

Board Briefs

The Board of Education Brookwood School District 167

A Word from the Board President

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. This is the mission statement established by the Board after numerous meetings, discussions, and collaboration. Our mission statement is more relevant each day as the Board continues to approve additional funds for enhanced curriculum studies in social studies for grades K-8, Spanish for grades 5-8, and advanced math classes for all students in grades 5-8. Life Safety Funds were approved to repair and upgrade state required improvements at Longwood, Hickory Bend and Brookwood Junior High. Repairs immediately required were approved for the middle school to address safety concerns relevant to a 1964 code. Today's safety codes require schools to have accommodations that are non-existent at the middle school such as elevators, air conditioning on all floors, and hand-capped accessibility. Electrical limitations are a concern for this structure as we address the technology requirements demanded for the upcoming Common Core Standards.

Costs for significant improvements at the middle school will require expensive repairs and upgrades in order to drastically impact the learning environment. In the opinion of the Board, the environment at the middle school is inadequate for today's learners and repairs at the middle school could prove to be endless and inefficient. The Board agreed that a modern school to replace the existing structure is the most efficient way to improve the environment to promote student learning due to historic low borrowing costs and the urgent need to address the inadequacies in the existing building.

In July the Board voted to place a referendum question of whether a new school should be constructed to replace the existing middle school, funded by the issuance of bonds, on the ballot in November. The new two story 62,000 square foot school would 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-curriculum studies and activities for art, gym, and music. Upgraded power and electrical accommodations would be included to address tomorrow's technology.

Your vote in November will determine the future environment of the middle school. A vote of yes will allow the Board of Education to sell bonds in the amount of \$15.8 million to fund the new structure and demolish the old school. A tax increase of \$ 1.50 per month for every \$100,000 of assessed valuation will be incurred. A vote of no will direct the School Board to schedule emergency repairs, using the existing fund balances if alternative sources are not available. A massive renovation will be required to address the inefficiencies of this aging school. In the meantime, I encourage you to register to vote, if you have not already done so, and stay informed. Remember, the Board and the community in partnership will determine the future learning environment in which our children are expected to excel and prepare for the demands of the 21st century.

Respectfully,



Melinda Plott
Board President

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July/August 2012

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Points of Interest:

- The Board approved a resolution providing for and requiring the submission of a proposition to issue school building bonds to the voters of School District 167 on November 6, 2012 for a new middle school.
- The Board granted approval to Sruga Hauser LLC, Board Attorneys, to seek a waiver from the Illinois General Assembly to increase the bonding authority of the school district.
- The Board approved Mario Planera, Architect, as the Architect of Record for miscellaneous and ongoing professional architectural services.
- The Board approved the tentative budget for the 2012-2013 school year on August 13. The budget hearing is set for September 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Admin Center.
- Next Board Meeting will be on September 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Admin Center.

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

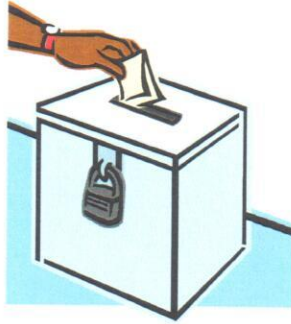
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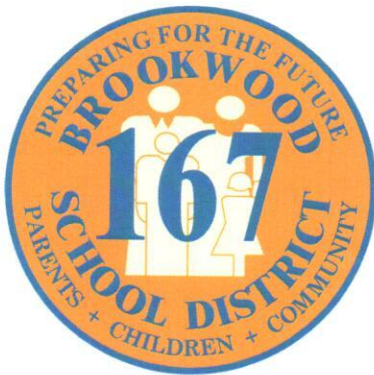
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We're on the Web!
www.brookwood167.org

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



Artist's rendering—If a new middle school is approved by the voters, the existing 114 year-old middle school would be replaced with a building of approximately 62,000 sq. ft. This preliminary rendering includes 14 modern classrooms, science labs, learning center/computer lab, art room, band/music room, gymnasium, kitchen, cafetorium, reconfigured parking lots, and building-wide handicapped accessibility.



Mission Statement:
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