



MASON

Keynotes

Information and updates
for the Mason Community
from Mason Public
Schools

FALL 2025

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FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN

Dear Mason Community,

The Board of Education is asking voters to consider a priority needs bond proposal that would generate approximately \$66 million without raising the current tax rate.

Earlier this year, MPS invited the entire Mason community to share its input through a districtwide survey. Feedback from more than 1,000 residents, staff, parents, and civic organizations helped identify priority needs for this proposal. Thank you for helping drive the direction of this proposed bond!

If approved, the bond would build on the momentum of the projects and improvements made possible with the 2017 bond and fund priority needs projects identified in the survey, which include:

- Extensive Middle School Renovations
- High School Renovations
- New Transportation Facility

In this issue of Keynotes you will find a document that breaks down the ballot language that will be presented to the Mason Community on Election Day, November 4, 2025, as well as more details about each of the three planned priority projects.

Information about the bond proposal and survey results can be found on the Mason bond website. I am happy to answer any bond-related questions as well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Kinzer
Superintendent, Mason Public Schools
kinzerg@masonk12.net

To learn more,
scan the QR
code or visit
[masonk12.net/
district/bond](https://masonk12.net/district/bond)



COMMITTED TO STUDENTS. CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY.

MASON MADE

An Exemplary Learning Community - Every Student. Every Day.



2025 Bond Proposal

UNDERSTANDING THE BOND BALLOT PROPOSAL



Shall Mason Public Schools, Ingham County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Sixty-Six Million One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$66,150,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

\$66 MILLION BOND
The district will sell bonds totaling \$66,150,000 million

erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to the middle school building; remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; erecting, furnishing and equipping a new maintenance and transportation building; acquiring, installing, equipping and re-equipping school buildings for instructional technology; purchasing school buses; and preparing, developing, improving and equipping playgrounds, athletic fields and facilities and sites?

- EXTENSIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATIONS**
 - Make major renovations to student spaces
 - Upgrade HVAC & plumbing needs
 - Improve public access & traffic flow
- HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATIONS**
 - Overhaul the existing auditorium
 - Update HVAC systems
 - Update student spaces
- NEW TRANSPORTATION FACILITY**
 - Increase safety & security
 - Expand capacity
 - Enhance efficiency & operations

YES _____
NO _____

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2026 is 1.89 mills (\$1.89 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a 0 mill net increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.40 mills (\$2.40 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE
The bond proposal would result in a Zero-Tax-Rate Increase from the existing millage rate



Vote November 4

ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE FROM EXISTING MILLAGE RATE

Paid for by Mason Public Schools, 201 W. Ash Street, Suite 2A, Mason, MI 48854



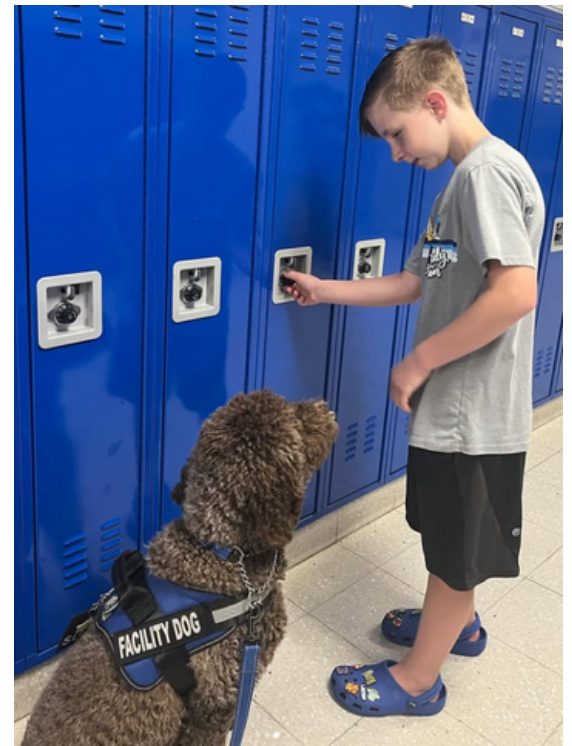
TRACTOR TECHNICIANS WITH THEIR IMAGERY AWARD FROM THE WORLD ROBOTICS COMPETITION.

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE BULLDOG BARK SQUAD?



Congratulations to Willow and Coco! They both passed their Facility Dog Certification tests and are now officially part of the MPS staff. Willow and Coco worked hard last year to learn all about being in schools they were ready to welcome students back to the classroom!

Lewis helped out at Level UP over the summer and Sully welcomed sixth graders to Mason Middle School on Jitters Day!



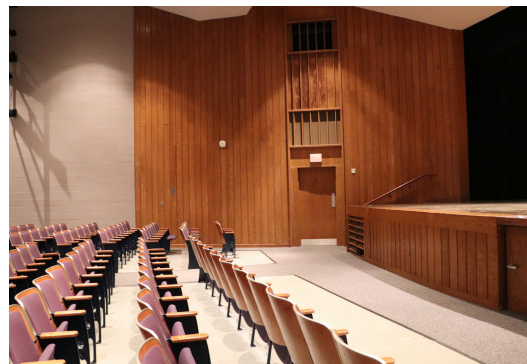
BOND BREAKDOWN

If approved, the proposed 2025 bond would fund three priority projects; learn more about each project and the planned updated and improvements proposed for each project.

High School Renovations - estimated 33% of the bond

Our high school facilities require significant updates to better serve students and the broader school community. These improvements are aimed at cultivating a creative, engaging, and efficient environment for our entire school community. Key projects at the high school include:

- An overhaul of the existing auditorium- a full renovation to support student performance, creativity, and community events.
- Updates to HVAC systems- updates to create improved student environments and modernized facilities.
- Updates to student spaces- renovations to create functional and engaging environments that support learning and growth.



Middle School Renovations - estimated 51% of the bond

As our middle school building continues to age, it presents growing challenges for both students and staff. If approved, the 2025 bond proposal would enable us to make critical upgrades that directly impact learning and safety. Together, these improvements would create a more functional, welcoming, and efficient environment for our entire school community. Key projects at Mason Middle School would include:



- Major renovations to student spaces- Modern renovations designed to support collaboration, creativity, and flexible instruction.
- Upgrades to HVAC & plumbing needs- Upgraded systems to create improved student environments and modernized facilities.
- Improved public access & traffic flow- Safer, more efficient circulation for the school community.

New Transportation Facility - estimated 16% of the bond

As a bus district, we struggle to provide adequate space for our transportation and maintenance staff, as well as for our vehicles. If the 2025 bond program passes, we would have the opportunity to provide staff with safer working environments, expand their capacity, and enhance daily operations and efficiency.

- Increase safety & security- a modern facility to better protect staff, vehicles, and equipment.
- Expand capacity- more space to accommodate transportation demands and future needs.
- Enhance efficiency & operations- upgrades to streamline maintenance and day-to-day operations.





MHS MARCHING BAND CAMP

SAFETY TEAM UPDATE

Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, Mason Public School (MPS) will adopt the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) for school emergencies.

The SRP uses clear common language to explain five specific actions that can be taken during an emergency. By standardizing the vocabulary, school district officials, staff, students and emergency responders can understand the actions being taken and status of the event.

Staff and students will take part in safety drills throughout the year utilizing the new SRP to ensure staff and students become accustomed to the protocol. Updated staff information, classroom posters and other resources will be distributed and serve as visual reminders of the protocol.

Learn more about SRP and the MPS Comprehensive School Safety Team on the new MPS Safety website www.masonk12.net/schoolsafety.



Scan the QR code or visit www.masonk12.net/schoolsafety to learn more.

SUMMER TRAINING FOR SAFER SCHOOLS

Over the summer, MPS partnered with local police, fire, and emergency medical services to hold an Active Violent Incident (AVI) training exercise at Mason High School. This important event brought staff, first responders, and community partners together to practice how they would respond in the event of a real emergency.

The training helped school staff gain confidence in safety procedures and highlighted ways to strengthen district emergency plans. First responders gained experience working side by side with educators and one another inside a school setting—making the practice even more valuable.

Superintendent Gary Kinzer said, “Our top priority is the safety of students and staff, and this training gave us a chance to practice with our community partners and make sure we’re ready for the unexpected.”

Mason Public Schools would like to thank the dedicated law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel who gave their time and expertise to make this training possible. Their partnership helps ensure our schools remain safe and prepared.



District leaders worked alongside local police and fire officials in a mock incident command scenario during the AVI.

UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Mason Public Schools Board of Education holds regular board meetings the second Thursday of each month. Special meetings are scheduled as needed. Regular meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at Mason City Hall, unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meetings:

- Thursday, October 9, 2025
- Thursday, November 13, 2025
- Thursday, December 11, 2025
- Thursday, January 8, 2026

TEAM MASON- WHAT WAS GOING IN THE STEELE PARKING LOT?

Team Mason articles shine a spotlight on students, teachers, programs and projects in all buildings and grades in the district. Team Mason articles are written by Dr. Janet Alleman, MPS Instructional Consultant and Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University. Read all of the Team Mason articles at www.masonk12.net/district/team-mason



Flashing lights and four Ingham County emergency vehicles in the Steele Elementary parking lot on a Thursday morning makes you wonder, “What’s going on?”

I quickly realized the officers were preparing for a demonstration of the county’s drones for the kindergarten through fourth graders attending Mason’s summer Level UP! program. What an opportunity for our students!

Students were spellbound as they observed the drones in action. They were mighty excited and somewhat awestruck when they were able to read the clock on the Mason Courthouse more than a mile and a half away.

Our students got the inside scoop from the drone pilot officer about the rules for operating them. For example, they learned you cannot fly drones above large crowds of people and that the drone operator must be able to see the drone at all times. Students learned how drones are used to rescue people, help in dangerous situations and assist firefighters by using thermo-imaging to see through smoke and determine where to apply water.



Students heard how they might use drones in future careers including aerial photography, videography, agricultural monitoring, delivery services and search and rescue situations provided a glimpse into the potential drones possess.

Given that current educational literature is making noise about the need to add a career component to what’s taught in elementary classrooms, students in Level UP! also have a ‘leg up.’

I’ll wager some students talked to their parents into making a purchase, especially since they learned you don’t need a drone pilot license if you are using it exclusively for personal use. All one needs to do is register it with the Federal Aviation Administration.

I encourage you to check out the skies in the upcoming months.

Don’t be surprised if you see some wiry-like birds buzzing around, all because of that motivating lesson in the Steele parking lot!

WELCOME BACK BULLDOGS!

From our smallest to our seniors, the Mason Bulldogs welcomed the 2025-26 school year with smiles and excitement. Thank you to our families for sharing your First Day of School photos! Have a great year, Bulldogs!



MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
201 WEST ASH STREET, SUITE 2A
MASON, MI 48854



Mason Public Schools

Keynotes

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

Mason Public Schools is committed to academic excellence in a safe environment where students develop critical thinking skills, are empowered to succeed, and are encouraged to serve their community.

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