

USD 460 HESSTON SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND ELECTION

ELECTION DAY - AUGUST 30, 2022



WHY A BOND ISSUE?

Now is a great time to consider a bond project in Hesston because we pay off our 2002 bond issue in September of 2022. We will retire 12.195 mills this year on the bond passed in 2002, which has averaged approximately 15.3 mills since that time.

Over the past year, our school district conducted a thorough needs assessment of our facilities and educational opportunities for our kids and believe this bond project will address many needs in both of these areas. Our Facilities Steering Committee was developed in 2021 and has been instrumental in proposing these bond project improvements to our Board of Education.

While Hesston has always had a school system that our community can be proud of, we want to continue investing in our students and staff, and we believe this bond project reflects that investment. These school improvements will position us to keep the amazing staff we have in USD 460 and will help us attract quality educators for many years to come. We believe this project will also make our community more attractive to families and businesses who are considering relocation, which will also improve and enhance our schools and community.

WHAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE PROPOSED?

- **New Classrooms for HMS & HHS**
- **Separate Entries for HMS & HHS**
- **New Fine Arts Wing**
- **700-seat Auditorium**
- **New Band Room (Storm Shelter)**
- **New Music Room (Storm Shelter)**
- **Functional stage with great sight lines**
- **Renovated Industrial Arts/Vocational Classrooms will double size of existing space**
- **Updated Kitchen and Cafeteria to accommodate grade levels 5-12**
- **New High School Entry**
- **New Practice Gym**
- **New Locker Rooms**
(in existing Auditorium space)
- **New Weight Room**
(in existing Auditorium space)

WHAT IS THE PLAN OF FINANCE FOR THIS BOND ISSUE?

- The bond amount is \$33,475,000.
- The estimated interest rate on the 30-year bond today is 4.25%.
- The proposed bonds are estimated to require a net increase of 10.25 mills above the current levy of 12.195 mills, making a total mill levy for bond and interest at 22.445.
- Bonds are estimated to require additional taxes of \$14.73 per month on a \$150,000 residential property or \$19.65 on a \$200,000 residential property.
- USD 460 is eligible for 17% state aid to pay for both principal and interest on the proposed bond, which equates to approximately \$10,824,000.
- USD 460 has a growing tax base with an increase of 35.7% in the last 10 years.
- To be conservative, we estimate 2.5% assessed valuation growth through 2034 and 2.0% thereafter. Growth at a higher percentage can lower the mill rate in the future.



The bond improvements create new educational spaces designed to optimize the learning environment for students and attract and retain a high-quality teaching staff.