



WEST OTTAWA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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June 2016

Dear Friends,

RE: BOND UPDATE

We had another outstanding year at West Ottawa preparing all of our students to be College, Career and Life Ready.

There were 500 graduates in the Class of 2016, with 111 of them earning a GPA of 3.5 or better. Sixty-seven graduates earned a medallion signifying they earned 750 honors points, which are calculated by GPA; ACT score; and the number of AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment courses taken. Seven students earned a 4.0 GPA and were named Valedictorian and three others were named Salutatorian with a GPA of 3.99. We are also very excited about 140 of our graduates who will be the first in their family to go to college.

We are very proud of our graduates and the faculty, staff and administration that have worked so very hard with these students to ensure their success. We are looking forward to great things from the Class of 2016.

Much progress has been made in our major bond projects over the course of this spring, and there is much more work to be done over the summer months to ensure that we will be able to have a smooth start to the 2016-17 school year. Below is an overview of the work that has been completed and that which will be completed this summer.

Design, Construction and Technology Planning & Progress

The amount of work accomplished lately has been truly amazing. Tom Swifney, the maintenance staff and the custodial staff have been tremendous.

- WOPS staff cleared out the media center and the classrooms at Lakeshore Elementary so that carpet replacement could begin. Half of the gymnasium is packed with desks, filing cabinets, technology, and chairs.
- The staff at Waukazoo are all out of their building. Technology staff moved computers out of the labs and classrooms while the operations staff moved furniture out of the way for construction crews.
- Asbestos abatement at Waukazoo is underway in three of the oldest classrooms.
- The site work at Waukazoo is moving quickly as they make room for the additional parking and new drives there.
- The old fuel tanks were taken out of the ground and a new above ground fueling station will be installed later this summer.

Preparing Students to be College, Career and Life Ready!

- The asphalt at Macatawa Bay and Harbor Lights has been removed so that contractors can put in the new parking and drives to improve the traffic situation at those buildings.
- The new phone system switch went well overall. We certainly had some fixes to make in the first week, but the transition was a complete success, except for the extremely unfortunate timing of the gas company cutting our buried fiber line just a few days after our new phone system became operational.
- We are just starting to work with GMB on a plan for adding redundancy to our fiber optic network so that one mistake by the gas company doesn't leave us with seven buildings that don't have email, Internet or phone access.

The **Macatawa Bay renovation project** is out to bid with a bid opening late June. Several days in July will be spent interviewing contractors before making a recommendation to the Board in August. We have a tentative schedule of work, but we'll be refining that schedule during July with the various contractors that are the low bidders on the project.

The **construction on 136th Avenue** picked up due to the end of the school year.

We opened bids for the **replacement of the buried fiber optic line between Harbor Lights Middle School and Pine Creek Elementary School**. The low bid was well under budget and under the bid threshold so we are proceeding with that project.

We are currently working on designs and separate bid packages for the **replacement of a section of the Harbor Lights Middle School roof, upgrades to sound and lighting in the Performing Arts Center, replacement of some of the high school tennis courts, installing a marching band stand at the high school north parking lot, paving improvement projects at multiple sites, and finishing mechanical upgrades at Woodside Elementary School**, which were started prior to the bond with sinking fund money.

The technology department is finishing up the details of the **wireless system installation**. Over 1,000 devices were connected to our wireless network during graduation without any service issues.

As I shared on several occasions, our staff has been working very diligently on preparing to use technology to meet the individual needs of all of our learners. This fall we are looking forward to a very smooth **roll out of Chromebooks to all of our high school students**. It will be very exciting to see how learning will be enhanced due to all of the hard work that has taken place in preparation.

Thanks again to you, as a community member, for your support with the bond and also your part in assisting us in preparing all of our students to be *College, Career and Life Ready*.

My Best,

Thomas K. Martin
Superintendent of Schools