



# Carney-Nadeau Public School

151 N. Hwy 41  
P.O. Box 68  
Carney, MI 49812  
PH 906-639-2171  
Fax 906-639-2176 [www.cnps.us](http://www.cnps.us)

## Board of Education

Gerald Hoduski, President  
Linda Corrigan, Vice President  
Jason DuPont, Secretary  
Dan Koffman, Treasurer

Mike Charlier, Trustee  
Mark Jasper, Trustee  
Joanne Polfus, Trustee

Superintendent  
Adam Cocco  
Principal  
John Eichhorn



February 8, 2018

Hello Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

I hope the temperature has risen a bit by the time you read this, but presently the thermometer is holding firm at one below zero! As I grow older, I've come to appreciate Michigan winters more than I used to—I like how the world just seems to slow down a bit after we get that first heavy snow—but I'd much prefer if the temperatures slowly started to rise again right after January 1<sup>st</sup>. I always hope for a "White Christmas," but as soon as the new year begins I find myself missing warm sunshine and the feel of green grass beneath my feet.

At the moment, Spring may feel impossibly far off, but the month of May will be here before we know it, and that is in fact why I'm writing you today. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Carney-Nadeau Public School will have a sinking-fund proposal on the ballot and the purpose of this letter is to inform you of what this proposal entails well before you head to the polls. In essence, we're asking voters to consider a two-year levy of 3 mills, which is a slight reduction to the 3.5 mills taxpayers first paid on our school-improvement bond from 1992-2016 and identical to what was levied on our bus-bond (which expired in 2017). It is always our goal to place as small of a financial strain on your pocketbooks as possible and this is why we waited for the bus bond to expire before pursuing this new initiative. Indeed, should it pass, we will not only be able to fund the capital improvement projects specified below, but it may also continue the lowest millage rate levied by the school in the past 26 years.

Before we discuss the scope of those projects, though, I first want to make sure we all firmly understand precisely how a school sinking fund is defined. A sinking fund is a levied revenue source by which schools can fund long-term building improvements or repairs and purchase educational technology. There is a seemingly endless list of items that can and cannot be purchased with sinking funds, but broadly speaking, if it constitutes a permanent or long-term physical improvement to our campus or building, then it's typically considered a permissible sinking-fund expense. There are many exceptions to this general rule, but the paying of salaries, benefits, or any costs associated with employment or personnel is uniformly prohibited. In a sense, sinking funds can help defray operational expenses and help ensure that monies we receive from the state are spent on education rather than building upgrades and repairs. Our last major sinking fund purchase, for example, was our new boiler system/furnace back in 2012.

Now that we have a better idea of what a sinking fund is, of course the question then becomes what do we intend to use it for. A two-year levy of 3 mills is projected to raise \$330,000 of sinking-fund revenue, and by far the biggest project we intend to undertake is the replacement and (in some portions) repair of our existing roof system. Though the roof on our elementary building is less than ten years old—and neither in need of replacement or repair—the roof on our gym dates back to when it was first built in 1992. We've had two



separate roofing contractors examine our facilities in recent weeks and they both told us the lifespan for our roofing system is 20 years, so we are in fact overdue for some replacements. Additionally, we would like to reseal—and in some small areas even repair—all of the asphalt on our campus. Resealing not only extends its lifespan and reduces the pending need for total replacement, but, it beautifies our campus, and, by restoring lot lines and handicap parking space designations, works to increase the safety of our students. Also, there is at least one portion of a wall on the west side of our building that is in need of some foundation repair. We have a recurring crack on both the interior and exterior sides of the wall, and that strongly suggests it extends down to the footing. Moreover, we would like to purchase new computers for our high school tech lab—which, at present are more than five years old—and update at least one computer in each of our classrooms.

This is not a complete list of the projects we intend to pursue, but these are definitely the ones we feel are the most pressing. In the coming weeks, we will be administering a survey that will be open to all members of the general public to poll your interest in our potential projects. We will also be hosting several town hall meetings where you can hear more about our plans, view pictures, see timelines for completion, ask questions, and voice any comments or concerns you may have. We take the prospect of levying a millage very seriously and we will be seeking your input and feedback on numerous occasions in the months to come.

Well, my goal was to fit this letter onto a single page, but it seems I've run a bit long! School finance can be exceedingly complex, and we truly want everyone to firmly understand what is being asked of them. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration, and I look forward to discussing this matter in greater detail with you folks in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Cocco".

Adam Cocco  
Superintendent  
Carney-Nadeau Public School