

IMPORTANT BOND FACTS



The Centralia School District Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution to put a \$74 million Capital Facilities Bond on the February 14, 2017 ballot. Recommended by a community-wide Facilities Planning committee, the bond would address the most urgent school building needs.

The Centralia community has a long history of jumping in and helping out when there's a need. Now, more than ever before, our schools need your help!

The Need

THE AVERAGE AGE of our school buildings is nearly 70 years old. Centralia High School is the newest, at 48 years old. Education has changed a lot in 70 years! Many new demands are placed on school buildings to accommodate current learning needs. Fifty portable classrooms are now being used throughout the district. They take up valuable playground space, isolate students and teachers from core building areas like gyms and libraries, are a security risk, and are not equipped to support 21st century education. Infrastructure limitations prevent us from fully equipping existing schools with appropriate modern technology. Three elementary schools and the high school were categorized in a State of Washington study as being in "poor" physical condition in spite of diligent maintenance by the district over many years.

ALL OF THESE factors led the board of directors to accept a recommendation by a Community Facilities Planning Committee to place a bond measure before voters. The bond would fund the district's most urgent needs including:

A LIKE NEW CENTRALIA HIGH SCHOOL

CENTRALIA HIGH SCHOOL was built in 1968 and has not had significant updating since. While the building enjoys good structural integrity, it is severely deficient functionally. Additionally, mechanical, plumbing, electrical and technology systems are at or past their useful life and need replacement. Site circulation and parking is also in need of reconstruction. Maintaining the building's aging infrastructure is becoming increasingly difficult and costly.

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THE PROCESS

THE PROPOSAL IS the result of a year-long study by a community-driven Facilities Planning Committee. The vision of the school board, the work of the committee, survey feedback and a series of meetings with community members, organizations, parents and staff helped identify the highest project priorities.

"People expressed serious concerns about the condition of our aging schools and the need for safety and security upgrades. I'm confident this plan represents the first step toward the community's vision for improving our schools."

- Mark Davalos, Superintendent

For more information, please contact Mark Davalos, Superintendent at mdavalos@centralia.wednet.edu or call the district office: (360)330-7600.

We work diligently to be guardians of your investment in Centralia schools. We know the community's generosity is the key to quality school facilities where Centralia students can best learn and thrive. We thank our community for the resources they've given over the years.

TWO NEW K-6 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

THE NEW ELEMENTARY schools will replace Jefferson Lincoln and Fords Prairie schools, both of which received unsatisfactory ratings in a state study of building conditions. The new schools will be designed to house 525 students each, allowing the district to reduce the number of portable classrooms in use and ease overcrowding at all of Centralia's elementary schools.

JEFFERSON LINCOLN IS currently at 132 percent of designed capacity and relies on seven portable classrooms. One set of restrooms serves the nearly 300 students who attend the school. The front portion of the building was built in 1957. Some classrooms are situated around the small multipurpose room causing severe noise intrusion during PE classes and lunch times. An addition to this school was completed in 1977. The school has faced significant and frequent struggles with the plumbing system. Much of the plumbing is encased in the concrete slab making it necessary to dig into the slab to make repairs.

FORDS PRAIRIE'S STUDENT population is currently 125 percent of its designed capacity, forcing the use of nine portable classrooms. These classrooms are located far away from the main parts of the building and are difficult to secure. In addition to overcrowding, immediate needs at Fords Prairie include the replacement of the boiler which provides heat to the building, replacement of the failing roof, significant upgrades for safety and security, and seismic retrofitting.

SAFETY AND SECURITY UPGRADES THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

AS PART OF the bond program, the district would conduct a comprehensive evaluation of security needs in its buildings. Potential improvements include enhanced security cameras, fencing, access control and related building hardening against unwanted intrusion.

The Cost

THE LAST SCHOOL construction bond passed by voters in Centralia was in 1986. That measure financed the modernizations of both Centralia Middle School and Edison Elementary.

IF THE PROPOSED bond is approved, it is estimated that the district would receive an additional \$27 million in state funding assistance. So for every \$1.00 approved by local voters, the state will provide \$0.36, greatly expanding the amount of work that can be accomplished. The district estimates a 2018 cost per thousand in property value of \$2.12.

Note: A special report on the condition of Centralia school buildings can be read at www.CentraliaSchools.org.



NEXT STEPS

IN THE COMING weeks, Davalos will be presenting detailed information at community and school meetings. Ballots for the February 14th election will arrive in mailboxes by January 27th and must be postmarked by February 14th. A 60 percent super-majority is required for school construction bonds to be approved.

For more information, please contact Mark Davalos, Superintendent at mdavalos@centralia.wednet.edu or call the district office: (360)330-7600.

THANK YOU

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