

**ROOSEVELT FOR GENERATIONS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. ***What will be accomplished with a capital campaign for Roosevelt High School?***

The campaign will fund two major initiatives:

* Multipurpose field: Create a new track and field for physical education classes, band and athletic activities (track, football and soccer), as well as community use.
* Library Reimagined: Convert current library into a learning and innovation center to support both present-day and evolving needs in technology, communications, collaboration and educational curriculum.
1. ***How long will it take for fundraising and completion of the projects?***

The Leadership and Major Gifts phase of the campaign began in January, 2021 and the Special Gifts and Public Phase of the campaign will begin in early 2022. The campaign should be completed by June, 2022.

Construction of the track and field will begin in spring of 2022 providing the dollars needed for the project have been successfully raised. The goal is for the track and field to be complete for the 2022-23 school year. The library reimagined will be completed the following year.

1. ***Why are private dollars needed?***

The two initiatives are designed to continue the high standards of excellence which are the *fabric* of Roosevelt High School, support 21st century learning and skill development, and respond to the challenges of a diverse and growing student body. The ability to enhance facilities to meet these high standards within thetimeframe desired will require funding above what Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) has available for capital projects.

It is important to note, however, that these projects will be completed as a *collaborative effort* between DMPS and the Roosevelt Foundation. **DMPS has budgeted nearly $850,000 for the track and field initiative however costs for the track and field total $3 million.** The campaign will raise $2.2 million for the track and field (to be added to DMPS support of $850,000) plus another $800,000 for the library reimagined.

1. ***Shouldn’t DMPS be able to fund these capital projects for Roosevelt?***

DMPS includes more than **71** facilities - pre-school through high school - with each school receiving capital improvement dollars as part of the district’s 5-year capital improvement plan. Although it appears there is a lot of money in the capital improvement budget, in reality these funds have to be divided among 38 elementary schools, 10 middle schools and 6 high schools.

1. ***Where does DMPS get funding to spend on capital improvements?***

DMPS generates funds from two tax supported sources, SAVE and PPEL, for construction, renovation, infrastructure and capital maintenance of the more than 71 DMPS buildings in the city. SAVE is commonly referred to as the “penny tax” and is based on annual sales tax revenues. PPEL is the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy that allows the school board to assess a levy for each $1,000 of property valuation. In 2019 Des Moines voters extended PPEL for another ten years to assist the district in meeting increasing facility needs. **Funds from these two sources are prohibited by law from being used to fund teacher salaries, benefits and general operations.**

1. **Does the Drake University-DMPS community stadium project impact Roosevelt’s plans?**

No. The funds allocated for Roosevelt’s initiatives are designated and specific budget line items.

The school board is moving forward with Drake University as partners in a community stadium for football and soccer. DMPS intends to invest $15 million for construction of the stadium with Drake adding a minimum of $4 million as well as providing annual maintenance, upkeep and scheduling of DMPS activities in the stadium.

Each of the projects and their resources are completely separate and independent of each other. Funding for both will come from the SAVE program, not from the DMPS general fund.

 **Who is leading this project and the *Roosevelt For Generations* Campaign?**

Early planning and needs assessment were initiated through the Roosevelt High School Foundation. A planning team of Roosevelt Foundation and community members worked to assess and prioritize needs and begin cost estimating.

Brian Gentry, Laura Leonard and Jackie Norris are the campaign’s tri-chairs, leading a group of 19 volunteer community leaders, Roosevelt alums and parents of Roosevelt students as members of the Campaign Cabinet.

An Honorary Cabinet comprised of 15 respected and recognized community leaders has also mobilized in support of the *Roosevelt for Generations* campaign.

In addition, Isaacson-Syverson Consulting has been engaged to provide campaign consultation to guide the campaign volunteers in reaching the $3 million goal.