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**SUPERINTENDENT PUSHES \$50 MILLION BOND ISSUE \ HIS
 TOTAL EXCEEDED THE CHERRY HILL BOARD'S REQUEST
 FOR MAINTENANCE AND SCHOOL EXPANSION.**

Michelle Crouch, INQUIRER SUBURBAN STAFF

School Superintendent Morton Sherman said last night that he favored asking voters to approve a \$50 million bond issue to pay for renovating and expanding the district's aging buildings.

"Enough is enough," Sherman said. "It's time to do what's right for our children." Most of the money raised through the bond issue, \$29.5 million, would pay for maintenance improvements to all the schools, such as fixing roofs, rebuilding collapsing walls, and updating electrical systems.

The remainder would pay for the conversion of the Rosa Administration Building on Browning Lane into a magnet middle school, the addition of 52 elementary-school classrooms, and other projects. Those would include a new media center at Carusi and new science labs at Beck. Funds would also be used to add air conditioning in the High School West auditorium and move the alternative high school to the closed Barclay School.

“This is not like putting wallpaper in your dining room or refinishing your family room,” Sherman said. “These are not the aesthetic recommendations. They will improve what we do as a school system.”

Under preliminary estimates, the bond issue would add between \$110 and \$120 to the average township homeowner's annual school taxes, according to Sherman.

The school board is expected to hear public comment on the bonds at meetings Tuesday and Dec. 22. If the board approves, residents would vote on the bond issue March 2.

In endorsing the \$50 million figure, Sherman went beyond the recommendations of two board committees. The building committee asked for \$42 million, and the redistricting committee recommended adding \$4 million to build up to 29 classrooms.

Sherman said 52 classrooms were necessary to accommodate full-time kindergarten.

“If this administration does not get full-day kindergarten passed, we should make sure future boards have that option,” Sherman said. He also said the rooms may be needed because enrollment was growing in all grades.

Currently, the district has 10,245 students, and at least 11,438 are expected by 2003.

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