

September 19, 2024

Dear Tiger Family:

I want to take a moment to address some of the questions and concerns circulating about the Tiger Legacy Project. It's important for our community to have accurate and thorough information about this major initiative, which will have a lasting impact on our schools, on our students, and on our community. Below, I've outlined the key components of the project, followed by a more detailed explanation to provide clarity.

Although the rendering that has been part of our Community Conversations has shown the scope of the project, many items are not yet determined, and will not be, until the design process begins. However, I want to provide some further information that may help our community understand the scope of this project, especially as related to the new elementary school.

New Elementary School:

The Tiger Legacy Project includes building a brand-new school that will serve students from Preschool to Grade 6. This school will replace the existing three (3) elementary buildings, bringing students together under one roof.

Here are a few 3-D renderings of the proposed new elementary school:

Front View:



Rear View:



Field Relocations:

To make space for the new school, Tiger Stadium will be moved to the Twinsburg High School campus. Additionally, the boys' practice soccer field, 9th-grade baseball field, and Hoon Softball Field will be relocated to the Dodge property.

Current Elementary School Properties:

The Tiger Legacy Project repurposes the Dodge property for the relocation of the athletic fields. Although all three (3) current elementary schools will be demolished once the new elementary school opens, the Twinsburg Board of Education has not determined a purpose for the Wilcox and Bissell properties at this time.

Classroom Sizes:

The new school will feature classrooms that are larger than the state minimum requirements. For example:

- Classrooms for Grades 1–6 will be at least 810 square feet, much bigger than current classrooms, which range from 600 to 850 square feet.
- Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms will be between 1,080 and 1,200 square feet, providing plenty of space for young learners.

Structure and Comparison to Twinsburg High School:

Many community members have asked how the new school compares to Twinsburg High School. The Twinsburg High School property is 56.8 acres. The property on which the new elementary school is proposed to be built is approximately 20 acres, which is about half of the total property of the R.B. Chamberlin Middle School campus.

The OFCC and Ohio School Design Manual call for larger spaces for older grade level students. Thus:

- The high school building has 266,590 square feet, with 1,149 students, giving 232.12 square feet per student. The OFCC had suggested relocating middle school students to the high school, which would reduce the square footage per student to 201.82. However, the Board of Education and administration decided that RB Chamberlin Middle School would remain the home for middle school students to better meet their needs.
- The proposed new elementary school building would be 227,924 square feet, with 2,146 students, giving 106.21 square feet per student. The OFCC standard notes the minimum requirement for elementary schools to be 104 square feet per student, thus, the new school exceeds the minimum standard.

Stable Enrollment:

Since 2016, four (4) different enrollment studies have all shown the same thing—our student numbers are expected to remain steady over the next eight (8) years. This gives us confidence in planning for the future.

Play Space:

Play areas at the new elementary school will be equal to or larger than the 34,000 square feet total that we currently have at Wilcox Primary School, Samuel Bissell Elementary School, and George G. Dodge Intermediate School. As the design process progresses, there may be opportunities to add even more green space and play areas or other features like pollinator gardens.

Gymnasiums:

Although the design teams have not convened to discuss the configuration of the gymnasiums in the new school, the intent is to provide flexibility in the space while also ensuring regulation basketball and volleyball courts. It is expected that the new space will accommodate many more types of activities than would be possible at our existing schools.

Safety Upgrades:

Safety is a top priority. The new school will include the latest security measures:

- Updated alarm systems, fire suppression, panic buttons, and cameras;
- Secure entrances, ballistic glass, and classroom doors that lock from the inside;
- Video entry systems for visitors and continuous discussions with local police and fire officials to ensure the building's security is top-notch.

Comparable Schools:

Building a Preschool through Grade 6 school is not a new idea. Similar school districts in Ohio, with new elementary schools, like Brecksville-Broadview Heights (enrollment: 1,720), North Ridgeville (enrollment: 1,861), and Mason (3,047) *, have similar grade configurations with comparable enrollments.

(* Data from the 2023/2024 Ohio School Report Cards)

Building Costs:

Based on a study by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, renovating the old school buildings would be too expensive, making the construction of a new school the most practical and cost-effective choice. Further, the District would not benefit from OFCC co-funding on renovations:

Renovation costs	Wilcox	Bissell	Dodge
Heating System	\$5,467,952.05	\$4,213,190.74	\$8,128,423.82
Roofing	\$2,327,221.90	\$2,025,584.20	\$2,285,053.94
AC / Ventilation	\$16,478.25	\$10,000.00	\$50,000.00
Electrical Systems	\$3,144,557.70	\$1,746,552.81	\$4,674,565.08
Plumbing & Fixtures	\$664,221.32	\$618,543.90	\$219,249.49
Windows	\$1,770,949.00	\$870,305.30	\$2,173,062.00
Structures: Foundation	\$4,199.40	\$75,000.00	\$25,000.00
Structures: Chimneys & Walls	\$394,204.72	\$203,850.60	\$324,904.80
Structures: Floors & Roofs	0	0	0
General Finishes	\$3,608,207.48	\$2,992,117.26	\$5,310,753.21
Interior Lighting	\$710,605.90	\$612,277.14	\$1,056,356.36
Security Systems	\$311,417.55	\$268,325.73	\$626,035.42
Emergency / Egress Lighting	\$109,713.50	\$6,802.20	\$9,069.60
Fire Alarm	\$328,296.55	\$282,869.13	\$488,031.62
Handicapped Access	\$512,103.42	\$374,654.03	\$951,546.69
Site Condition	\$1,175,709.06	\$867,042.52	\$1,668,569.12
Sewage System	0	0	0
Water Supply	0	0	0
Exterior Doors	\$161,956.00	\$93,934.48	\$84,217.12
Hazardous Materials	\$227,085.46	\$235,276.62	\$430,854.42
Life Safety	\$429,164.49	\$378,887.41	\$808,144.67
Loose Furnishings	\$903,870.45	\$769,231.72	\$1,268,668.73
Technology	\$1,410,240.45	\$1,214,967.39	\$1,871,192.32
Construction Contingency / Non-Construction Cost	\$5,784,644.22	\$4,363,108.22	\$7,928,535.88
Renovation Cost Factor	\$1,760,053.13	\$1,242,328.60	\$2,253,114.71
TOTAL	\$31,222,852.00	\$23,464,850.00	\$42,635,349.00

Ongoing Conversations:

In an effort to continue our conversations with our residents, additional Community Conversations are scheduled:

- Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at George G. Dodge Intermediate School - Media Center
- Monday, September 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Samuel Bissell Elementary School – Cafeteria – This session will be livestreamed on the District YouTube channel at: [tcsdstudenteventschl](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsdstudenteventschl)
- Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Wilcox Primary School – Multi-Purpose Room

Thank you for your interest in the Tiger Legacy Project. Please reach out to me with any questions.

Kathi Powers, Superintendent