



Our mission: *Together... educating with excellence, inspiring each learner for life.*

BOND UPDATE

Exciting Progress and a Look Ahead at Bond Projects in 2024

December 11, 2023

Construction update

This fall, substantial improvements were made to our district facilities with the construction of secure entry vestibules at four Okemos schools: **Bennett Woods, Cornell, Edgewood, and Okemos Public Montessori at Central.**

Each school now features a secure entrance to direct all visitors through the office while managing hallway access throughout the day. We are grateful for additional safety and security measures at these buildings and look forward to implementing more secure entrances at the remaining Okemos facilities in the next phase of bond projects.

Updates were also made to the **High School Stadium** where the new barrier-free plaza entry and updated bleachers were formally unveiled at a celebration in October.

Next Phase Under Design

We are excited for the year ahead, as there are many projects making exciting progress in 2024. This includes the continued design of the new **Chippewa Middle School**, which will seek board approval in March. Bidding will occur in the spring months and site work will begin in early summer. Construction is expected to last two years with the anticipated completion of the Chippewa project being in 2026.

Our architects and engineers recently presented an update to the Board of Education regarding the Design Development of many projects including the secure vestibule and main office projects at the **High School**, the secure vestibule, main office, car loop and playground improvements at **Hiawatha Elementary**, as well as additional utility infrastructure improvements to Central. These projects will begin construction in early spring.

The team generated excitement by sharing preliminary renderings of the new car loop configuration at Hiawatha, highlighting increased safety and efficient design features. In the new design, the Summergate Lane entrance would be used exclusively for bus traffic, relocating the parent car loop to Fairhills Drive. Advantages include decreased congestion on site and the reduction of backup onto Jolly Road. Additional parking would also be part of the project. Light site work will begin next spring, pending Board approval at the March 2024 board meeting. Construction will begin shortly after, with the majority of work being completed over the summer months. It is expected to be ready for the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

We appreciate the community's continued support of these projects and their flexibility and patience as we implement these amazing improvements. ***Stay tuned for continuing updates, and as always you can find our updates at www.okemosbond.net!***



Central Office



Edgewood Office

