

Garber Swimming Pool

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Why is the pool not being fixed with Bond or Sinking Fund money?**
 - a. The original \$41 million bond had \$2.3 million dedicated to the pool, which was voted down by our community. When the revision of the bond went to the smaller bond and sinking fund, the major renovations to the pool were not carried forward.
- 2. Why and how did the situation come to light and when?**
 - a. The pump of the pool had to be serviced in the fall and we were told by the repair man to have someone look at the structure due to the appearance of deterioration. So, the district hired SME (Soil and Materials Engineers Inc.) for an engineering report and opinion of the pool status. We received the report on December 1, 2015 and presented it to the Board of Education at the December meeting. This was the intention to call attention to the challenges and begin to mobilize people to try and help find funding to save the pool.
- 3. How was the pricing for the project determined?**
 - a. We took the SME report and had Bill Robertson Pool Design Build Inc. give us a preliminary estimate on what it would take to fix the items. The report was that the three major parts that are of concern in the short term are the iron structure, cement decking, and the piping system. They estimated this to be around \$600,000 in repair work. The remainder of the report which would bring it all up to code was around \$1.2 million in additional money. Grand total \$1.8 million.
- 4. Why hasn't the district had a second opinion or estimate done?**
 - a. In some ways Robertson can be considered a second opinion as they validated the SME report as being accurate for our needs. The second estimate is done with a bidding process that we are looking to initialize in April. We will be bidding out the work that was told to us to be done this summer and the back-up plan to get a useable direct amount of cost for the work on the pool.
- 5. What company said we had to close our pool at the end of the year?**
 - a. The company does not have the power to close the pool, they just advise us. Due to the conditions of the structure and the report that we have been given, we would not pass safety or possible health inspection. The liability to the district is very high if we ignore the report and something happens.
- 6. What company gave the \$600,000 estimate to repair the pool and what was the estimate based on?**
 - a. There are a limited number of companies in the state that service pools that are run in schools. We used the company that services our area for the estimate and are looking to get a second one anytime now. The estimate is based upon their expertise in doing this work and the costs they predict will be a part of the job.
- 7. Where is the itemized repair (break-down of the cost)?**
 - a. We will not release the break-down due to the fact that the project has to go through competitive bidding if we raise the money. The release of the pricing breakdown would undermine the lowest bidder process and could cause us to pay inflated prices.

- 8. We would like a second opinion after the tin has been removed. The pool operating budget is less than 1% of the total Essexville Hampton operating costs. Is that too much?**
- a. We will not be doing removal of the tin. The operating budget of the pool is not the challenge in this situation. It is the updating and fixing of the pool. The district has and will continue to keep the operation of the pool in its budget.
- 9. Why are we getting a new auditorium when it's not even in that bad of condition?**
- a. We are not getting a new auditorium. We are fixing the electrical shortages, the asbestos abatement, and the physical hazards that exist in the auditorium.
- 10. Why are we not getting new football stands when a kid fell off of them?**
- a. A student or kid did not fall out of the football stands. The issue was a broken foot board and an adult fan did fall through it on the visiting team's side. Since then, all bleachers have been re-inspected and any board in question has been replaced. We also have money from the sinking fund that is dedicated to refurbish the bleachers, but not until year four or possibly year five of the sinking fund.
- 11. There have been multiple questions in regards to Chromebooks and other technology in Garber and why we spent money on this stuff and not the pool?**
- a. The simple answer is that our primary mission is to educate the students for their next step in their educational life. The updating of our school from the 1990 level of technology to today was a must have in the eyes of the staff, community, and others. Plus, the Chromebooks were offset from grants, purchasing special incentives, and other items to lower their cost, versus buying all new books in every subject. We were forced to make hard choices about where and what to fund when we had to shrink down to the smaller bond, there were multiple open meetings held and posted to complete this process.
- 12. What is this back-up plan?**
- a. The back-up plan is to convert the pool into a useable P.E. space for the schools. This would be a multi-purpose room that many sports could use throughout the year. The cost of the conversion is to be paid for through an IPA (Installment Payment Agreement) over the next few years and funded by the savings of not running a pool 24 hours a day for 365 days a year. This is a back-up plan due to the district wanting to save the pool first, but unable to afford the cost of the construction needed to keep the pool.