



Union  
Communicator



are

Worthy



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**VOTE Tuesday  
February 14, 2023!**



**Dear Union Patrons,**

“Our Kids Are Worthy.” That was the Tulsa World headline in January 2020 when we began the demolition of Tuttle Stadium’s west side in preparation for the improvements we now enjoy. Not only is the new stadium more accessible, but we also added a new wrestling and weight room, two concession stands, a press box and improved amenities. At the high school, we also added space for volleyball. Then we capped off the project with the Band Building at the stadium’s north end. When challenged to explain why a school district would go to such lengths, I said, **“Because our kids are worthy.”**

Five years ago, we went out on a limb when we embarked on the district’s first five-year general obligation bond. That was daring for Union, as we had previously done only annual bond elections. Our Board of Education, however, saw the wisdom in minimizing risk. What a great decision that turned out to be! No one could have anticipated the magnitude of the disruption due to the pandemic. Although our investment in 1-to-1 (“one computer device for every student”) proved almost prophetic.

We come to you again with a host of new projects as we seek approval of a \$152 million, five-year series bond. As before, this bond will not raise taxes above traditional levels. Among the signature projects is a plan that would significantly transform Union’s Sixth/Seventh Grade Center. Over the last few years, we have had concerns about elementary students’ transition to the secondary environment.

Now is the time, we believe, to alter the 6th grade setting to more closely align with elementary by creating smaller learning communities. We also plan to add more restrooms, cafeteria and gym space as we seek to compress lunchtime and improve traffic flow. Ultimately, we envision a more student-friendly 6th grade on the east side of the building, with the 7th grade on the west, and a building that is more conducive to a 21st century learning environment. (See the full details inside).

Other key projects include ongoing investments in technology, safety and security, as well as upgrades to athletic and fine arts facilities to include the UMAC, the Performing Arts Center and turf and courts districtwide for soccer, tennis, golf and indoor baseball/softball. There is also a significant need districtwide for roof and HVAC systems, interior and exterior building renovations, as well as textbooks, digital curriculum, instructional resources, and transportation needs.

The list of needs is extensive and greatly exceeds the budget available to do them. But with your commitment, passage of this bond will go a long way toward giving our students and teachers the tools they need to be successful. I think you will agree: Union’s physical structures are second to none, and for that we make no apology. All these public investments are more than dollars spent just on bricks and mortar, computers and technology licenses. In choosing to support Union’s bond initiatives, you are investing in our children’s future. Students, “U Are Worthy.”

**Please remember to vote on Tuesday, February 14!**

Sincerely,

Kirt Hartzler, Ed.D., Superintendent

## 5-YEAR SERIES BOND (2023 – 2027) \$152 Million Proposition at a Glance\*

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 6th/7th Grade Center Renovation and Expansion Project and FF&E.....   | \$51,600,000         |
| District Athletics and Fine Arts Facility Upgrades .....  | \$5,775,000          |
| District Exterior and Interior Renovations (includes utility systems and equipment, playgrounds, flooring painting, windows, doors, millwork, lighting and FF&E).....   | \$10,240,000         |
| District Roof Replacements.....   | \$10,600,000         |
| District HVAC Systems Replacements.....   | \$10,000,000         |
| District Equipment and Other Improvements (includes security items, safety upgrades, fencing, paving, roofing, doors, windows, playgrounds, rooftop units, boilers, chillers, hot water tanks, appliances, signage, tools and other renovation or replacement projects) ..... | \$15,187,500         |
| Technology.....   | \$15,712,500         |
| Textbooks, Digital Curriculum, Software, Subscriptions and Instructional Resources .....  | \$15,500,000         |
| Site and Department Allocations .....   | \$5,425,000          |
| Transportation – Buses.....   | \$3,960,000          |
| Transportation – Vehicles .....   | \$1,500,000          |
| Fees, Professional Services, and Contingency.....   | \$6,500,000          |
| .....   | .....                |
| <b>5-YEAR TOTAL .....</b>   | <b>\$152,000,000</b> |

\*Note: The numbers presented in the table above are estimates. Passage WILL NOT increase taxes above traditional levels!

# FIVE KEY ELEMENTS

in this 5-year bond package:

## 1 UNION SIXTH/SEVENTH GRADE CENTER

### Reconfiguration to smooth the transition from elementary school

"We must do a better job of bridging the gap between elementary and middle school for our 6th grade students," said Assistant Superintendent John Federline. "We need to create a smaller, more elementary-like environment for them, and a springboard for 7th graders that positions them for success in the 8th grade. Structural changes are needed to accommodate two widely different experiences."

#### Among the proposed changes:

- New school configuration, with 6th Grade on one side of the building and 7th Grade on the other. We anticipate changes to bus and vehicular traffic flow around the school.
- Smaller clusters of classroom spaces with common learning areas for teams. "We need space where teams of 120 – 150 kids can get together and collaborate," said Federline, with nearby restrooms. The changes will also ease crowding and require less travel by students, while providing additional pathways and reducing congestion. "With the smaller learning environment feel, we are going to change the culture and kids won't feel so disrupted." Team spaces will have designated color schemes to make communities feel more self-contained.
- Smaller (and additional) bathrooms will be placed closer to classrooms, with sinks and paper towels located outside in the hallways. This provides for improved monitoring.
- Improved cafeteria serving area with two eating spaces: To make lunch more efficient for 2,200 students, a centralized kitchen will be placed between smaller eating spaces. This will allow 450 kids to spread out and eat lunch at the same time, but it will be quieter and more comfortable.
- Addition of a gym on the building's southwest side. This will not only provide 7th Grade students with a separate gym, but it will be a hardened facility designed to shelter students and staff in the event of inclement weather.
- The Spirit and Winter Guard programs will have two new practice areas and locker rooms with the addition of this gym.
- Renovation of the HVAC system, replacing an old geothermal system that no longer works.

The Media Center, along with the beautiful Fine Arts facility on the building's west side, will continue to be a shared space utilized by both grades.



Common learning areas for teams



New cafeteria areas



Additional gym and practice area for Spirit and Winter Guard programs

(Continued on inside pages)

# FIVE KEY ELEMENTS

(Continued)

## 2

### SAFETY

#### Site improvements to improve safety and security

Extensive changes are planned to improve safety/security throughout the district, including:

- Jarman Elementary: Entrance and front-office updates to improve security at the school.
- Deployment of additional security cameras, door prompt sensors and other safety enhancements to improve physical security.
- New gym at Sixth/Seventh Grade Center – hardened facility to withstand tornado-strength winds.
- Playground and upgrades to improve child safety.
- Air quality in buildings will be significantly improved through roof and HVAC changes.
- PAC Studio Theatre: Fire retardant curtain being installed to improve safety in the event of a fire.
- Exterior lighting and parking lot improvements.
- Fire Panel at Sixth/Seventh Grade Center.



# are Worthy

## Our Students Are Worthy!

Union's commitment to "Graduate 100% of our Students, College and Career-Ready" means we do everything it takes to ensure our children are successful. In addition to highly qualified and committed teachers and staff who care about our students, it takes facilities, technology and resources in order to deliver top-notch programming. That's why the successful passage of bond issues is so critical to the well-being of Oklahoma schools.

One thing we know for sure – the more engaged our students, the more likely they are to perform well in school. We believe there's a strong relationship between the 95% of Union's students who participate in extracurricular activities – band, art, orchestra, vocal music, athletics, spirit, speech and debate, and an array of clubs – and a graduation rate over 90%. These extras don't happen without a public investment.

## Please Vote on Tuesday, February 14

On February 14, 2023 we are asking patrons to vote on important capital expenditures to ensure we don't miss a beat when it comes to building, equipping and maintaining needed facilities; purchasing books, technology and equipment districtwide; and providing students involved in athletics, spirit, and band the instruments, uniforms, equipment and technology these programs require.

# Vote Tuesday, February 14!

Passage WILL NOT increase taxes above traditional levels!



### What are your thoughts and questions about the bond?

Scan the QR code and participate in the Thought Exchange. Answers to your questions will be posted on Union's website at [www.unionps.org](http://www.unionps.org).



## 4

### DISTRICT ATHLETICS & FINE ARTS FACILITY UPGRADES

#### Plus practice facilities construction

Student participation in extracurricular activities continues to skyrocket, which bolsters our district's graduation rate. A favorable vote on February 14 will provide the following:

- Renovation of the Performing Arts Center's aging "back of house" (dressing room areas) and orchestra pit, new orchestra shell and a flame-retardant stage curtain for the Studio Theatre. The installation of a new intelligent light system will be more energy efficient.
- Uniforms, equipment, technology and musical instruments for Athletics and Fine Arts.
- UMAC improvements to include a higher-resolution video/score board, sound system, and sports lighting.
- The Spirit/Winter Guard will have a new home base with the building of a new dual-purpose gym at the Union 6th/7th Grade Center. It will also serve as a separate gym for 7th grade students.
- Turf and resurfacing of courts: The soccer practice field and the regular soccer field at the 8th Grade Center, as well as the field at the Union High School track, need new turf within the next five years. The tennis courts will be resurfaced and the turf at the indoor baseball/softball practice facility will be replaced.
- Pool upgrade (Sixth/Seventh Grade Center): Plans call for replacing the mechanical/water purification system as well as redoing bleachers that have become inoperable.



## 5

### BUILDING INTERIOR/EXTERIOR RENOVATIONS

#### To include HVAC, roof replacements, safety/security upgrades and other districtwide projects

This is a significant part of the 2023-2027 bond, representing about \$46 million in capital improvements, including:

- Building exterior and interior renovation projects, including utility systems and equipment, playgrounds, flooring, painting, windows, doors, millwork, lighting and furniture, fixtures and equipment at sites throughout the district.
- District roof replacements to include portions of the Union High School, Union Freshman Academy and the Performing Arts Center.
- HVAC projects at Clark, McAuliffe, Moore, Rosa Parks and Union High School.
- Extensive reconfiguration of the Sixth/Seventh Grade Center.
- Moving or enlarging the Nurse's Office at Union High School.
- Updating and improving the security of the entrance and front office of Jarman Elementary.
- Interior/exterior renovation of the Education Service Center.
- Flooring (carpeting and/or tile) at Boevers, Jarman, Jefferson, McAuliffe, Peters, Rosa Parks, Union Freshman Academy, Union High School and Alternative Education.
- Paving at sites throughout the district.
- Playground upgrades at Cedar Ridge, Grove, Jefferson and Rosa Parks.
- Lighting upgrades to more efficient LED lighting at several sites.

## How Each Site Benefits

Union's 19 schools have capital needs specific to their sites and depend on passage of bond elections to fund them. In addition to the large construction and renovation projects that are part of this five-year series bond, this proposal provides funds for basic – yet critical – capital improvements, equipment, and tools for successful teaching and learning and operations throughout the district.

**Andersen Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, Painting (Exterior) and Repair/Replace Paving

**Boevers Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, Flooring (as needed), Restroom Renovations, Replace Electrical Panels and Repair/Replace Paving.

**Cedar Ridge Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Office Reconfiguration/Remodel, Flooring Project, Interior Millwork (classrooms, cabinet storage and cafeteria, as needed), Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum and Painting (Exterior)

**Clark Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, HVAC and Electrical Panel Replacement, Windows and Doors (replace and/or reseal), Painting (Exterior), Repair/Replace Paving and Playground Repairs

**Darnaby Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Flooring Project, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, Windows and Doors (replace and/or reseal) and Repair/Replace Paving

**Grove Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, Exterior Lighting (upgrade) and Playgrounds (fix drainage and replace boxes)

**Jarman Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Office Reconfiguration/Remodel, Flooring Project, Interior Millwork (classrooms, cabinet storage and cafeteria, as needed), Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum and Painting (Exterior)

**Jefferson Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, Flooring (as needed), Playground Drainage and Field Repair

**McAuliffe Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, HVAC Replacement, Interior Millwork (as needed), Flooring (as needed) and Repair/Replace Paving

**Moore Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, HVAC and Rooftop Unit Replacement (as needed)

**Ochoa Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software and Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum

**Peters Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, HVAC Replacement, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum and Flooring (as needed)

**Rosa Parks Elementary**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, HVAC and Rooftop Unit Replacement (as needed), Flooring (as needed) and Playgrounds (new equipment, renovation and repair)

**Rosa Parks Early Childhood Education Center**  
Site Allocation

**Sixth/Seventh Grade Center**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, HVAC Upgrade, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, New Construction to Include Common Learning Areas and Meeting Rooms, Additional Cafeteria Space, Reconfigured Restrooms, New Gym (hardened facility), HVAC Replacement and Fire Panel Replacement

**Eighth Grade Center**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum and Sound Panels (as needed)

**Union Freshman Academy**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, Roofing Project, Flooring (replace carpeting and other flooring, as needed) and Repair/Replace Paving

**Union High School**  
Textbooks/Digital Curriculum, Software/Maintenance/Subscriptions, Site Allocation, Media Books/Software, Technology Hardware/Equipment/Curriculum, Nurse's Office (move or enlarge), HVAC, Boilers and Rooftop Unit/Air Handlers (as needed), Fire Riser Relocation, Emergency Generator Replacement, Roofing (repair and replace sections) and Flooring (replacement of carpet and other flooring, as needed)

**Alternative Education**  
Site Allocation, Signage, Flooring (as needed) and Repair/Replace Paving

**Athletics/Spirit**  
Uniforms, Equipment, and Technology; UMAC Video Board, Sound System, Sports Lighting and Exterior Renovation; Athletic Turf and Courts – 8th Grade Center, Soccer, UHS Track, Tennis, Golf and Indoor Baseball/Softball; Pool Area Upgrade (6th & 7th Grade Center); and Two New Practice Areas for Spirit/Winter Guard at the Sixth/Seventh Grade Center

**Fine Arts**  
Uniforms, Instruments, Equipment, and Technology; Performing Arts Center Upgrades (to include "back of house" and orchestra pit renovations, new "intelligent" lighting system and flame-retardant stage curtain for Studio Theatre)

**Information Technology**  
Computer Upgrades, Hardware, Software, and Network Cabling; Subscriptions and Software Maintenance Agreements; and Technology Infrastructure

**Operations & Maintenance**  
Security Cameras & Security Projects, Safety Upgrades, HVAC Equipment including Rooftop Units, Fencing, Parking Lots and Sidewalks, Doors and Windows, Concrete and Asphalt, Playgrounds, Boilers, Chillers, Hot Water Tanks, Ceiling Tile Replacement, Millwork, Sinks, Dumpsters, Signage, Tools, Vehicles, Flooring, Painting Projects and other remodel or renovation projects; Exterior/Interior Renovations of Union's Operations Complex

**District**  
Transformation of Union 6th/7th Grade Center; Buses and White Fleet Vehicles; UMAC improvements; Education Service Center renovation; Department Allocations; Exterior/Interior Renovations; Flooring Projects; Paving/Asphalt; Roof Replacement Projects; Engineering Services, and other Professional Services; and Contingency and Bond Fees; Architectural Fees, Engineering Services, and other Professional Services



## Union Public Schools Voting Precincts

Before heading to the polls, please check to see if your precinct number or polling place has changed. Make sure you take a current, unexpired federal or state photo ID or a Tulsa County voter registration card with you in order to receive a ballot. If you have any questions, please contact the Tulsa County Election Board at 918-596-5780.

### Precinct, Polling Place & Address

- 103 Hicks Community Center, 3443 S. Mingo Rd.
- 104 Church of the Holy Spirit Anglican, 12121 E. 41st St.
- 105 Church of the Holy Spirit Anglican, 12121 E. 41st St. (Sub of 104)
- 106 Hope United Methodist Church, 12424 E. 31st St.
- 107 Faith Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 2801 S. 129th E. Ave.
- 112 Early Childhood Education Center, 13804 E. 46th Pl.
- 113 Southwood Baptist Church, 4020 S. 102nd E. Ave.
- 114 Woodland Christian Church, 7950 E. 57th St.
- 131 Woodland Manor, 8641 E. 61st St.
- 137 New Life Baptist Church, 851 W. Norman St., Broken Arrow (Previously: The Korean Church of Tulsa)
- 138 Union 8th Grade Center, 6501 S. Garnett Rd., BA
- 139 The Heart Church, 6215 S. 107th E. Ave.
- 140 Asbury Church, 6767 S. Mingo Rd. (Sub of 142)
- 141 Zion's Gate Ministries, 8720 E. 61st St.
- 142 Asbury Church, 6767 S. Mingo Rd.
- 153 Aberdeen Heights, 7220 S. Yale Ave.
- 155 Central Church of the Nazarene, 7291 E. 81st St.
- 156 World Outreach Church, 8863 E. 91st St.
- 157 BattleCreek Church-South Tulsa Student Ctr. 8855 E 91st St.
- 158 TCC-Southeast Campus/VanTrease Bldg., 10300 E. 81st St.
- 159 Union Freshman Academy, 7616 S. Garnett Rd., BA
- 160 Bethany Free Will Baptist Church, 100 N. Olive Ave., BA
- 161 Immanuel Lutheran Church, 400 N. Aspen Ave., BA
- 168 Destiny Church, 1700 S. Aspen Ave., BA
- 169 St. Michael's Anglican Church, 8837 S. Garnett Rd., BA
- 170 The Park Church of Christ, 9610 S. Garnett Rd., BA
- 171 The Park Church of Christ, 9610 S. Garnett Rd., BA
- 172 World Outreach Church, 8863 E. 91st St.
- 173 Central Church of the Nazarene, 7291 E. 81st St.
- 174 Faith United Methodist Church, 7431 E. 91st St.
- 175 Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St.
- 190 Forest Park Christian Church, 9102 S. Mingo Rd.
- 191 Cedar Ridge Christian Church, 4010 W. New Orleans St., BA
- 200 Evergreen Baptist Church, 10301 E. 111 St. South, Bixby
- 442 BattleCreek Church-South Tulsa Student Ctr., 8855 E. 91st St. (Sub of 157)

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Why is passage of this bond proposition important to Union?**

Since state law prohibits bond dollars from being used to hire teachers, pay salaries/raises, or lower class sizes, the district uses bond dollars as much as possible to protect the general fund for that purpose. It is through issuance of bonds that Union is able to pay for capital expenditures such as textbooks, instructional technology, equipment, and construction. That is why you see those items on bond propositions. Without bond propositions, the district would have to tap into its general fund to pay for the facilities and instructional tools our children need, leaving little money to hire teachers or conduct daily operations.

**Q: How will passage of this bond proposition affect my taxes?**

Because the district pays off existing bonds and its property base continues to grow, that portion of estimated ad valorem tax attributed to Union Public Schools will be maintained at traditional levels.

**Q: Why is my vote important?**

Contrary to most elections in which a simple majority carries an issue, state law requires school bond propositions to pass by a 60% super majority. This makes each vote that much more critical. Please remember to cast your ballot on Tuesday, February 14!

**Q: Where do I vote?**

Vote at your regular voting place used in county, state, and national elections. If you are unsure where to vote, please call the Tulsa County Election Board office at 918-596-5780. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**Q: How do I register to vote?**

Voter registration books close Friday, January 20 (24 days prior to the election). Completed registration forms must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on January 20. You can obtain a registration form at any Union school site, the Union Education Service Center, any Tag Agency or the Tulsa County Election Board. For more information, call the Tulsa County Election Board at 918-596-5780 or visit <https://www2.tulsacounty.org/electionboard/>.

**Q: How do I get an absentee ballot?**

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 15 days before Election Day. Absentee ballots must be requested by 5 p.m. on Monday, January 30. Completed and notarized absentee ballots must be mailed back and received by the Election Board by 7 p.m. on Election Day. Hand-delivered ballots to the Election Board (555 N. Denver) must be delivered by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 13.

Absentee ballots may be requested by submitting an online application at <https://okvoterportal.okelections.us> or download an application from the Tulsa County Election Board website. For more information, visit <https://www2.tulsacounty.org/electionboard/> or call the Tulsa County Election Board at 918-596-5787.

**Q: Is Early Voting available in person?**

Yes, in-person early voting will be held on the Thursday and Friday prior to the February 14 Election. It is open to any registered voter in Tulsa County who has not already returned an absentee ballot. Early voting locations are the Tulsa County Election Board, 555 N. Denver Ave., and Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St. Early voting hours are from 8 a.m. - to 6 p.m. on Feb. 9 - 10.

# VOTE Tuesday February 14, 2023!