



# HARTLAND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

*Chuck Hughes, Superintendent*

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March 27, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents, Students, and Community:

I am writing to inform you that after much thought and deliberation, the Board of Education has decided to cancel the May 5, 2020 Bond Proposal Election and move it to a later date, probably August 4, 2020. This action was taken after many conversations and communications with our local township clerks, County Clerk, County Elections Coordinator, and the Livingston County Health Department who were persistent in respectfully asking that the district make this decision.

On March 19, 2020, the Board of Education discussed and voted on continuing with the May 5, 2020 election. They did this because the Secretary of State announced that the election could proceed as a mail-in only election which would limit the exposure rate to COVID-19. Other factors included the effort taken over the past two years to work with the community to identify needs, develop the bond proposal, engage with focus groups to finalize the proposal, and sharing the final bond proposal with our stakeholder groups and the community at large. The thinking was that it was important to move forward with the May election as we did not want to disregard the effort by so many of you. They also considered the fiscal responsibility to our community, as moving the election to an alternative date may potentially add to the cost of the bond projects due to escalation factors and maybe even result in having to restructure the chronological order of the projects outlined in the bond proposal. The final consideration was that eventually school will reopen and the business of taking care of our students, facilities, and overall needs will remain front and center.

With the economic and safety issues developing at a rapid pace due to the COVID-19 concerns, it became apparent that May 5, 2020, may not be the best time to ask you to cast your ballots on the bond proposal. As the Superintendent of Schools, I understand that many of you will be disappointed by not moving forward on May 5, 2020 while many of you will see this action as necessary in the uncertain times that we are working through. It is important for me to share that this bond proposal is heavily geared toward taking care of necessary needs throughout the district. It is my hope that you understand why this action was necessary and will mark your calendars for August 4, 2020 if this is the election date decided on. Please know, nothing will change as we still have needs to be completed and all scheduled work will still be in the bond. Since this election will take place while many of you will be on vacation, I continue to encourage you to fill out an absentee ballot application so that you can vote absentee on August 4, 2020, again if the Board of Education determines this to be the election date. Thank you to everyone who has spent their time and energy on this proposal as I believe it is a reasonable and necessary requirement to keep HCS a "premiere school of choice" district.

Respectfully,

Chuck Hughes  
Superintendent