

Bond Information

Timing right for building future

After months of study, the Enumclaw School District Board of Directors plans to place a bond before voters in April that would rebuild its aging Black Diamond Elementary School and the majority of Enumclaw High School. The Board is excited to share its vision for the future and is providing the following information to engage the community in conversation.

The Proposal

- Erect a two-story, secure and enclosed, structure on the south side of the **Enumclaw High School** campus that would replace aging classrooms, the library, science labs, music facility, auditorium and gymnasium. This replacement structure would dovetail into the remodeled commons, offices, and art and automotive wing creating a more secure facility for students, guests and staff.
- Build a new, two-story **Black Diamond Elementary School** at the current location, replacing the aging structure and bringing students and staff together under one roof for a safe and uniform learning environment. The Black Diamond plan also includes \$1 million to renovate J.J. Smith Elementary School to house Black Diamond students during construction.

How Did We Get Here?

- Discussion began at the April 2014 School Board Retreat and has continued each month.
- The District received a state-funded grant to perform a mandatory Study and Survey of building analysis and future needs.

Why Now?

- The District will pay off the Thunder Mountain Middle School bond in 2016. District taxpayers are currently paying \$1.60 per \$1,000 assessed valuation on that bond.
- The economy is still recovering and construction costs are reasonable.
- Community growth will help spread the cost among taxpayers.
- \$18 million in state construction funds is currently available to the school district. This money will reduce total project cost at Black Diamond Elementary School and Enumclaw High School to \$67 million allowing the district to do the work with no rise in the current tax rate if approved.

Bonds are for Building. Funds from bonds can only be used for construction or renovation of buildings, and land purchases and are generally collected over a 15- to 20-year period (similar to a mortgage).

Levies are for Learning. Levies make up the difference between funding from the state and federal government and the actual cost of operating a school district. Levies pay for teaching materials and equipment, transportation, technology, and programs like athletics, drama and special education. Levy funds are typically collected over a two- to six-year time period and must be renewed.

Time Flies. We are proud of the many generations of families and the more than 1,300 students each year that have moved through the halls of Enumclaw High School for the past 55 years, but that's a lot of wear and tear.

Our neighboring districts Auburn, Tahoma, Sumner and White River were facing similar situations and have recently been able to build or modernize their facilities. The portion of Enumclaw High School in the bond proposal was built in the 1960s. The most recent construction work at the high school took place 15 years ago.

Safety. Safety. Safety. There are more than 70 unrestricted outside access points into interior portions of the Enumclaw High School campus or classrooms.

Black Diamond Elementary School houses 40 percent of its student population in portables on the edge of campus and busy Highway 169.

NEXT STEP

Tell us what you think. Take our survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bondsurvey2014>

Attend an informational meeting

Nov. 4, 6:30pm, Enumclaw High School Library • Nov. 6, 6:30pm, Black Diamond Elementary School