



November 13, 2008

## Election resulted in vote of confidence for two districts

A vote of confidence came through for two area school districts election night.

Both Fremont City Schools and Genoa Local School District officials and students are still reveling in the achievement. Both will be building new school buildings to replace deteriorating ones.

Fremont will design and build a new middle school that has existed since 1909. Genoa will erect a new elementary school.

Both projects are possible because of two things: State funding and the backing of respective district voters.

In Fremont, 7,671 people voted for the new middle school and 6,665 against it.

The 28-year bond issue and permanent improvement levy will provide the local share to construct a new \$27.5 million middle school with the State of Ohio Exceptional Needs Program. The local share is about \$18.7 million. That breaks down to 32 percent provided by the state toward the total cost and a 68 percent contribution from the community.

Genoa asked for and got the OK for a 1-mill, 28-year bond issue and a 5-mill state-required permanent improvement levy to build a new elementary school, improve the high school and build restrooms for the athletic facility. The state is pitching in \$13 million for the project through the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program.

They also get credit for \$6 million spent on a new middle school in 2001, bringing the state's total contribution to more than \$19 million.

Genoa school officials hope to have the building ready for use by 2011.

What does it all mean?

In the scheme of today's economic climate, it means a lot.

It means each of these districts made a good enough case to the general public to get their projects passed. (They each only had a year to do so or the state money would be lost for good.) And it means the voters believed the need is there.

But most importantly, students are the true winners overall. They will be in state-of-the-art facilities that will have better security, heating and air conditioning systems and technology setups.

Good job to all.

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