

# 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 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>.

### ***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.

### ***Will any schools be repurposed or closed?***

Lincoln Elementary School would be repurposed or closed. 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 hosted a community bond issue Q&A session on September 12<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Elementary School at 7:00 pm. Wilson Elementary School is scheduled to host a bond issue Q&A and talking tour on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 will be responsible for the design of all projects. The construction manager at-risk team is comprised of both Nabholz Construction and Paul-Wertenberger Construction of Hays. Spaces will be maximized through the employment of local and regional subcontractors, to the extent of which they are qualified through an open bidding process.

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

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

### ***What is the tax implication on businesses in the Hays school district with the proposed bond issue? How could my business benefit from this bond issue?***

The tax implication on a commercial business costs \$23.81 a month per \$100,000 of the business value over the life of the bond. Conversely, a successful bond will provide a positive economic impact on the Hays community. An estimated \$189 million will be the total local revenue generated by all bond projects.

### ***What projects have been funded by bond issue dollars in USD 489 in the last 40 years?***

USD 489 used 6 million dollars in 1978 to build Hays High School and 5 million dollars in 1992 to tend to all other buliding needs. The district has used 11 million bond dollars for most of 40 years to maintain and improve 6 elementary sites, 1 high school, 2 middle schools, 1 transportation center, 2 alternative learning centers, and 1 administrative complex.

### ***What maintenance and capital outlay projects have been completed in the past three years by the district?***

- Significant LED lighting upgrades have occurred at Hays High School.
- Six sections of roof have been replaced at Hays High School and the Rockwell Administration Center.
- The Hays Middle School HVAC system was replaced.
- The Hays High School track was resurfaced.
- The Hays High School gym floor was completely resurfaced.

- Floors were stripped and refinished at Hays High School, Lincoln, O’Loughlin, Wilson, and Roosevelt.
- The district paid for the replacement of a third of Victory Road.
- Portions of the Hays High School parking lot have been replaced.

***How will the district maintain the newly constructed and renovated facilities?***

USD 489’s maintenance and custodial staff have well-maintained current building systems and infrastructure far beyond their conceivable life expectancies. Maintenance and custodial staff will continue to dedicate their efforts to maintain all district facilities to maximize the longevity of all building systems and infrastructure.

***What will happen to staff members that are displaced from buildings being closed?***

Staff that are displaced from buildings being closed will be relocated to their new, appropriate location. Early Childhood Connections staff from the Washington and Munjor sites will continue their programming at O’Loughlin. Westside and Learning Center staff will also relocate to O’Loughlin. The district will work with Lincoln and O’Loughlin staff to provide prioritization for placement at Roosevelt, Wilson, or the newly constructed elementary school.

***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.

***What will happen to the Wilson Swimming Pool when the bond issue passes?***

Nothing will change. The Wilson Swimming Pool and its ground are owned by the Hays Recreation Commission. The Wilson Swimming Pool will continue to remain operational during and after the construction of the new Wilson Elementary School.



***What technology is included in the bond issue?***

The technology budget will include essential infrastructure to support the district’s current and future technology plan and needs. Student and staff devices are not a part of the bond issue.

***Are classroom furnishings included in the bond issue?***

Yes. The total project costs include furnishings for all new spaces. All existing furniture will be assessed and replaced as necessary.

***Will the storm shelters at the schools be used for other purposes?***

Storm shelters will also serve as educational spaces at all the schools. The new storm shelters will be similar to the storm shelter that was added onto Hays Middle School in 2012. (see pictures below)



\*\*\*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.