

Bloomfield Hills board estimates new school would cost \$65M

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At the recent Bloomfield Hills School Board meeting, a monthlong "community engagement" exercise was announced to determine a specific proposal and an exact dollar amount the voters need to approve for a new high school.

The Fielding Nair proposal was approximately \$65 million for a "hybrid high school," meaning 36 percent remodeled and 64 percent new construction.

Optional modular components such as learning and athletic upgrades could, if selected, boost that figure by \$10 million to \$20 million.

Various aspects of the upgrades, such as expanded swimming and diving pool, also can be cherry-picked to make select features available at a lower cost.

The board also has come up with \$8 million to \$11 million in existing funds that could be used to either offset the \$65 million price tag or buy upgrades.

Seven town hall meetings with residents have been scheduled from mid-January to mid-February.

The board expects to have a specific proposal and dollar amount set by the Feb. 16 meeting. A bond issue will then be placed on either a May or a November ballot.

In other school board developments, the passage of House Bills 618 and 619, which removed the cap on charter and cyber schools, was unwelcome but expected news.

"We may never see where we are today again," School Superintendent Robert Glass said. "We'll now have to enter these markets, not because it's where we want to go, but just to retain the resources we have."

In other matters, the school board approved a contingency amount of \$116,182 and a general conditions amount of \$34,856 bid for vendors that involves the District's

Central Office consolidation and renovation of the Doyle Center.

The total cost of the project is \$1,161,821 of which the majority of funds come from the Capital Projects improvement plan and the sinking fund.

In addition, the board approved \$47,160 and contingency of \$4,716 for asbestos removal. These funds would come from the sinking fund.

Andover varsity football program for 2012 — which faced a December death sentence if sufficient student interest could not be found — has been granted a reprieve.