

## Officials look to issue \$3.5 million in bonds for high school upgrades

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DOWNERS GROVE – Community High School District 99 intends to issue \$3.5 million in bonds to cover upgrades at both high schools.

Some of the work that would be performed at Downers Grove North High School includes replacing a boiler, air handler equipment, window panels and a pool diving platform.

Downers Grove South High School upgrades would include transformer replacement, concrete replacement, HVAC installation and repairs for swimming pools.

The district is trying to get \$3.5 million in fire prevention and safety bonds. Mark Staehlin, district controller, said the district has about \$5.2 million in work that would qualify for these bonds, but wants to keep the tax burden lower.

Staehlin said approval of this bond would add an additional \$5 to the average property tax bill. According to board documents, a home with an estimated value of \$300,000 is paying roughly \$191

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**Mark Staehlin**  
District controller

in property taxes for the 2015-16 year. The district’s proposal would add \$5 to the bill from 2016-17 through 2018-19.

After that, the tax bill is expected to drop to \$52 because of other outstanding debt being paid off. The bond payments would increase to \$6, \$7 and \$9 the following three years.

By 2022-23, the district would have no outstanding debt, and the tax bill would increase to \$61, followed by \$2 more the following year.

“No one wants to pay more taxes, but when you consider what they’re for ... this is, we think, a pretty appropriate way to fund it and will not have a significant impact ... on the tax bill,” Staehlin said.

Approval of issuing of the bonds will be brought up at a future meeting.