



School District of the City of
HIGHLAND PARK

CONTACT: Lorri Rishar

517-449-7435 (c)

517-853-6787 (o)

lorri@edgepartnerships.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Highland Park Board of Education OKs RFP for new high school, adult ed center

Action continues momentum for Children 1st initiative

HIGHLAND PARK, MI – The Highland Park Board of Education this week approved the issuance of a Request for Proposals to build a new high school and create an adult education program.

With the sole mission of putting *Children First*, the school district developed an aggressive strategic plan in 2018 to re-establish itself as a premier district in Michigan, reconnect with the community and lay the foundation for long-term stability.

“The children of Highland Park deserve a high-quality education that prepares them for future success,” said Alexis Ramsey, board president. “With the revitalization of Barber Preparatory Academy, our PreK-8 elementary school, we have now set our sights on a STEAM-focused high school as well as a re-engagement and adult learning center.”

Through the RFP process, the school board seeks responses from qualified public school academy operators for a college preparatory high school with a capacity for up to 500 students. The district anticipates opening the school in fall 2021.

Also included is development and operation of a public school academy for adult learning. The center will accommodate those wishing to obtain their high school diploma and/or vocational certification training. Opening is tentatively slated for December 2020.

“Students want to stay and learn locally,” said Board Trustee Janet White. “Our community overwhelmingly supports our vision for the future of Highland Park schools and our children.”

The city of Highland Park anticipates a surge of economic and urban renewal based on several recent announcements, including:

- Construction of a Fiat Chrysler manufacturing assembly plant just east of the city. The \$1.6 billion facility will bring 3,850 jobs.
- Auto parts maker Faurecia plans to invest \$10.7 million and create 505 jobs in Highland Park.
- Magna Seating of America expanded its Highland Park operations and will add 500 jobs in 2020.
- Michigan Statewide Carpenters and Millwrights Joint Apprenticeship and Training Fund unveiled plans for a 120,000-square-foot training center that will provide free skills trades training for up to 1,500 students annually.

“Great things are happening in and around Highland Park. Now, we need great educational facilities to accommodate the amazing rebirth of our city,” concluded Ramsey.

For a copy of the Request for Proposals, contact Kevin Smith, director of operations, at smithke@hipark.org, call 313-402-0266 or visit www.hipark.org.

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