

# Board Briefs

*The Board of Education Brookwood School District 167*

## A Word from the Board President

In August, Dr. Hollich and I toured all four schools, to view the final stages of the life safety projects. We were pleased with the results at Longwood, Hickory Bend, and the Junior High, but increasingly anxious while discussing Brookwood Middle School. The approved repairs at the middle school were completed; however the board still has significant safety concerns regarding Brookwood Middle School.

The Board has submitted 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-curricular 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 learning environment for the students who attend 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 a home's market value 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 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 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Respectfully,



Melinda Plott  
Board President

## Referendum FAQ's

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

In 2008 the Facility Assessment of Brookwood Middle School that was conducted by Planera Architects 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, renovation of the original auditorium, and site improvements. Today, these improvements would cost almost \$10 million and the building would still be inadequate in terms of needed space.

### **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.

### **Where will the new school be built?**

The new school will be built on the current site. The artist's rendering shows the school on the east side of the site. The architect will determine the final position of the building on the site based upon information gathered from the engineer.

### **What is the cost per \$100,000 of a home's market value for the average homeowner per year?**

\$1.50 per month per \$100,000 of a home's market value

### **What is the cost per \$100,000 of a home's market value for the average senior citizen?**

\$1.28 per month per \$100,000 of a home's market value

### **Is the old school historic?**

No. The current building would need substantial changes to be considered a historic landmark. The building has been cared for by the district. However, changes have been made that would not be in keeping with any historic significance of the building. It would cost millions of dollars to initially comply with a historic landmark designation and the building still would not meet the needs of fifth and sixth grade students in 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 Sraga 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 of Education**

**Brookwood School District 167**

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Brookwood School District 167  
201 E. Glenwood Dyer Road  
Glenwood, IL 60425

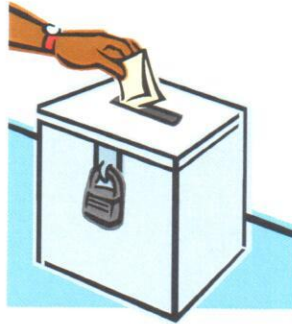
Phone: 708-758-5190  
Fax: 708-757-2104  
Email:  
boardofed@brookwood167.org

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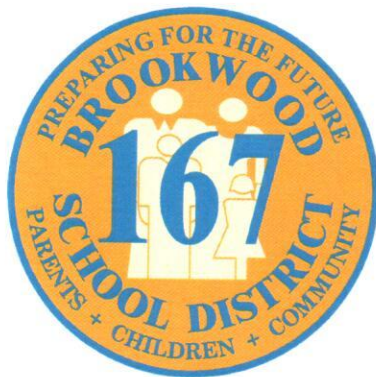
We're on the Web!  
[www.brookwood167.org](http://www.brookwood167.org)

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



*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:**  
*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.*

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