

Nestucca School District #101

Bond Information: Frequently Asked Questions

How was the facilities plan developed?

The District formed a citizens-based Long Range Facility Planning Committee in Feb. 2017 comprised of 26 community members, parents, industry partners and district staff. Over the next several months, the Committee reviewed data on the District's existing facilities, examined enrollment projections, discussed changes in how education is delivered, and gathered input from the community. From this information, the Committee worked diligently over several workshops to create a facilities improvement plan to meet the District's most pressing needs which resulted in the plan proposed in the upcoming bond election.

How does this project support the District's Strategic Plan?

The District's 5-Year Strategic Plan was developed with a high level of community involvement. The Board was guided by the Plan in prioritizing expenditures to align with the District's strategic objectives and educational priorities. Creating a K-8 campus on the Elementary School site is a fiscally responsible outcome that builds upon and realizes the priorities described in the Plan.

What's wrong with the elementary school? Didn't it just get renovated? Doesn't the District take care of its facilities?

The district received a seismic grant and repairs were made which strengthened the elementary building frame and made many improvements to the existing school. The grant however did not cover all the needs of the facility. The paint on the exterior of the building contains lead paint, which means the exterior cannot be power washed or painted until the lead is abated. This is a very expensive process. The proposed bond will address this issue as well as replace existing windows and upgrade electrical systems and plumbing. Asbestos in the building is also slated for abatement should the bond pass. Most importantly, the bond will upgrade the elementary school's water system, improving drinking water and eliminating the current need to provide bottled water to students and staff.

Can you explain a little more about the safety and security upgrade improvements?

The renovation and expansion of Nestucca Valley Elementary into the District's K-8 School will result in a secured entry, upgraded locking systems, and the entire facility contained within one building. In addition, driveway improvements and parking expansions will be made to the site for better safety.

What will happen to Beaver Middle School? Will we still be able to use the gym?

On February 12, 2018 the Nestucca Valley Board of Directors directed Superintendent Wharton to have the Beaver property appraised, and listed for sale with a real estate agent. The district still uses the gym, after school hours, to offer programs to our junior high students. The construction of a second gymnasium will ensure equitable and efficient use by drama, music, sports, and other existing programs at district schools.

How will high school students benefit from this plan?

While there are no capital project improvements slated for the JR/SR high school, the relocation of 7th and 8th grade students to the elementary school campus will eliminate crowding provide and open up space to expand CTE offerings.

Does the District have any outstanding bonds?

Yes, an existing school capital projects bond on the tax rolls will sunset in 2028. The currently proposed bond will wrap around this existing one to provide a consistent millage to taxpayers for the next 21 years.



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Can't this just be done through the District's normal operating budget?

The identified capital improvements proposed in the bond far exceed the support the District's operating budget can provide. Deferring critical capital repairs would only result in greater costs in the future.

How much will this cost me?

The district is asking the voters to approve a 21 year bond for \$25,700,000. The current tax rate is 71 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value. This would be a property tax increase at an estimated rate of 99 cents per \$1,000 of assessed (not market) value. If passed, this translates into a tax increase of approximately \$16.50 per month for the owner of a \$200,000 (assessed value) home.

Are other funds available?

As with the recent seismic work completed at NVES, the District is continuing to pursue grants and foundation donations to accomplish projects and reduce the financial impact on the community. The District was awarded \$1.49 million for seismic repairs to the elementary and has secured \$4,000,000 in a state matching grant to help with the cost of the elementary expansion into a K-8 facility. While the proposed capital improvements are estimated at \$29.7 million, this has allowed the District to reduce the bond amount to \$25.7 million. However, this grant money is tied to this specific election. If the bond does not pass, the District would go back into the pool of other school districts requesting grants and may not be selected in a future bond election.

Will elementary students be on-site during construction? How will you keep students safe?

Student safety is of utmost importance during construction. The construction area for the new expansion will be secured and students separated from the construction site. Improvements made to the existing elementary school will be scheduled for the summer months.

Is technology a part of the plan?

Technology equipment and access are important resources in the learning experience. The renovated portion of the school as well as the new expansion will be outfitted.

How will the renovated and expanded school be used by the community?

With the addition of new large gymnasium, commons and media center, the community will have many opportunities to use the school after hours. Additionally, with its central location, expanded parking and new large gathering spaces, the K-8 School will be available if needed as an emergency shelter.

Couldn't we do less right now?

The original estimate of facility repairs needed totaled almost \$33 million for existing buildings alone. The Long Range Facilities Planning Committee prioritized possible projects and recommended the most prudent plan to best meet the facility needs and support educational programs. While consideration was given to replacing the elementary school and building a completely new K-8 facility, the Facilities Committee felt that completing the renovation of the elementary school and expanding it would be the most cost effective solution while meeting the educational needs of students. The move of the 7th and 8th graders over to NVES cannot be achieved for less.

What happens if we do not fund this plan?

If not approved by voters, the 7th and 8th graders will not be moved out of the crowded JR/SR high and to NVES to create the K-8. The drinking water situation at NVES will not be resolved. The district will also lose the \$4 million matching grant to help offset the cost of building improvements.



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Why move the junior high students to the elementary school? What are the educational benefits for students? How will 7th & 8th graders participate in sports?

Currently the 6th grade students are geographically separated from the 7th and 8th grade students, but all three grades are receiving the same educational program. The geographic separation presents challenges for our students, who socially would benefit from having their “own” identified space. The middle school years are a formative period in a child’s matriculation through school. By creating a K-8 facility, the district would be supporting the best educational practices of allowing the 6th, 7th and 8th grade cohorts to have their own learning space and unified program. There would be a middle school wing to the K-8 facility, that would also offer access to their own new gymnasium. The 6-8th grade teaching team would be located on one campus, allowing them to dive more deeply into creating an enriching middle school program for our 6th 7th and 8th grade students. Our K-5th grade students would also benefit from having older role models, and mentors present on the elementary campus. It would once again be a true K-8 community school.

Will traffic flow and parking be improved at NVES?

Parking and traffic circulation will be expanded to allow for improved separation between parent and bus pick up and drop off. In the new plan, parents will be able to park and drop off students at the front entrance on the north side of the building. This entrance will be upgraded to include a new covered entrance with accessible path. The other entrance (on the south side) will include a separate area for bus pick up and drop off.

Where will the District office go? What will happen to the modulars?

Existing modular buildings (portables) on the elementary site will no longer be needed and will be removed from the property. All student classrooms and the District office will be located under one roof within the K-8 school.

Are athletic fields at the Elementary be a part of the bond?

The money in the proposed bond is allocated for the K-8 building and associated site improvements (parking and driveways) only and will not fund improvements to the fields.

When will construction begin? When will it be completed?

The expansion of the elementary school into a K-8 school will first go through the design process till early spring 2019, then construction would begin summer 2019, with anticipated completion by Fall 2021.

How will the community know that money is being spent as was promised?

The district will be setting up a Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee that will be actively involved throughout the process observing how monies are being allocated and spent within accordance of what is promised to the voters in the bond referendum.

Will this construction benefit any of the local industries?

The recent seismic work at NVES was all done through coastal labor from Lincoln City to Cannon Beach. Every effort will be made to encourage the use of the local labor force for this work as well. Additionally, the new construction work at the K-8 school has been slated for timber construction to promote local industry and for economical cost construction.

Where can I find more information on the projects that are proposed in the bond?

All information regarding the scope of projects and their related budgets can be found on the District’s website: www.nestucca.k12.or.us

