

To: Board of Education

From: Julie Boyle, director, communications

Re: Update on May 2 Bond Election

Date: February 9, 2017

Background:

With elementary schools transformed into 21st century learning environments thanks to the community's support of its 2013 school bond election, the Lawrence Board of Education turned its attention to a facilities master planning process to address the needs of the middle and high schools, especially Lawrence High School.

At its December 14, 2015 meeting, the board entered into an agreement with Gould Evans Associates to provide facilities master planning services for renovations and additions at Lawrence High School and the other secondary schools including Free State High School, Liberty Memorial Central Middle School, South Middle School, Southwest Middle School, West Middle School and the Lawrence College and Career Center. The primary focus of the study was to create school environments that support personalized learning, student engagement and success.

Gould Evans staff met with the board's Facilities Planning Committee, a Lawrence High Steering Committee, and middle and high school administrators and staff, conducted focus groups and student surveys, visited districts with new high school facilities of similar size, and worked with engineering and construction firms on a comprehensive analysis of programmatic and building system needs. The firm generated concepts and cost estimates to improve safety and security, address equity across school facilities, provide flexible spaces to enhance students' educational experiences and opportunities to collaborate, create and innovate, accommodate growth, and deliver energy-efficient, high-performance schools that promote student and staff wellness and success.

The board reviewed these concepts and cost estimates during two work sessions on September 26 and October 24, 2016. On January 9, 2017, the board voted unanimously to authorize and call for an \$87 million mail-ballot election on May 2.

Current Report:

Julie Boyle, director, communications, will update the Board of Education about plans to engage the community and provide information about the May 2, 2017, Lawrence School Bond Mail-Ballot Election.