



Manistee Area PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAPS INVITES COMMUNITY TO TWO PUBLIC FORUMS

Over the past 3 years, the Manistee Area Public School District has worked with their leadership team, community members, teachers, contracted professionals and latest enrollment projections to develop a 20-year vision. In this plan, MAPS is recommending to the community that all PreK-5 grade levels be relocated to a newly renovated Kennedy Elementary, demolition of Jefferson Elementary to eliminate the high cost of renovation/maintenance need from that 65-year-old building, repurposing Madison Elementary from classroom space to office/community resource space, and addition of a much-needed dedicated middle school gym at the Manistee Middle+ High School.

“Through our work, we have learned that our current buildings exceed our capacity in both space needed for students and funds available for maintenance.”, explained Ron Stoneman, Superintendent of Manistee Area Public Schools. The May 5th MAPS 2020 Vision bond proposal, seeking \$29,861,255 a proposed 2.65 mil increase to existing bond debt bringing the total school debt to 4.90 mils, would allow MAPS to properly scale existing facilities, improve efficiency, meet the needs of current and future student enrollment, and address critical building improvements. The plan, if approved, would allow the District to eliminate up to \$21.1 million of estimated financial need over a 20-year period.

The District invites the community to attend one of two **MAPS 2020 public forums scheduled for Thursday, March 12th and Thursday, April 16th at 7:00pm at the Kennedy Elementary Library**. These forums will be held to share the details of the proposal for MAPS facilities future. All members of the community are invited to attend, learn about the vision for the MAPS District, and seek answers regarding the plan.

“Currently, MAPS serve nearly 3 times more students than any other district in the county and holds the lowest amount of debt. With districts in our region making substantial investments in their educational assets, this is a critical time for the Manistee Community to consider the importance of a strong educational foundation for retaining and attracting families and educators for the future of our community, while also providing for the academic and physical needs of all MAPS students for years to come.”, shared Stoneman.

Need more information? The MAPS 2020 website, www.MAPS2020.org shares information about the visioning process and the plan for MAPS educational and facilities future. Here you will find information regarding the plan, answers to frequently asked questions, a historic timeline, and infographics to help better understand the impact of this plan for the Manistee community.

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