Bethel Public Schools Bond Election 2020 Information sheet

Why a bond issue?

- This is the way schools can build facilities to meet current and future enrollment needs.

Why do we need this bond issue?

- This is the only feasible way for school districts to build large projects.
- The Upper Elementary was presented as the next phase when the bond passed for the last edition to the Lower Elementary. We want to honor that promise.
- Our students in grades 3-5 are currently having classes in two metal buildings and a portable structure that have outlived their purpose as classrooms. The need was identified ten years ago when the second phase of the Lower Elementary was built.
- We need to always address the safety of our students. The Upper Elementary project will provide much needed new classrooms. It will also eliminate the need for students, grades PK-3, to go outside to attend PE, Art, Music and Computer classes when completed.
- Bethel is in the beginning stages of a growth spurt. According to a demographic survey birth rates have been down the last three years but are poised for growth after that. Housing starts in our district are up considerably. We are planning for growth.
- The current "New Gym" was constructed prior to ADA guidelines. This creates several hardships for our patrons and limits any updates that can be done to the facility.
- The proposed project will bring the entire facility up to code and provide a much-improved overall performance facility for many years to come.
- Climate control is an issue especially during hot weather. The humidity during these hot times can create moisture within the building that has had an effect on the gym floor over the years. As a performance facility for our kids we want to create a comfortable environment for them to display their talents.

The success of this bond issue would continue the plan for the future of Bethel Public Schools that began with the passage of the Lower Elementary bond project. That vision spoke to the next need being the Upper Elementary School replacement. With the same exact tax requirement the proposed projects can be accomplished. This vote is to maintain the current school millage rate previously approved for the last project. It will not raise taxes.

We now look further down the road to hopefully continue the vision of maintaining safe, desirable and student worthy facilities that will last long into the future. The success of the bond will ensure that in another 10 years or so the district will have the ability to upgrade our high school/middle school facilities. Our projected growth indicates that timing will be in line with our needs. It is our duty to plan now and attempt to continue to stay ahead of the curve. Bethel Public Schools greatly appreciate the support always shown by this community.

Please feel free to submit any questions to superintendent Tod Harrison via email at harrisont@bethel.k12.ok.us