

FHPS Bond Proposal FACTS

VOTE NO on November 7 or by Absentee

- FHPS wants to borrow **340 MILLION DOLLARS** through your property taxes over the next **21 YEARS**. This is **250% MORE** than the last bond proposal of 130 million dollars, just 5 years ago.
- FHPS's current debt is \$111,630,000. The current proposal would **QUADRUPLE** the debt. Interest payments could potentially top 40 MILLION DOLLARS in the first year alone.
- There is **NO DIRE NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS** within FHPS. FHPS is stating there will be "no tax increase" because there is a current bond authorization in place which will be expiring next year. There is absolutely **ZERO GUARANTEE** that FHPS won't come back to the FHPS stakeholders on a future ballot with a request to **INCREASE**. When property values increase, so do your taxes, and voting yes on this proposal will assure that your rates will increase for the next 21 years!
- FHPS student enrollment has fallen steadily** from 10,161 students in 2013 to 9,208 in 2022. Nearly a **10 PERCENT DECREASE**. Taxes and expenses for infrastructure should be going DOWN as a result, not UP. Make it make sense!
- FHPS wants to spend **52 MILLION DOLLARS** to build 2 new community pools, and an additional **8 MILLION DOLLARS to FILL IN THE EXISTING, FULLY FUNCTIONING POOL**, without ANY plans for what to do with that space once complete. One of FHPS's reasons for building the new pools is because the existing pool is "scheduled at all hours of the day". This is untrue. In fact, the pool has been closed six weeks this year for unknown reasons. Scheduling problems can be handled more cheaply than building more pools and filling in functional ones. FHPS has not even considered repairing the existing pool because they would have to use operating funds to do that, rather than just taking MILLIONS of dollars in taxpayer funds to build new. This is completely WASTEFUL.
- FHPS currently has a **SURPLUS of CASH ON HAND** thanks to YOUR TAX DOLLARS in the form of nearly **27 MILLION DOLLARS in COVID RELIEF CARES ACT and ESSER FUNDING between 2020 and 2022**. FHPS has been less than transparent with information regarding how these dollars were (and are) being spent. The only way to access this spending information is by filing a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Request, for which FHPS will CHARGE YOU up to multiple THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS. In 2021 Forest Hills for JUST Education FOIA-requested for terms related to Critical Race Theory (CRT) and similar terms like "diversity, equity, and inclusion", and was charged over 400 THOUSAND DOLLARS for the results because over 400 THOUSAND hits came back for those terms within our FHPS staff email communications with each other and school-related organizations. At that same time, Superintendent Dan Behm had been telling concerned parents at Board of Education meetings that he had no idea what CRT even was. FOIA will be required to see how FHPS specifically spends this bond money as well!
- FHPS has not obtained detailed estimates for ANY of the proposed expenditures related to this bond proposal. They are estimating based on the advice of "trusted" contractors and designers who have previously secured bids with FHPS and have **no specific time frames, plans, or budgets for any of the proposed projects**.
- Even now, FHPS is **using YOUR TAX DOLLARS to "electioneer"** the bond proposal by sending expensive flyers, newsletters, updating the website and social media to promote tax increases. This is unethical, at the very least.

As enrollment and academic performance decrease, expenses and money grabs increase.

It's time to STOP THE WASTE!

<https://www.fhps.net/documents/schedules-of-debt-service-requirements.pdf/>

https://www.mackinac.org/archives/2021/MI_School_Districts_Extra_COVID_Funds_Breakdown.pdf

<https://www.mischooldata.org/student-enrollment-counts-report/>

<https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2023/09/whats-being-built-in-forest-hills-new-123m-building-will-open-next-spring.html>

https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-search/Forest-Hills_MI

<https://www.michigancapitolconfidential.com/election-today-and-plenty-of-taxpayer-funded-electioneering-too>