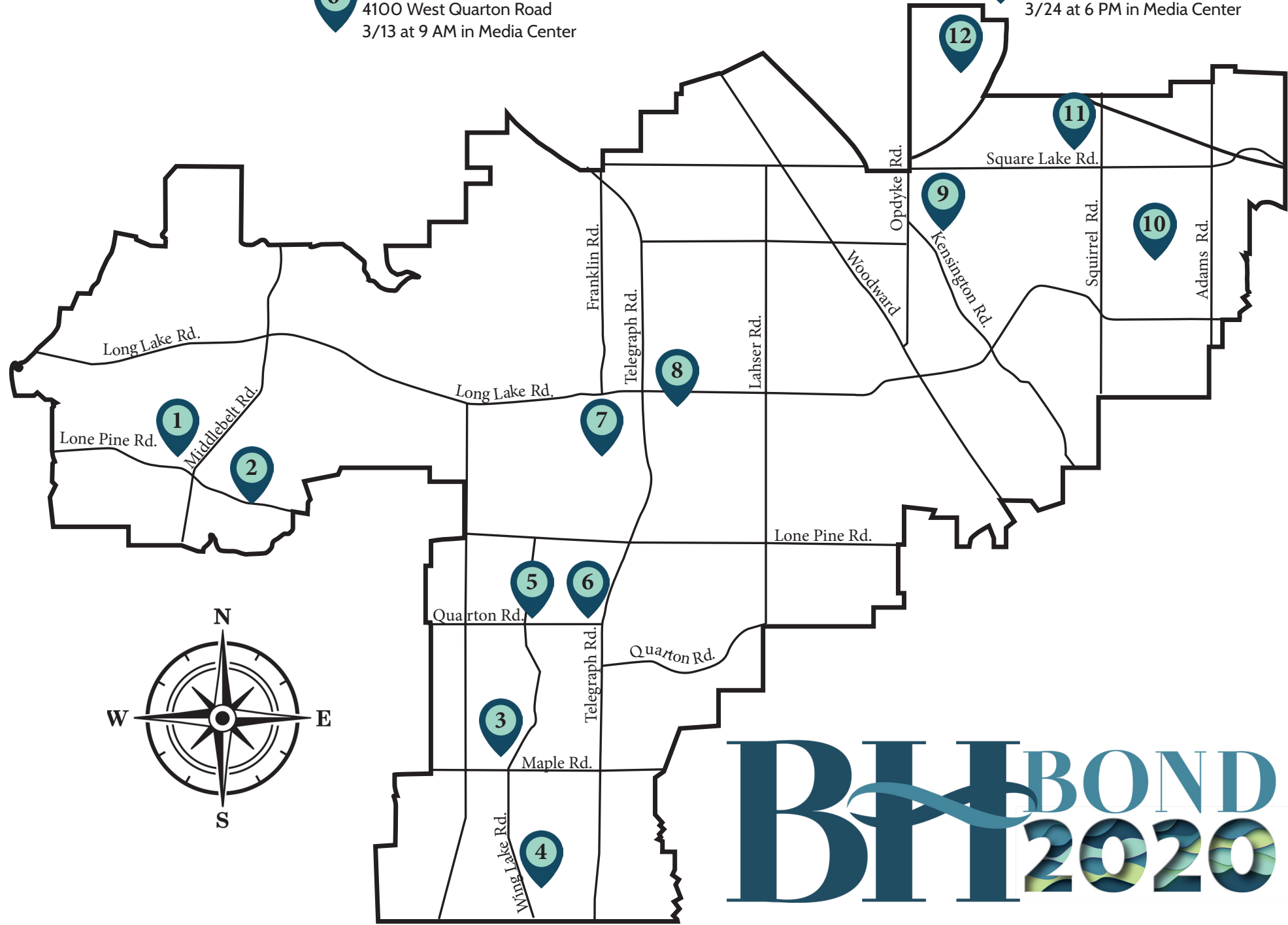
Way Elementary School
765 West Long Lake Road
3/6 at 9 AM in Media Center
- 9

East Hills Middle School
2800 Kensington Road
4/15 at 9:30 AM in Media Center
- 10

Eastover Elementary School
1101 Westview Road
3/16 at 9 AM in Media Center
- 11

International Academy-Okma
Campus (Traub)
1020 E. Square Lake Road
3/23 at 6 PM in Media Center
- 12

Bloomin' Preschool at Fox Hills
1661 Hunters Ridge
3/24 at 6 PM in Media Center



JOIN US ONLINE TO LEARN MORE!	TWITTER CHATS #BHSBOND2020 3/3 from 3 to 3:30 PM 3/24 from 12:30 to 1 PM 4/16 from 1 to 1:30 PM 4/22 from 9 to 9:30 AM 4/30 from 11:30 AM to 12 5/4 from 1:30 to 2 PM	FACEBOOK LIVE /BHSCHOOLS 3/6 from 11 to 11:30 AM 3/17 from 1 to 1:30 PM 3/30 from 9 to 9:30 AM 4/15 from 9 to 9:30 AM 4/29 from 3 to 3:30 PM
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7273 Wing Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48301

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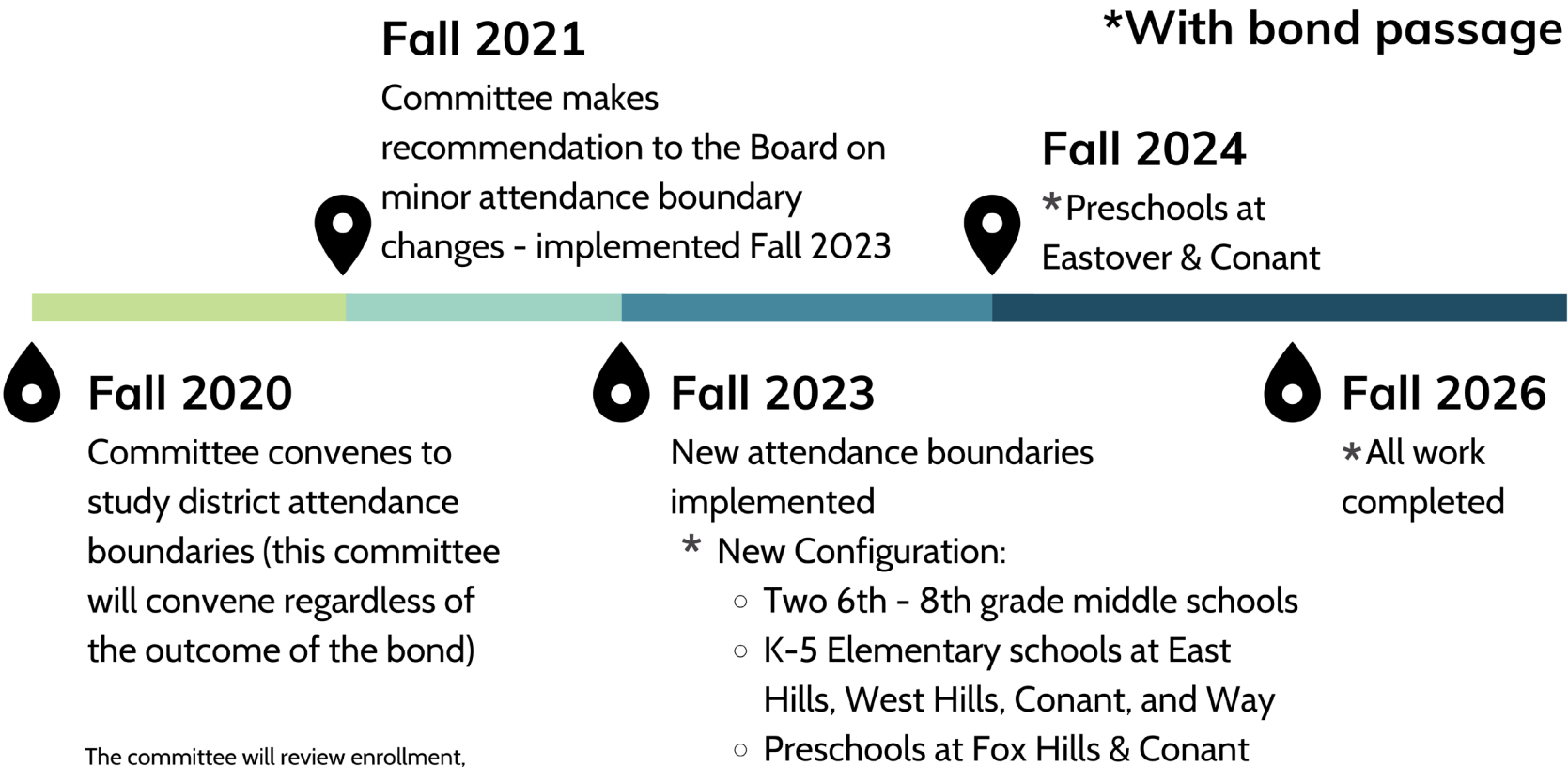
ECRWSS
POSTAL PATRON LOCAL

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CONFIGURATION & ATTENDANCE BOUNDARY TIMELINE

Whether the bond proposal passes or fails, Bloomfield Hills Schools will have to review realignment of attendance areas. Our goal will be to do this with as little disruption to families as possible. In the fall of 2020, a committee (comprised of staff and district families) will convene to explore the ways in which the district can re-balance our attendance areas. The committee will present a proposal to the Board of Education by the fall of 2021 for implementation in the fall of 2023.



Ready to learn more? Visit www.bloomfield.org/bond for more information.