

# FAQ'S

## USD 489 Bond Issue *Frequently Asked Questions*

Information about the upcoming bond issue can be found on the district's website: [www.usd489.com](http://www.usd489.com).

### ***What is the total amount of the bond issue?***

The proposed bond issue in the amount of \$78,500,000 includes total project dollars.

### ***What is the date of the bond election, and how do we vote?***

The election is set for November 7<sup>th</sup>. Early voting tentatively begins October 23<sup>rd</sup>.



### ***Will any schools close?***

Lincoln Elementary School would close. Early Childhood Connections Hays and Munjor would relocate into the current O'Loughlin Elementary School building, which will also house Westside Alternative School and the Learning Center. Wilson Elementary School will relocate to the newly constructed facility on its current site. Wilson students will continue to attend school in the current facility until the new school is completely constructed. Once construction is finished on that site, the current Wilson school will be demolished and turned into parking and playground spaces. The Early Childhood Connections Munjor site would be relinquished to the Catholic Church.

### ***Where can I see the plans?***

The entire budget scope of work can be found at [www.usd489.com](http://www.usd489.com). Budgeted scope of work boards can be found at each school, as well as the Rockwell Administration Center. USD 489 will host a community bond issue Q&A session on September 12<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Elementary School at 7:00 pm. All are invited to attend this informative evening. DLR (architect), Nabholz Construction and Paul-Wertenberger Construction (construction manager at-risk firms), district administration, board members, and staff will be on hand to answer the community's questions.

### ***Will all students benefit from the bond?***

Yes. All students and teachers will receive improvements at their schools.

### ***Why do we need a bond issue?***

Addressing the safety and security of all students and staff is a priority for the district. The average age of current facilities is 64 years old. Many of the buildings and their systems have been maintained far beyond their usable life. Classroom spaces are inadequate for differentiated instruction. Facilities lack compliance with ADA requirements. The last major construction bond issue was passed in 1978.

***How were the projects included in the bond determined?***

The Vision Team (fellow community members), Planning Team (teachers and principals, and Executive Team (district administration) narrowed the scope of projects in countless hours during multiple meetings. Educators, staff, parents, and students weighed in on the needs of the district's facilities. A community survey was also completed by the Docking Institute to gather feedback regarding community prioritization of projects. The board unanimously approved bring this bond issue question to the electorate with a six to zero vote.

***What happens during construction? Will my children lose any classroom time?***

The architect and construction management firms are versed in minimalizing disruption for students and staff during the construction process. While construction will happen during the school year, it will not cause a loss of any school days. More extensive projects will be planned for holiday and summer breaks.

***When will construction start & who will build it?***

When the bond passes, design would begin immediately, and construction would start as early as late 2018 and continue through 2020. DLR Group, Nabholz Construction, along with Paul-Wertenberger Construction of Hays will serve as the district's architect and construction manager at-risk for the projects. The design and construction process will ensure all spaces are maximized through the employment of local and regional subcontractors.

***Can the Bond Issue be used for salaries?***

No. Under state statute, bond issues are levied for facility improvements only.

***Would O'Loughlin's programming be offered at the new elementary school?***

The current O'Loughlin programming would be transitioned into the newly constructed school. (Not new Wilson) Slight modifications of the programming might be made to accommodate the larger population of students as there would be four sections per grade level in grades 2-5 and five sections in grades K-1.

***Where would the new elementary school be built?***

There is ground by Hays High School that the district owns. A new elementary school could be built on that site, as well as a playground area and parking.

Money has been figured into the plan to acquire a different tract of land if the school would be placed on an alternate site. As the acquisition of land is an executive session item, the amount budgeted for the purchase of new land is not being released to the public. Releasing that information could inhibit the district's ability to garner a better purchase price for new land.

No location has been considered to date. If the district uses the property located on Hays High School grounds, the funds allocated to the purchase new land would funnel back into the identified projects within the scope of work for other specified projects.

\*\*\*For the latest information, check out the district website at [www.usd489.com](http://www.usd489.com) or follow us on Facebook at Hays Unified School District 489 or on Twitter @USD489.