

## GUEST COLUMN

# ELPS Develops Bond Proposal for May Election

BY: ELPS ACTING SUPERINTENDENT  
DORI LEYKO

East Lansing Public Schools (ELPS) has developed a bond proposal for the May 2, 2017 Special Election to address the needs of elementary facilities and provide 21st Century learning environments for students for years to come. The proposal seeks to build new facilities on the existing sites of the Donley, Glencairn, Marble, Pinecrest and Whitehills elementary buildings. Red Cedar would be remodeled to house preschool and flexibility for up to seven elementary classrooms. This \$93,770,000 bond proposal is projected to increase the current debt tax rate 1.795 mills.

All current elementary facilities were built between 1948 and 1963. These buildings were built for an industrial model

education system with a different set of social environments. Security was not an issue. Many students walked to their neighborhood school, so they were located next to roads with little concern for bus or parent traffic. Roof heights are low, heating systems are modified residential systems, building efficiency is low, electrical capacity is minimal and, in general, these buildings were built to be shorter term buildings than those built decades before.

As the district and Community Bond Committee looked to update these buildings to meet the needs of 21st Century education, with enhanced safety and security, the cost of remodeling approached the cost of new construction. Also, remodeling wouldn't solve site/traffic issues. In order to provide adequately sized teaching stations to meet the diverse



needs of our students, interior walls would have to be moved and additions would be required to create functional learning facilities. This bond proposal offers solutions that will provide equitable and flexible learning environments for decades to come in safe, efficient buildings that will last for generations on sites with safe pedestrian and traffic patterns. Additional information is available at [www.elps.us](http://www.elps.us).