

**INGHAM COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION  
DRAFT MINUTES  
June 28, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Ingham County Election Commission was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Judge Garcia. The meeting was held in the Board of Commissioners Room at the Grady Porter Building in Lansing, MI.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barb Byrum, Ingham County Clerk  
Richard Garcia, Chief Probate Judge  
Eric Schertzing, Ingham County Treasurer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Liz Noel, Election/Clerk Coordinator  
Lindsey LaForte, Recording Secretary  
Courtney Gabbara, Ingham County Attorney  
Sarah Belanger, Williamston School Board member

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 Election Commission Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Remarks from Clerk Byrum**

Clerk Byrum stated that there had been two polling location changes, East Lansing City was temporarily changing the location for Precinct 15 for the August 2018 Primary Election and Lansing Township Precinct 2's location change was a permanent change.

Clerk Byrum stated that her Office had been receiving some complaints about the Meridian Township absent voter ballots requests not being processed in a timely manner. She further stated that Meridian Township's absent voter ballots would start to go out tomorrow, although there was disagreement as to how these requests should be processed.

Clerk Byrum stated that July 9, 2018 was the final day for voter registration and any address changes.

**Consideration of Recall Petition Language**

Judge Garcia asked if anyone would like to provide any public comment on the recall petition language.

Sarah Belanger, Williamston School Board member, read a statement, which is included in the minutes as Attachment A.

Ms. Belanger provided photos and a blueprint of the Williamston Branch of the Capital Area District Library, which is included in the minutes as Attachment B.

Christopher Lewis had provided a statement for this meeting, which is included as Attachment C.

Greg Talberg had provided a statement for this meeting, which is included as Attachment D.

Judge Garcia stated that this was not a fact-finding mission. He further stated that at a recent Probate Judge's meeting, the issue of approving recall language was discussed.

Judge Garcia stated that the Judges did not consider the Election Commissions to be fact-finding boards. He further stated that the Election Commission was to rule on if the petition language was factually based, rather than based on an opinion, and clear.

- Sarah Belanger – filed by Craig Hagelberger on June 13, 2018

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition language due to lack of clarity and factuality.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Chris Lewis – filed by Craig Hagelberger on June 13, 2018

Judge Garcia read the petition.

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition language due to lack of clarity and factuality.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- Greg Talberg – filed by Craig Hagelberger on June 13, 2018

Judge Garcia read the petition language.

Moved by Clerk Byrum, supported by Treasurer Schertzing, to reject the petition language due to lack of clarity and factuality.

Judge Garcia stated that he was unsure if Greg Talberg voted for the sinking fund question, but there was assertion of fact that he did. He further stated that the assertion of fact was that it would expand the proposal and include technology.

Judge Garcia stated that there was an assertion of two facts and it was relatively clear. He further stated that he found this petition language to be sufficient for a recall petition and would not support the motion.

THE MOTION CARRIED. **Yeas:** Clerk Byrum and Treasurer Schertzing  
**Nays:** Judge Garcia

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Judge Garcia stated that without objection, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:41 a.m.

DRAFT

## **Attachment A – Submitted by Sarah Belanger**

**“Board member Sarah Belanger approved an agreement to move the community library to the middle school building. The agreement expands the flow of non-student traffic to the school and increases security concerns for the building, students, and staff.”**

**The petition before you filed by Craig Hagelberger is neither clear nor factual. The first part of the petition, although true, lacks clarity while the rest of the petition is an opinion not based on any facts.**

**The Williamston Board of Education voted unanimously to approve a move of the Capital Area District Libraries, Williamston branch. Before the Williamston Board of Education voted on this matter the City of Williamston voted to approve the move as well as the executive board of CADL.**

**Mr. Hagelberger’s petition lacks clarity and misleads voters to think that the Williamston Board of Education, along with myself, is putting students at risk. When Mr. Hagelberger states, “the agreement expands the flow of non-student traffic to the school and increases security concerns for the building, students, and staff” he is asserting his own opinion and making an assumption that is neither clear nor factual.**

**The Williamston Board of Education along with its district administrators, teachers, and staff take security and safety of our students very seriously. The fact is that the Williamston Middle School, where the Williamston District Library moved to, made significant upgrades to its security. Some of these upgrades include security cameras in the entrance hallway to the library (see exhibit A), doors with alarms, and sealed doors that do not open to the middle school (see exhibit B). In respect to non-student traffic the library does not open until 10am and there is ample parking in the front of the building for busier times during the day, for example afternoon dismissal (see exhibit C). The location of the library at the Williamston Middle School is at the end of the building and the only access to the school itself would be going to the front entrance and being “buzzed” in (see exhibit D). By stating having the library at the Williamston Middle School “increases security concerns to the building, students, and staff” is factually inaccurate and is an assumption or opinion.**

**Based on the aforementioned reasons the recall language petition lacks clarity and is not factual.**

**Attachment B – Submitted by Sarah Belanger**



**Exhibit A- Security cameras in hallway**



**Exhibit B- Doors without handles**



**Exhibit C- Library hours**

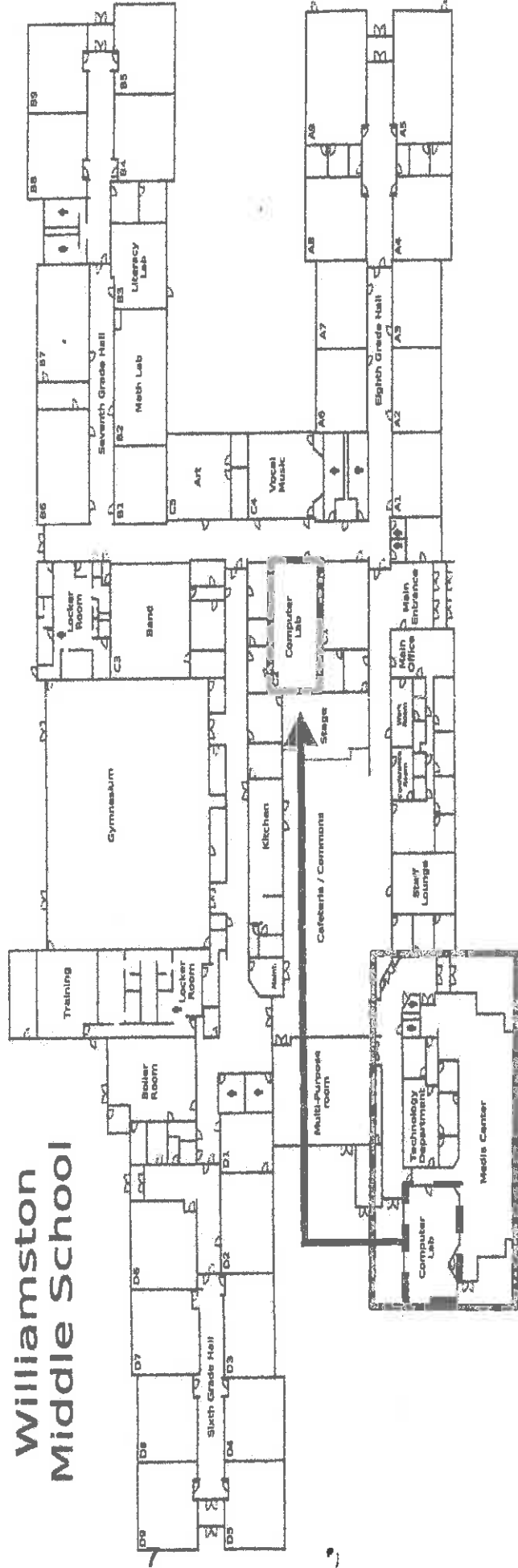
# EXHIBIT D



**WILLIAMSTON**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## Draft Lease Agreement

### Williamston Middle School



## Attachment C – Submitted by Christopher Lewis

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**From:** Christopher Lewis <dadofdivas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018 3:21 PM  
**To:** inghamclerk inghamclerk  
**Subject:** June 28 Electoral Commission Meeting

I will not be able to be at the meeting next week, please include the following as my remarks.

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The recall petition by Mr. Hagelberger contains assumptions to words that I spoke at a meeting and does not contain fact, nor is it clear. The statement overall is just generally poorly worded and unclear.

Also, as a board member I can speak on any topic as long as I am recognized by the board President. In this instance, while I did make a statement, these remarks were not a part of the public record and no copy was kept for others to review. This alone makes his statement something that cannot be substantiated by the average Ingham County Voter. Without the voter being able to hear or read the words that I did share with the people in attendance, they cannot make a clear judgment on the context to how these words were shared. Also, by taking only five words out of a statement that might have taken five minutes, the petitioner is taking words out of context to confuse voters again making the petition unclear and not factual. The petitioner also refers to the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) and cites them as an authority on recall. The MASB does not say that recall is not bullying, and is instead Mr. Hagelberger's interpretation of their statement, not a fact. Mr. Hagelberger also seems to make the MASB out to be a binding organization on the recall of board members. However, by stating this, again the petitioner is not being factual, as the MASB has no legal power over the recall of any school board member. Finally, I would emphasize that when I made your statement, there were no recalls filed or pending. My comment about bullying was not simply about threats of recall, but also threats of lawsuits, posts on social media, calling of people's workplaces and other such confrontations.

I also will state that something can be a "fundamental right" and still be exercised to the point that it constitutes "harassment;" this particular recall petition being a prime example. Individual citizens cannot be barred from filing lawsuits any time they want (it is a "fundamental right"), but at some point the filing of such suits CAN and DO constitute harassment. These are not mutually exclusive concepts. This language has virtually no chance of approval, and the individual who filed it MUST know that. It was filed strictly to harass and intimidate, to "make a point and" to waste the time of everyone here, as well as tax payer dollars.

Expressing my opinion that this situation has gone beyond "exercising a right" and into the realm of "harassment" is not only a frivolous reason to recall an elected official, but demonstrates my point. The statement I shared at the meeting on November 6, 2017 was not an opinion that was expressed within the scope of my office and holding that opinion has no impact on my role as a board trustee.

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Chris

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**[Learn more about me](http://www.dadofdivas.com/about)**

- <http://www.dadofdivas.com/about>

## Attachment D – Submitted by Greg Talberg

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**From:** Noel, Elizabeth  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 21, 2018 9:58 AM  
**To:** inghamclerk inghamclerk  
**Subject:** Election Commission 06.28 at 10:30  
**Attachments:** School Safety and Sinking Fund Presentation.pdf; ATT00001.htm

**From:** Greg Talberg <gregtalberg@gmail.com>  
**Date:** June 20, 2018 at 8:51:10 AM EDT  
**To:** Barb Byrum <\_\_\_\_\_  
**Subject:** Election Commission 06.28 at 10:30

Clerk Byrum,

Please submit the following as public comment for the election commission hearing scheduled for 06.28 at 10:30.

Mr. Hagelberger's petition to recall Greg Talberg is neither factual nor clear.

Mr. Hagelberger states that the "proposal would replace the existing millage until 2019 and expand the scope to include technology upgrades."

The proposal the board voted **unanimously** to send to the voters in August actually extends to 2028 (see approved ballot language within exhibit A below). The current sinking fund is set to expire in 2022. As Mr. Hagelberger states this would replace the existing millage *until* 2019, his petition is not factual.

Mr. Hagelberger's petition also lacks clarity as it misleads voters to believe this is a technology millage when it is actually meant to provide the district resources in order to improve our **security**. For your information, I have attached the presentation regarding the proposed sinking fund extension and renewal that was prepared by our superintendent. You will note that this presentation describes for the voters how the money will be spent and that the purpose is security.

As an FYI, the reason the wording in the ballot proposal states security *and* technology is quite simple. In today's world, often times security and technology overlap. High definition security cameras, swipe card door locks, and computer software to monitor and track security systems are all clear examples of this overlap. By including the word "technology" in our proposed language we give our administration some flexibility in terms of grant applications and the implementation of security measures. As a hypothetical example, please consider what would happen if the state of Michigan has a grant and they label security software as "technology" (to be clear, this is hypothetical, I do not know of any specific software our administration may or may not purchase). Without adding the word "technology" to our ballot language, we would be prohibited from purchasing that software.

**EXHIBIT A**



**WILLIAMSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS COUNTY OF INGHAM, MICHIGAN  
BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND MILLAGE REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL**

**This proposal, if approved by the electors, will replace and extend the authority last approved by the electors in 2013 and which expires with the 2022 levy for the School District to levy a building and site sinking fund millage. This proposal allows the use of proceeds of the millage for all purposes previously permitted by law as well as newly authorized security improvements and the acquisition or upgrading of technology. Pursuant to State law, the expenditure of the building and site sinking fund millage proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, maintenance or other operating expenses.**

**As a replacement of existing authority, shall the Williamston Community Schools, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, be authorized to levy 1.00 mill (\$1 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of ten (10) years, being the years 2019 to 2028, inclusive, to create a building and site sinking fund to be used for the construction or repair of school buildings, school security improvements, the acquisition or upgrading of technology or for other purposes, to the extent permitted by law? This millage would provide estimated revenues to the School District of approximately \$408,890.00 during the 2019 calendar year, if approved and levied.**

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Greg Talberg  
Williamston, MI

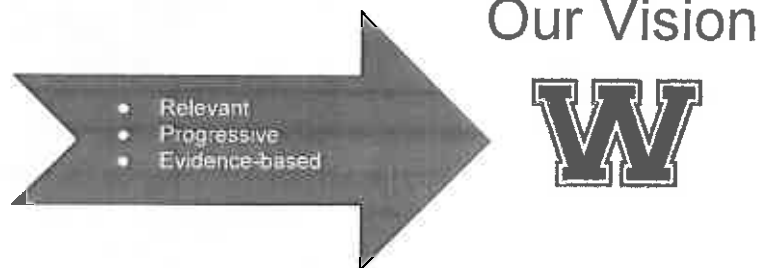
*"Well, he's one of those who knows that life is just a leap of faith, spread your arms and hold your breath and always trust your cape." -Guy Clark, The Cape*

# School Safety and Sinking Fund Presentation

Community Forum  
2 May 2018

## Agenda

1. Current Funding and Return on Investment
2. School Safety: Already completed
3. School Safety: Next steps
4. Sinking Fund: What is being proposed
5. Q&A Forum



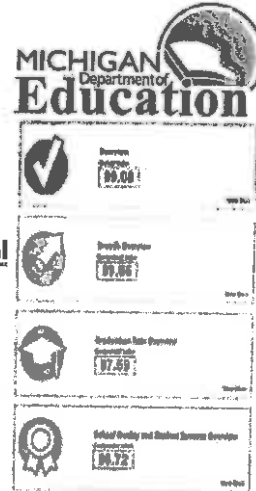
## Return on Investment

### HOW DO WE COMPARE TO OTHERS?

Williamston Community Schools  
Foundation Allowance District Comparison

District	Foundation Allowance	National Percentile for Student Growth	Overall State Literacy Ranking
Bloomfield Hills	12,124	66th	26
Farmington	10,165	34th	Not Ranked
Waverly	8,670	58th	Not Ranked
East Lansing	8,289	90th	Not Ranked
Okemos	8,289	90th	8
Williamston	7,631	96th	15

## District Awards: 2017-18



bridgemi.com



Lansing State Journal

"Williamston High School earned a 99.08, placing it at the top of [area] high schools."

## School Safety: Already Completed

- Enhanced emergency drills
- Single point of entry during school hours
- Buzzer and camera systems
- Upgrades to security cameras
- WPD liaison program
- Partnerships with first responders
- Staff professional development
- Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS)
- Okay2Say promotion



## School Safety: Next Steps

- Hiring an additional school social worker
- Fitness Center policy changes
- PBIS modifications
- Restorative Justice
- Transportation upgrades
- Comprehensive mental health program
- Additional staff training
- Implementation of more challenging emergency drills
- Study and evaluation of lessons learned



Graphic: Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

## Current Sinking Fund

- 1.0 mill fund allocating ~\$400,000 annually to upgrade/repair existing facilities
- Sinking Fund was approved by voters to run from 2013-2023

**Bottom Line:** The Sinking Fund has been absolutely essential to preserving academic and cocurricular programming while addressing critical facility needs throughout the district.

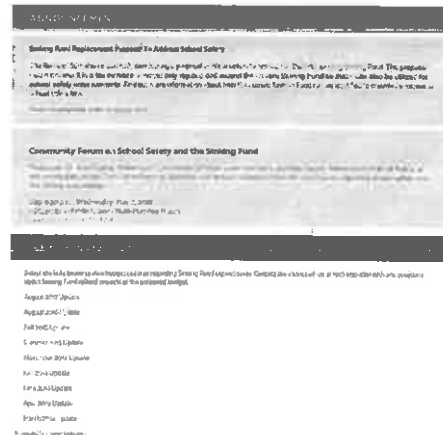


## Sinking Fund Replacement

- 2016 Law Change
- Sinking Fund would extend five (5) years and end in 2028
- Taxes will not go up or down as a result of the vote

**Bottom Line:** An approval allows the 1.0 mill Sinking Fund to be used for school safety enhancements. A disapproval will maintain the current fund, but not allow it to be used on measures to better ensure student safety

**Learn More: [www.gowcs.net](http://www.gowcs.net)**



## Safety Enhancement Priorities

1. Vestibules
2. Locks and lockdown systems
3. Door alarms and sensors
4. Security cameras
5. Glass upgrades

**Bottom Line:** Passage of the Sinking Fund replacement proposal will allow a three tiered defense/deterrent at every building with multiple means of monitoring and retaining positive control of site access.



