



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 21, 2016

For more information contact:
Robert Kolt (517) 706-0001

Lansing School District Board of Education votes to move forward with sale of old Eastern High School to Sparrow

***Board approved purchase agreement including
five-year rent-free lease until new Eastern High opens***

(Lansing, MI)— The Lansing School District Board of Education has approved a \$2,475,000 purchase agreement to sell Eastern High School to the Edward W. Sparrow Hospital Association. The agreement includes 18 acres of property adjacent to the main hospital, and allows the school district to lease the old Eastern building rent free for up to five years until the school district can renovate and expand into a new Eastern High School located on the nearby Pattengill Academy campus.

“The sale of Eastern High School and improvement in school facilities is a key component in our school district strategic plan and the Lansing Pathway Promise that invests and upgrades nearly all of our Lansing School District facilities to prepare students for the future,” said Board of Education president Peter Spadafore. “The old Eastern building has played an important role in the educational history and success of many Lansing students and alums, and I am confident the Eastern Quaker traditions and community commitment will live on in a new, nearby building that our students deserve.”

“For many years, the district and the community have discussed the future of the building that currently houses Eastern High School. It was time to make a decision,” said superintendent Yvonne Caamal Canul. “The district published a request for proposals and Sparrow clearly had the winning bid and best plan forward for our district and community. They guaranteed ways in which to honor the historic integrity of the structure, committed to partnering with the district in career and college preparation programs, as well as provide our students a place for learning for the next several years while voters consider approval of the Lansing Pathway Promise bond proposal. It’s a win-win.”

The purchase agreement allows Sparrow to develop a plan to maintain green spaces adjacent to the surrounding Eastern neighborhoods, and preserve the historical value of the property with reasonable and collaborative discretion while engaging high-quality contractors who employ local skilled trades workers. The board approved purchase agreement also allows for good faith negotiations to begin between the school district and Sparrow with a goal of providing training and education to Lansing students in the area of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The \$120 million Lansing Pathway Promise bond proposal to fund school upgrades and improvements will be on the May 3, 2016 election ballot.

The Lansing School District is the largest public school district in the Mid-Michigan region and is committed to offering a high quality education to students in a caring, collaborative and excellent learning environment. For more information, go online to Lansingschools.net

#####