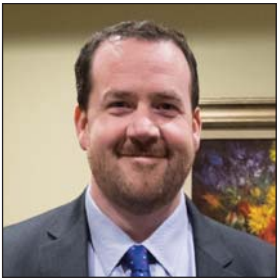


CCSD21 voter information

Fall 2018
Special Referendum Information Edition



Preparing all students
for success with
future ready
facilities



"Our greatest responsibility is the safety, security, and well being of our students. We must provide a learning environment in which our students will learn without worry of who might be able to gain entry to their schools or try to focus in a sweltering classroom. The Board of Education has a responsibility to ensure all of our buildings are places that meet the needs of our students and communities now and for decades to come."

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Michael Connolly

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Building bond referendum on Nov. 6 ballot to enhance security, facilities

On August 9, the CCSD21 Board of Education unanimously approved the placement of a building bond referendum question on the Nov. 6 general election ballot. Voter approval of the ballot measure will allow CCSD21 to address security and other facility needs.

Securing school buildings

With voter approval, construction on more secure building entrances will begin in the summer of 2019. Each building will have a three-point security check before visitors gain entry to school hallways and classrooms. This is an improvement over the existing one- or two-point check. Additional security enhancements include installation of up-to-date digital security cameras in and around schools, improved exterior lighting, and other site security upgrades.

Providing safer, healthier classrooms

Currently, more than 80% of CCSD21 elementary classrooms are not air conditioned. On days when temperatures soar, classrooms can get very hot requiring schools to use heat management plans where students rotate in and out of cooling centers several times a day, presenting additional safety, security and learning concerns. With referendum approval, all CCSD21 schools will have new or updated air conditioning systems installed during the summer of 2019. The completion of this project will provide fully temperature-controlled school buildings, which are safer and healthier places to learn.

Preparing for full-day kindergarten

In the fall of 2017, 83% of community



A three-point secure entrance, like this reception area at Roy DeShane School in Carol Stream, would be constructed at all CCSD21 buildings in the summer of 2019. Visitors would provide identification and pass through three checkpoints before gaining access to the school's interior.

members expressed support for CCSD21 to offer full-day kindergarten districtwide. This goal was echoed throughout the Design21 focus groups and community conversations. In order to meet the community's expectation, CCSD21 will need to complete internal renovations to ensure the proper number of classrooms are available. With approval of the referendum, this work would begin in the summer of 2020.

Ensuring future-ready schools

CCSD21 is committed to providing the community with well-maintained and efficient facilities, which will support the learning of all students for decades to come. With voter approval Nov. 6, CCSD21 will have the funds necessary to complete vital facility maintenance projects, such as roofing, plumbing, paving, and replacement of outdated mechanical systems with updated, more efficient systems. This work will include replacement of district lighting with higher efficiency and more cost-effective LED lighting and the replacement of outdated classroom furniture to support 21st century learning for all students.



Who we are: CCSD21 serves students residing in Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Mt. Prospect, Prospect Heights, Northbrook, and Wheeling. Upon completion of middle school, students attend Buffalo Grove and Wheeling High Schools.

www.facebook.com/ccsd21
www.twitter.com/ccsd21

Financial impact to homeowner with passage of referendum question

CCSD21 is seeking a \$69 million investment in its facilities through a voter-approved bond issue. With successful passage, homeowners would see a slight increase on their property tax bills. For example, a homeowner's tax bill would increase by \$78 if their home is valued at \$300,000.

This modest increase will allow CCSD21 to enhance its facilities to serve as community resources for decades to come. Priorities include providing security improvements at all 14 sites by securing school building vestibules, upgrading security systems, installing air conditioning districtwide, preparing learning spaces for a districtwide full day kindergarten program, improving energy efficiency

Home Market Value	Taxpayer Impact - Cost per year
\$100,000	\$19
\$200,000	\$49
\$300,000	\$78
\$400,000	\$107
\$500,000	\$136

Note: Estimates above do not include exemptions as those vary by specific taxpayer circumstance. Visit ccsd21.org/referendum to access a tax impact calculator to input specific market value and exemptions.

with the installation of LED lighting and replacement of aging mechanical systems, modernizing learning spaces through the replacement of outdated classroom furniture, and ensuring the

long-term, reliable operation of school buildings by addressing facility needs such as paving, roofing, plumbing, flooring, and other critical mechanical systems.

By the numbers

15

The CCSD21 Board of Education last placed a referendum question on the ballot 15 years ago. At that time, the Board promised it wouldn't return to taxpayers for five years.

69

The approval of a \$69 million bond issue would allow CCSD21 to make improvements, positioning itself as a community resource for decades to come.

19.1

CCSD21 values fiscal responsibility. Over the past three years, CCSD21 has saved taxpayers \$19.1 million through cost-savings measures.

59

Through phone and online surveys, 59% of CCSD21 voters identified they would support a \$69 million bond issue.



Who we are: CCSD21 serves 6,500 students across 13 schools, including one early childhood, nine elementary, and three middle schools.

“The Board of Education, as stewards of the community and in performing its responsibility of acting in trust for the best interests of the community, believes this bond referendum is vital to making sure our students are being provided the best preparation for their success while similarly keeping the best interest of our community in mind. Public education is in an increasingly competitive environment and we owe it to our entire community to provide the finest environment for our children to learn and for our children and staff members to do so in as safe and secure environment as possible and using an environment that incorporates across the board best practices so that learning can be accomplished. This referendum will allow us to accomplish this task, and in doing so, will also support our community’s homeowners rightly concerned with the protection of their investment.”

Phil Pritzker, President
CCSD21 Board of Education



Nov. 6 ballot question

The following question will appear on the Nov. 6 general election ballot for voters within School District 21:

Shall the Board of Education of Wheeling Community Consolidated School District Number 21, Cook County, Illinois, alter, repair, renovate and equip school buildings and improve the sites thereof, including to provide for secure entrances and other security systems, air conditioning, renovation of instructional spaces to enhance learning and accommodate full day kindergarten, energy efficiency, infrastructure and other capital improvements, and issue bonds of said School District to the amount of \$69,000,000 for the purpose of paying the costs thereof?



Who we are: More than 65 languages are spoken in homes of District 21 families and CCSD21 offers bilingual instruction in Spanish, Polish, and Russian.

Cost-cutting measures have saved CCSD21 taxpayers \$19.1 million

CCSD21 manages an annual budget of \$110 million. These resources support instructional and extracurricular programming while operating the buildings and properties within the District.

In the *fifteen years* since CCSD21 last asked property owners for an operating tax rate increase, the District has weathered the Great Recession and several years of budget uncertainty as a result of the State of Illinois' financial crisis. As expenses increased, the District drew down its reserves to protect educational programs.

With a commitment to maintaining high-quality programs and services for all students while looking to ensure future fiscal stability, the District underwent three years

of cost-savings measures. CCSD21 enacted budget changes for FY16, FY17 and FY18 resulting in a savings to the District of more than \$19 million.

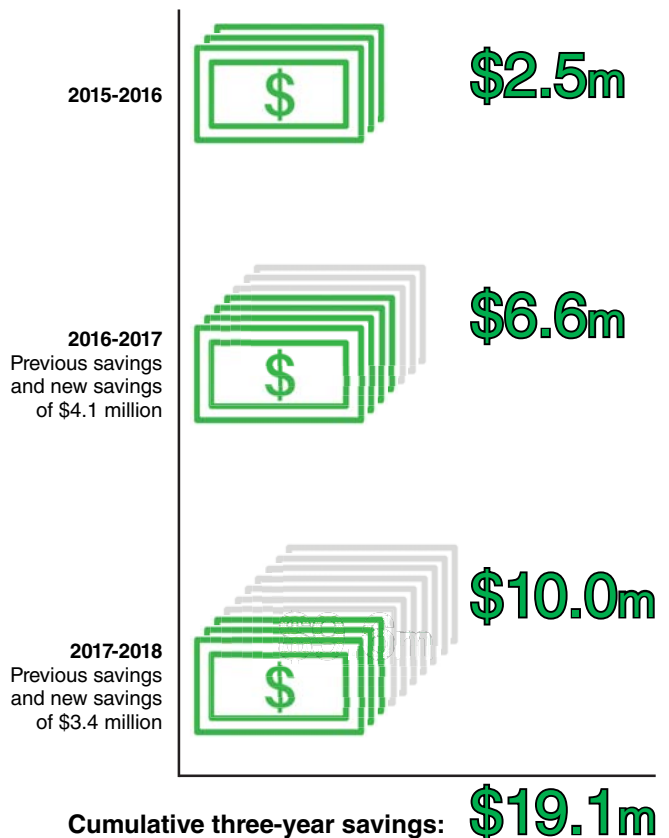
Reserve levels have improved from 8% in 2015 to 17% in 2017. The District will continue working toward the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)-recommended level of 25%.

CCSD21's efforts have been recognized by ISBE in its Financial Profile designation. CCSD21 has earned a 3.45 on a 4.0 scale, and ranks in the second-highest designation category.

Because of these measures, Moody's Investors Services removed its negative outlook from CCSD21's high-quality Aa3 bond rating in August, indicating a very low credit risk.

THREE-YEAR COST SAVINGS

As responsible stewards of taxpayer resources, CCSD21 has enacted cost-savings measures over the past three years. These savings have been permanent and ongoing. Over three years, these measures have reduced the budget by a cumulative \$19.1 million. These savings are critical to ensuring fiscal stability in the future.



Looking for more information?

Visit www.ccsd21.org/business-services for more information related to finances and budgeting.

More details on the referendum can be found at www.ccsd21.org/referendum.

Still have questions?

Send us an email at referendum@ccsd21.org.



Community Consolidated School District 21
999 West Dundee Road
Wheeling, Illinois 60090
www.ccsd21.org

Voter FAQs

Can I vote?

In order to register, voters must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by Election Day
- A resident of the precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day, and
- Provide two pieces of identification.

The Cook County Clerk's Office manages local elections and voter registration. For more information on voter qualifications, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/voter-qualifications.

How do I register to vote?

Voters can register in person, by mail, or online in advance of Election Day, or even in person on Election Day. More information on voter registration can be found at www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote.

When is Election Day?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 6. Voters also have the option to cast their ballot through Early Voting. To find Election Day polling places, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/service/polling-places. To learn more about Early Voting, visit www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/early-voting.

More voting questions?

Contact the Cook County Clerk's office at 312-603-0906 or www.cookcountyclerk.com.



Visit ccsd21.org/referendum for more information and submit questions to referendum@ccsd21.org.