



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- Will there be a cost study?
 - The board requested a utilities cost study last winter and that was presented in the spring of 2024. There was also a facilities study conducted in 2022-23 that was presented to the board during the summer of 2023. HTK architecture will be providing cost estimates for items on the facilities needs list over the next few months.
- Will this allow us to free up capital outlay for deferred maintenance?
 - Yes. The current capital outlay has been used over the past several years to cover significantly larger projects than it should, due to the old bond expiring and not renewed to address major facility projects.
- Can we use capital outlay on wages?
 - The only salaries that can be spent out of capital outlay are for those maintenance staff that are working on the upkeep of the facilities. Both our Maintenance Director and Assistant are currently being paid out of capital outlay.
- Do we want to focus on doing the baseline or go above?
 - That is something that the community and board will need to decide.
- Is covering the buses needed?
 - We have close to \$1 million invested in buses, and they are currently sitting in the sun and inclement weather. We also spend money on fuel warming them up to get frost and ice off the windows, which is also a safety hazard. The structure would include a roof, two sides and a back wall.
- How are you reaching all the potential voters?
 - We will be working with HTK architecture to message through social media, newspapers, mailings, and hosting events when possible.
- Will prioritizing security come first?
 - Yes, this was one of the most common highlights of the participants, and those community members that served on the facilities planning committee.
- Where will all the money go to?
 - When bonds are sold, the money is deposited into a Bond Fund that is controlled by the school board with guidance from a bonding company. Payments go towards work by contractors, and for bond principal and interest payments. Priority will be given to local companies for electrical, HVAC, structural, etc. as much as possible.
- Is our electrical system set up for today's tech and load demand?
 - No. Our electrical and backup systems are significantly outdated, which also includes our security system, phones, bell system, networking and fire system.
- Are there any grants available?

- We continue to pursue grants, both for projects that are on the facilities needs list, and for projects that are just part of our normal educational operations. In the past year we have written four grants for the facility needs list and have received one. We have also received grants for the library and food service program.
- Grants are becoming more competitive since the federal government has pulled back support for many of their grants. This has made nonfederal grants more competitive.
- Are we going to make a consolidated kitchen?
 - Operating three old kitchens within close proximity to each other is expensive to maintain and staff. Our current kitchens have old equipment and is costly to repair, or parts are no longer available. Moving to a consolidated kitchen will allow us to be more efficient and effective in the future.
- How old is the camera system?
 - Our camera system has been pieced together over several years, adding more cameras to the system when funds are available. The state Safe and Secure Grant was a resource to fund additional cameras, but the legislature ended funding for these grants.
- Can we have multiple bond options on the ballot?
 - Yes. Typically, a multiple question ballot only allows the second question to be effective if the first question is passed.
- If we do a long-term bond, what happens when facilities continue to need repairs?
 - The capital outlay is intended to provide repairs to facilities over the life of the bond. By not having a bond for several years to address major issues, this has put a significant burden on the current capital outlay. That is why most districts maintain a bond levy to address major projects over time.
- What are we going to do with the old portion of the elementary school?
 - This will need to be studied by the architectural firm and construction managers.
- What is the timing of this?
 - The earliest time that the district could hold an election for a bond is March 2026. For this to happen, the board would have to determine the scope of work and a dollar amount not to exceed by the December 2025 board meeting in order for it to be on the state board of education agenda in December. Otherwise, it would be November 2026.
- Are there other needs to be considered?
 - Yes. There is more need to consider than a bond issue will most likely support. The task of the community is to prioritize our needs and address the most important and what the community would support.
- If we extend the track, what other costs does this create? (parking lot, stands, etc.)
 - The track is 30+ years old and needs repair. We would have an architect look at the location to see what would be affected by expanding the size to 8 lanes if desired. It can possibly be shifted towards the visitors bleachers, or move the home bleachers back.



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- Room for growth. How big is too big?
 - The current goal of the board is to keep class sizes below 22-23 students per classroom. We have several grades that are close to or exceeding this number.
- Can we charge tuition for out-of-district students?
 - No. Out-of-district students receive the same state aid funding as in-district students so tuition cannot be charged.

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