

# Board Briefs

*The Board of Education Brookwood School District 167*

October 2012 ~ Volume 2, Issue 7

## A Word from the Board President

A critical review of Brookwood Middle School was completed in 2008 and a plan to improve the facility has been seriously discussed since that time by the Board of Education. After reviewing the results of recent surveys that were conducted last April on how to best improve the middle school environment, the Board voted to place a referendum question on the November 6<sup>th</sup> ballot on whether a new school should be constructed to replace the existing structure. Your vote on November 6<sup>th</sup> will decide whether a new school will be constructed within the next three years or if the Board must decide to plan for a massive renovation of a school with a functional age greater than 100 years.

As we anxiously await the decision, I urge you to plan to vote, visit any of our facilities and view the plans that are on display at each of the schools. The referendum question will appear on the last page on the ballot. Your vote will determine the environment in which our children, staff, and community will work together to prepare for the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



As a final note, please keep in mind that our children are our future. It is important that all stakeholders work together to provide the best educational experience for our children.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melinda Plott".

Melinda Plott

## Referendum FAQ's

**What is the cost per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for the average homeowner per year?**  
\$1.50 per month per \$100,000 of assessed valuation

**What is the cost per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for the average senior citizen homeowner per year?**  
\$1.28 per month per \$100,000 of assessed valuation

**What is the cost per \$100,000 of assessed valuation for a local business?**  
\$17.67 per month per \$100,000 of assessed valuation

### Is the old school historic?

No. The current building would need substantial changes to be considered a historic landmark. It would cost millions of dollars to initially comply with a historic landmark designation and the building still would not meet the current needs of fifth and sixth grade students.

**How much does it cost to build a new school?**  
\$15.8 million

### When will it be built?

If the referendum passes in November the anticipated opening of the new school would be in the fall of 2015.

### How long will it take to pay off the bonds that will finance the school?

20 years. This is the maximum length of time for the payoff of bonds for school projects. This allows all stakeholders to share in the cost of the building. Current residents as well as new residents will be able to take advantage of this new building.

### What are the costs if we just repair the existing school?

In 2008 the Facility Assessment of Brookwood Middle School indicated that it would cost approximately \$6 million including air conditioning, electrical upgrades, lighting and ceiling upgrades, fire protection, general renovation, renovation of the current learning center, and site improvements. Today, these improvements would cost almost \$10 million and the building would still be inadequate in terms of needed space.

## Summary of the 2008 Brookwood Middle School Facilities Report

- The main building, constructed in 1898, is primarily a wood structure. The attic space has wood plank flooring and wood rafters. The attic has been compartmentalized with gypsum board partitions to minimize the spread of fire and smoke in the event of a fire.
- The building has not seen major improvements since 1957. A four classroom addition was added in 1950 and a five classroom addition was added in 1954. The gym, cafeteria, and band room were completed in 1957.
- The building lacks a controlled secure entry. The current entry is monitored only by a remote camera.
- The primary circulation path through the building is through the library.
- The secondary means of exit on upper levels is through adjoining classrooms.
- The music room on the second floor is not handicap accessible. The secondary means of exit is a door to the roof.
- The parking lot lacks safe, segregated paths for busses, cars and pedestrians.
- Building ventilation is inadequate.
- There is no air conditioning in most of the building. The building has very thick walls and retains heat.
- There are not enough staff and student restrooms.
- There is no fire sprinkler system.
- The learning center, kitchen and cafeteria areas are too small for the current student population housed in the school.

## Proposed New Middle School



**The Board of Education  
Brookwood School District 167**

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**Cynthia Pettis, Vice President**  
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We're on the Web!  
[www.brookwood167.org](http://www.brookwood167.org)

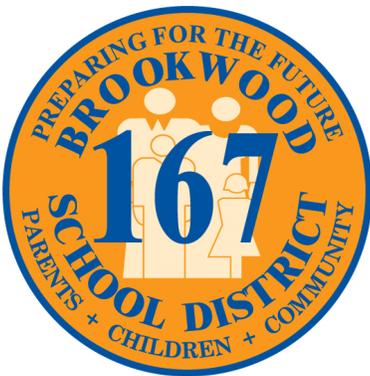
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Need to register to vote? Voter registration may be completed at all district facilities.



The new two story school will provide a modern, safe, and healthy learning environment. It would include 14 modern classrooms with science labs, a learning center, a café style cafeteria, along with provisions for extra-curricular studies and activities for art, gym, and music. Upgraded power and electrical accommodations would be included to address tomorrow's technology.

**PROPOSED NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167—GLENWOOD, ILLINOIS**



Non-Profit  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 23  
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**RESIDENT  
GLENWOOD, IL 60425**

**Mission Statement:**  
*Brookwood School District 167, in partnership with parents and community, will create a learning environment in which all students excel at becoming lifelong learners and decision makers.*