

# ANCHOR BAY TODAY

April 2024 ~ Promoting educational excellence, community collaboration, and student success

## Anchor Bay Board of Education

**Phil Jankowski**  
*Superintendent*

**Patrick Green**  
*President*

**Jill Knox**  
*Vice President*

**Dominic Vendittelli**  
*Treasurer*

**Dennis Richards**  
*Secretary*

**Mike Moses**  
*Trustee*

**Jon DeRoo**  
*Trustee*

**Lisa Birkmeier**  
*Trustee*

VISION:

Educational Excellence Together

MISSION:

Empowering all students to succeed in an ever changing world.

Anchor Bay School District  
586.725.2861  
www.anchorbay.misd.net

## Message From the Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As our bond work picks up steam, I wanted to make everyone aware of some of the potential changes we are looking at in order to adjust to the needs of the district. Since the bond was passed, we have been working to ensure that the projects best fill the future needs of the district. This process means that we have to make some changes as we adapt the bond to the changing expectations of the state. For example, since we were approved for the bond, the state has moved toward implementing universal preschool and universal free lunch. Both of these present unique challenges for the district as they require additional facilities to cover the demands of these programs. In order to fulfill those needs, adhere to the principles upon which the bond was developed, and stay within the approved budget for the bond, we are looking at making the following changes.



To address the additional space demands for preschool programming, we have been evaluating our building utilization across the district. Based on our current plan, if we were to implement universal preschool, each of our elementary buildings would need to house 203% of their current capacity. Therefore, to address this, we would propose moving all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to Middle School North for a lower middle school and all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to Middle School South in an upper middle school. We examined dozens of options and we believe that the benefits for students from this configuration greatly outweigh the challenges. When we designed the bond as part of strategic planning, many parents expressed the need to ensure students at each middle school are given the same learning opportunities. By realigning as proposed, we can offer a 5<sup>th</sup> grade band program and 6<sup>th</sup> grade swimming at North for all students. Likewise, we can offer our new CTE electives at South for everyone. This would keep with the goals of the bond by creating better and more equitable learning opportunities for students while eliminating the current divide between North and South.

Likewise, we would propose reopening MacDonald Elementary. In the original bond proposal, MacDonald was slated to reopen in 2033 or beyond. However, based on the need for additional classroom space, we would look at reopening is as an elementary school about 5 years earlier to provide the space for the preschool expansion for three and four-year-olds.

Otherwise, we anticipate keeping the rest of the bond aligned with the original plan. Ashley would still be slated to become a combined elementary school while Lighthouse would become an early childhood center housing preschool and ECSE programs. Lottie may remain open to handle any additional preschool space if needed. Once those programs are relocated, then we would move the administration office to the former Early Childhood Center to enable MacDonald to reopen.

We will be holding eight community forums around the district as detailed in this newsletter, and you are welcome to attend any of those to ask questions or get further information on the changes.

Thank you for your support as we continue to build a better Anchor Bay.

**Phil Jankowski**  
Superintendent

Find us on social media: #TarSpirit

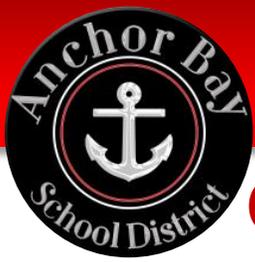


@ABTarSpirit



ABTarSpirit

*A new day in the Bay*



# Community Bond Forum Recap

Anchor Bay School District hosted a Community Bond Forum on March 4th, 2024 to present a bond program update. The entire presentation from that evening is available online at <https://www.anchorbay.misd.net/2022-bond-info/>. Here is a recap of the bond topics covered that evening.

## CURRENT PROJECTS • HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION



Barton Malow

## Construction Update

### Completed Projects:

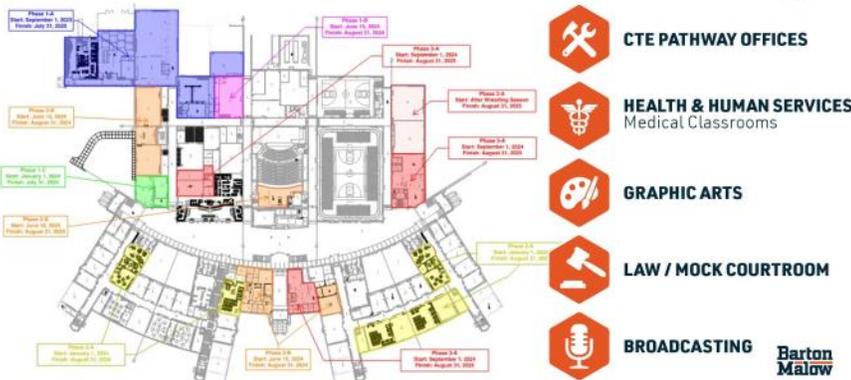
- More than 75 card readers installed
- More that 300 door contacts installed
- Exterior door key replacement
- ABHS temperature controls updated - more than 250 pieces of equipment have been added to the BMS system
  - This upgrade is expected to save \$40- 50K in energy savings
- ABHS gym floor

### Current Projects in Phase 1 at ABHS:

- 12,000 SF addition to ABHS to house restaurant, auto shop, and covered yard.
- Interior renovations including robotics, welding, and engineer classroom space
- ABHS chiller replacement
- Fire alarm updates

## CURRENT PROJECTS • HS ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS

PHASE 2



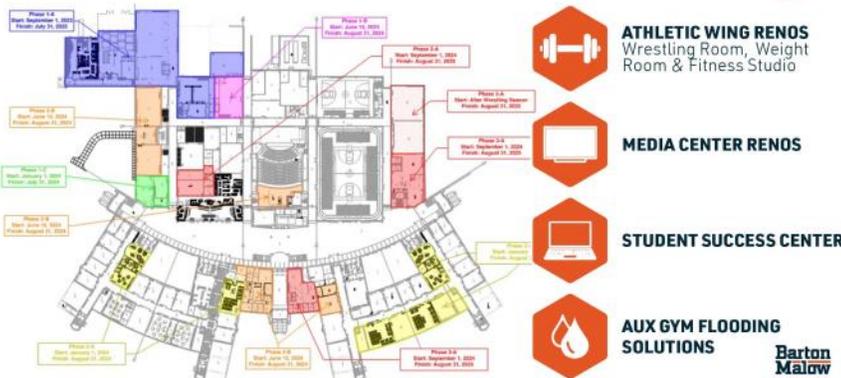
## Safety & Security Update

### Completed Projects:

- Upgraded access control
- Staff I.D.'s
- Door prop alert systems
- Increased lockdown button access
- New exterior door locks
- Dedicated safety team
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Partnerships with local law enforcement

## THE NEXT PHASE • HS ADDITIONS & RENOVATIONS

PHASE 3



### In Progress Projects:

- Radios
- Camera
- Threat assessment procedures
- Active intruder response training

### Future Projects:

- Emergency reunification procedures
- School emergency/crisis team
- Weapon detection technology
- Bullet resistant window film



# Community Bond Forum Recap

The 2022 Bond was passed with the following educational and operational goals in mind. The district is looking to modify the original bond projects to meet new needs such as universal preschool, free breakfast and lunch program for all students, and increased enrollment in the district while staying true to these educational and operational goals.

## EDUCATIONAL GOALS

- ✓ Facilitate *One Anchor Bay* culture
- ✓ Increase educational opportunities
- ✓ Maintain small school atmosphere
- ✓ Provide for project-based learning
- ✓ Create spaces for all learners
- ✓ Enhance design process curriculum
- ✓ Equitable classroom square footage
- ✓ Enhance student support resources

## OPERATIONAL GOALS

- ✓ Utilize key existing investments
- ✓ Correct geographical concerns
- ✓ Balance student population
- ✓ Lower operational costs
- ✓ Reduce average age of *K-12 facilities*
- ✓ Reduce *K-12 square footage*

*A new day in the Bay*



### WHAT'S CHANGED SINCE THE BOND PASSED?

- Early childhood legislation
- Increased enrollment
- Universal free & reduced lunch

Since the passing of the bond in 2022, there have been major developments that change the needs of the district. If the district followed the original project lists, our Pre-K space would be at 203% capacity, elementary 98%, and middle schools 58%.

*we are listening*

BASED ON COMMUNITY INPUT

No "mega" elementary schools

Equitable educational programs for our middle schools

Reevaluating Lottie M. Schmidt

New developments give the district the opportunity to reevaluate future bond projects to meet these new needs such as more preschool and kitchen spaces, and address community concerns that came up during the bond process.

Luckily, Anchor Bay is in a great position in the bond process to be able to pivot and meet future needs without wasting taxpayer money on projects that won't accommodate the over 600 students the district will need to consider with universal preschool.

3 MAJOR QUESTIONS FOR DECISION MAKING

- 1** ADJUST GRADE LEVEL CONFIGURATION?
- 2** OPEN MACDONALD ELEMENTARY?
- 3** ASHLEY OR LIGHTHOUSE AS ELEMENTARY?

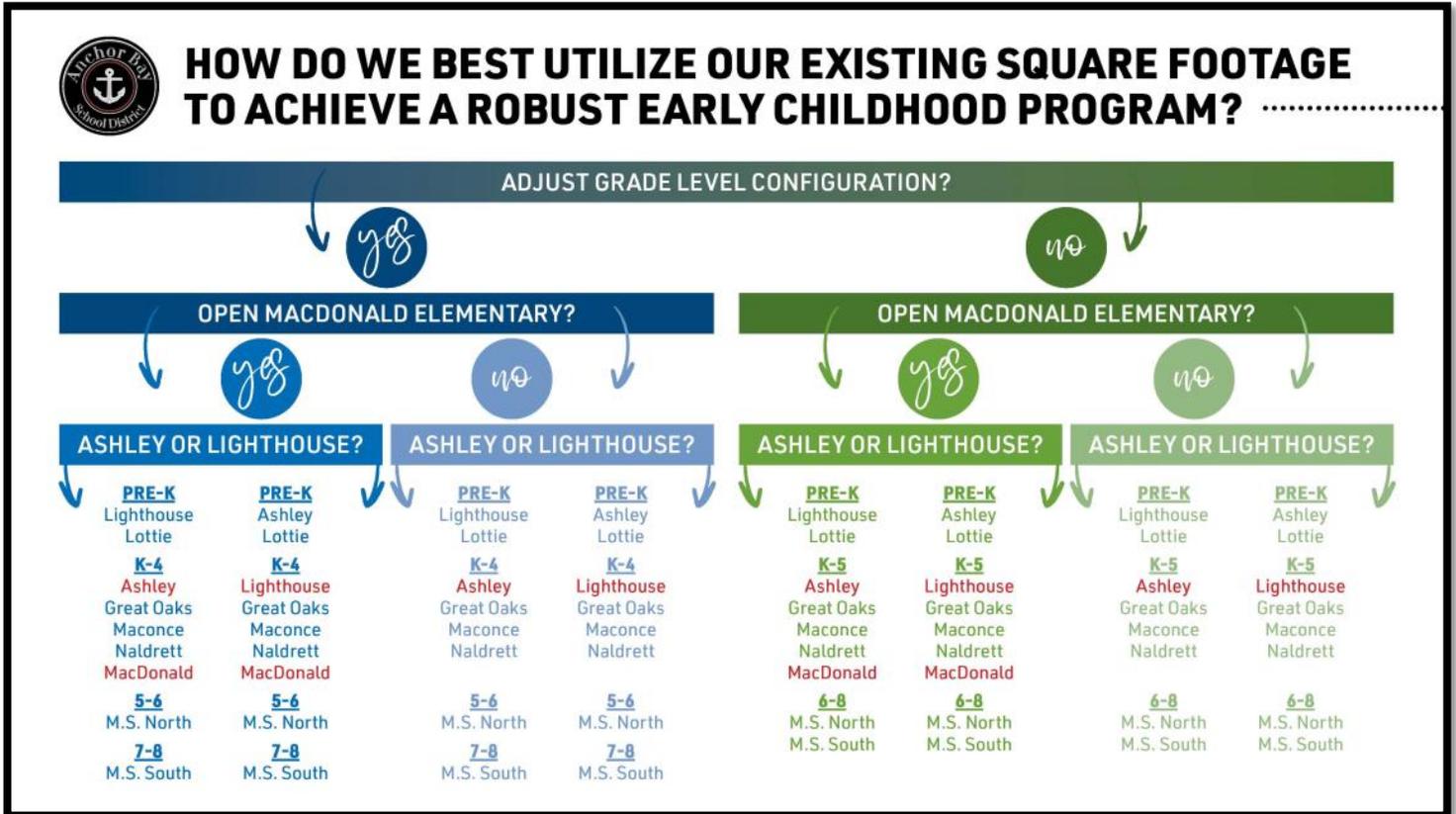
There are three major questions that now come into play as Anchor Bay moves forward. The district looked over many different scenarios and came up with eight viable pathways. At the community forum, attendees were able to voice their pro's and con's to each of the questions listed above.

The biggest change falls under "Grade Level Configuration." Anchor Bay is looking at making elementary buildings K-4, Middle School North 5-6, and Middle School South 7-8. This would balance enrollment and create equability throughout the district.



# Community Bond Forum Recap

The community was able to see the future scenarios that the district is considering moving forward. The audience was given the opportunity to participate by listing the pro's and con's of each question/scenario. That pro's and con's list, along with the community input during the spring bond meetings listed below, will help the district move forward with future projects. The district also created a dedicated email address for questions or concerns: [bond@abs.misd.net](mailto:bond@abs.misd.net).



## Spring Bond Meeting Dates

Superintendent Jankowski will be giving eight presentations this spring to give staff and the community the opportunity to learn more about the above scenarios and ask building specific questions about future bond projects.

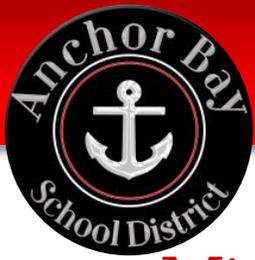
Here are the dates and locations. All are at 6 pm.

- April 16 - Ashley Elementary
- April 23 - Middle School South
- April 25 - Lottie Elementary
- April 30 - Maconce Elementary
- May 7 - Middle School North
- May 9 - Naldrett Elementary
- May 14 - Great Oaks Elementary
- May 16 - Lighthouse Elementary



Superintendent Jankowski at the March 4th meeting with the pro's and con's lists on the back wall.





## Michigan's Universal Preschool Program

Governor Whitmer addressed the implementation of the Michigan Universal Preschool Program, a comprehensive initiative aimed at providing high-quality early childhood education for all eligible children in the state, during the annual State of the State. This program is designed to bridge educational gaps, enhance school readiness, and foster a more equitable educational landscape for Michigan's youngest learners.

The primary goal of the Universal Preschool Program is to ensure that all children in Michigan, regardless of their socio-economic background, have access to quality preschool education. By making preschool universally accessible, the state aims to lay a strong foundation for future academic success. Research shows that early childhood education is crucial for narrowing the achievement gap among students. Michigan's Universal Preschool Program places a strong emphasis on preparing children for formal education. The curriculum will be designed to foster cognitive, social, and emotional development, ensuring that children enter kindergarten with the necessary skills to succeed.

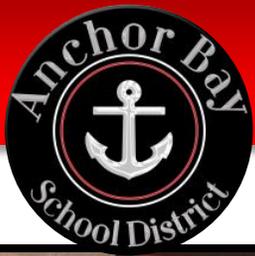
When passed, the Michigan Universal Preschool Program will be funded through a combination of state and federal resources, with an emphasis on maximizing existing early childhood education funding streams. Here at Anchor Bay, we are in the planning stages to expand our preschool programs to meet this initiative. One of our first steps is getting information from our community to gauge interest. We have created a survey for parents to fill out to give us an idea of how many classrooms, teachers, and other resources we need to have in place to offer Universal Preschool to children who live in our area.

If you have a child that will be 4 years old by September 1st, 2024, or 4 years old between September 1st and December 1st, please take the time to fill out our online survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/CB0dHr3KUD>. We are also interested to hear from families that will have children who will be 3 years old by September 1st, 2025 due to the state moving to offer Universal Preschool to that age group in the future.



*Ms. Katie's preschool class took a field trip to the Chesterfield Township Fire Station.*





## Congratulations to our Outstanding Teachers of the Year!!



Our Outstanding Teachers of the Year were recognized at the March board meeting. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to our students.

- Elementary - Anna Bergeron, Ashley Elementary 5th grade
- Middle School - Julie Sheridan, Middle School South
- High School - Joe Zuccaro, Anchor Bay High School

## Congratulations to This Year's Kaleidoscope Authors

Congratulations to this year's students who had their stories published in the Kaleidoscope Magazine:

- Vincent Valente, Lighthouse - "The Time I Went to Traverse City"
- Holly Tokarz, Naldrett - "The Haunted Mansion"
- Nolan Armstrong, Lottie - "The Great State Game"
- Mason Culver, Maconce - "The Boy in the Cabin"
- Payton Lynch, Ashley - "Spot's Adventure in Space"
- Taylor Spotts, Great Oaks - "The Tree"
- Savannah Buchte, MSS - "Nana"
- Kylie Yarber, MSN - "I Can't Go Back"



## Board of Education Approved Updated Dress Code at February Meeting

Anchor Bay Schools respects students' right to express themselves in the way they dress. All students who attend Anchor Bay Schools are expected to respect the school community by dressing appropriately for the K-12 educational environment. Student attire should facilitate participation in learning and the health and safety of students and adults who supervise them.

This policy is intended to guide students, staff, and parents. The following guidelines shall be followed, which allow for student expression but also to aid in academic success and safety. Guidelines shall prohibit student dress or grooming practices which:

1. Presents a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school.
2. Interfere with schoolwork, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program.
3. Cause excessive wear or damage to school property.
4. Prevent the student from achieving his/ her educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement.

A few examples of inappropriate attire include:

- A. Profane, negative, or obscene writing or pictures.
- B. Sunglasses. (unless prescription or transitional lenses)
- C. Hoods.
- D. Anything that covers the ears.

E. Transparent clothing, and/or:

- i. Clothing that reveals undergarments.
- ii. Clothing that exposes nipples, genitals, or buttocks.

F. Tube tops or single-strap tops, tops must have straps on both shoulders.

G. Clothing that has reference to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, gangs, illegal activities, demonstrates hate group association, or uses hate speech targeting a protected class, may not be worn.

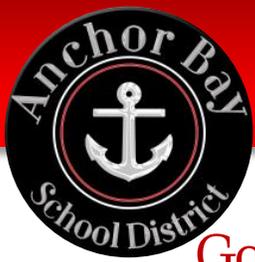
H. Wallet chains, spiked jewelry, or other dangerous accessories.

For safety, footwear with a sole must be worn at all times.

Students who represent the district at an official or school-sponsored function or public event (e.g., athletic teams, bands, choirs, AFJROTC, and other groups) may be required to follow specific dress requirements as a condition of participation or attendance. Specialized courses may require specialized attire such as sports uniforms or safety gear- ex. gym, CTE (Career and Technical Education) classes.

The administration at each school reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate dress.

**ANY STUDENT WITH INAPPROPRIATE CLOTHING WILL REMAIN IN THE OFFICE UNTIL AN APPROPRIATE SOLUTION IS FOUND, WHICH MAY REQUIRE A CHANGE OF CLOTHING FROM HOME.**



## Good Luck, Aubrey



JROTC Cadet Major Aubrey Sebastian as she received two congressional nominations for her application to attend the United States Military Academy West Point. Here she is pictured with Congresswoman Lisa McClain's nomination letter. We wish her luck as she finalizes her application.



**Congratulations to our CTE Outstanding Students for 2023-2024 school year:  
Jordan Cloninger & Max Grammens**



**2022-23 Reward Schools:**  
Lottie M. Schmidt Elementary  
Great Oaks Elementary  
Lighthouse Elementary  
Ashley Elementary  
Naldrett Elementary  
Middle School North





# 2023-24 Calendar

Get all Calendar Events on our website  
[www.anchorbay.misd.net](http://www.anchorbay.misd.net).

## Enroll Now for the 2024-2025 School Year!

**New Student including Kindergarten Enrollment & Schools of Choice Application Window is Open**

Excited to join the Anchor Bay family?  
We are excited to have you!

Our online enrollment system opened to new students for next school year. Information can be found on our website. Click on the "Enrollment & School of Choice" icon!

The Schools of Choice Open Enrollment Application Period for the 2024-2025 school year will be February 15, 2024 through August 30, 2024.

School of Choice will be open for the following buildings and grade levels:

- Anchor Bay High School, 9th – 12th
- Anchor Bay Middle School North, 6th – 8th
- Anchor Bay Middle School South, 6th – 8th
- Ashley Elementary, Kdg. – 5th
- Great Oaks Elementary, Kdg. – 5th
- Lighthouse Elementary, Kdg. – 5th
- Lottie Schmidt Elementary, Kdg. – 5th
- Maconce Elementary, Kdg. – 5th
- Naldrett Elementary, Kdg. – 5th



March 25 - April 1	No School - Spring Break
April 2	School Resumes
April 5	End of Third Quarter
May 7	No School - Professional Development Day
May 27	No School - Memorial Day
June 5	Half Day Middle and High School, PM Teacher Records Day
June 6	Half Day for all Students, PM Teacher Records Day
June 7	Last day of School – Half Day for all Students, End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter & End of Second Semester

## Don't Miss an Important Message!

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. Our families can participate in this service just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587. You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".



*Student at ECC having fun in the snow!*

School Closing Information can also be found on your local television stations, district social media pages including Facebook and Instagram, and the district website:

[www.anchorbay.misd.net](http://www.anchorbay.misd.net)



# 2024-25 Calendar

Get all Calendar Events on our website  
[www.anchorbay.misd.net](http://www.anchorbay.misd.net).  
 Dates are Subject to Change

Aug. 27	Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance
Aug. 28	Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance
Sept. 3	Student First Day – Half Day for all Students (PM Teacher Work Day)
Nov. 1	End of First Quarter
Nov. 5	No School – Election Day
Nov. 8	Half Day Elementary Students
Nov. 22	Half Day All Students
Nov. 25 - 26	Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance
Nov. 27 – 29	No School – Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 2	School Resumes
Dec. 23 – Jan. 3	No School – Winter Break
Jan. 6	School Resumes
Jan. 20	Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance – Martin L. King Day
Jan. 22	Half Day Middle School and High School, Exam Day, PM Teacher Records Day
Jan. 23	Half Day All Students, Middle School and High School Exam Day, PM Teacher Records Day
Jan. 24	Half Day All Students, Middle School and High School Exam Day, End of Second Quarter and End of First Semester
Feb. 14 – 17	No School – Mid Winter Break
Feb. 18	School Resumes
March 24 - 28	No School – Spring Break
March 31	School Resumes
April 4	End of Third Quarter
April 18	No School
April 21	Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance
April 22	School Resumes
May 6	Professional Development Day – No Students in Attendance
May 23	Half Day All Students
May 26	No School – Memorial Day
June 9	Half Day Middle School and High School, Exam Day, PM Teacher Records Day
June 10	Half Day All Students, Middle School and High School Exam Day, PM Teacher Records Day
June 11	Half Day All Students, Middle School and High School Exam Day, End of Fourth Quarter and End of Second Semester, Last Day of School