

## **CODY KILGORE UNIFIED SCHOOLS**

### **Bond Issue Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **Why is the Cody Kilgore pursuing a new building?**

The board has been working for several years to find a solution to address the urgent facility needs at the elementary building in Kilgore as well as some renovation upgrades needed in Cody. These needs include many fire, safety, and handicap accessibility issues as well as electrical, plumbing, and sewer infrastructure issues.

#### **What is included in the proposed construction project?**

##### **10,538 Square Feet**

- Construction estimate: \$3.67 million
- Total project estimate: \$4.26 million

##### **Plan Includes**

- PK-7 Classrooms
- New Bathrooms
- Storage
- Custodial Storage

##### **Plan Does Not Include**

- Indoor Play Area
- Playground
- Media Center
- Science Room
- Reception

#### **What is the plan for the elementary building in Kilgore if the bond passes?**

##### **Kilgore Building Options**

##### **Demo Cost**

1. Mobilization
2. Cut/Cap utilities
3. Demo building, sidewalks and slabs, dispose of debris
4. Remove and dispose of foundation
5. Backfill voids with sand fill
6. Clean-up/Finish Grade

**Price: \$85,778**

**Plus Asbestos Removal: Around \$30,000**

##### **Bid Out**

- Sell the building with the sealed bid process.
- The Board would have the right to accept or refuse any bid.
- The Board has the right to put contingencies on the sale.

#### **How was this project solution decided upon as our best path forward?**

The board, administration, and community members have been working toward a solution to the facility needs for several years. At one point a project solution of \$9.8 million was determined to address these needs. The board continued to work with a group of community members to pursue a different construction model and hire a different construction firm to build what is needed at a much lower cost to the district. Three public meetings have been held to share information with district patrons about this process and this solution to keep stakeholders informed. The school board then went in the direction of a Fundraising Committee. As the fundraising committee worked the

numbers of the project have grown. The school board went back to the drawing board and are not looking for the bare minimum best solution for the district. The school board is pursuing input from patrons to see what amount of bond would be approved.

### **Why don't we look at doing manufactured pre-fabricated structures instead of this design to save money and get the project amount down?**

- Approximately \$4.5 to \$5 million of the project is for the new construction addition needed to recapture elementary school and cottage space that is being abandoned
- The other \$1.5 million is designated to address necessary code, accessibility, and aging system issues in the Cody facility
- This structure will be attached the rest of the facility which enables tie in to electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.
- Pre-fab, modular type structures would more than likely not be attached (could be, but not a clean process and increases costs)
- Additional cost to pre-fab modular structures to run electricity, water, septic
- Students would be moving between buildings eliminating security of all-in-one facility if not attached
- Cost savings would more than likely be less than people anticipate
- *Would still require significant investment which may be more temporary in nature resulting in future boards, generations, and taxpayers to have to deal with facility issues 10-15 years down the road instead of 30-40 yrs.*
- *We must ask the question: Is a cheaper, lower quality route really the best decision financially or does it potentially create a real financial issue in the future if the buildings don't out last the bond debt?*

### **Why don't we consider just having a K-8 attendance center and having our high school students go somewhere else?**

- **It is no longer legal in Nebraska to be a K-8 district (Class I) as of 2006. All K-8 districts must become part of a K-12 district through merger or by dissolving.**
- Merger Agreements:
  - Would have to find willing participant to enter into merger agreement
  - Most merger agreements of this nature are a negotiation (would Cody Kilgore have any power in this process ...i.e., large amount of valuation to bring in, low cost to educate CK students for amount of valuation?) No
  - Might be able to negotiate agreement to keep Cody site for a certain number of years, but then what? Will all board members of merged District be from the larger district, certainly a majority would be and what decision would they make about the fiscal future of the district regarding keeping the site open?)
  - *Without being too dramatic, this would more than likely seal the fate of having your own school at some point in the future as there are several examples of this across rural Nebraska mergers*

### **What other benefits are there to having everything at one site?**

Having all of our students and staff at one site not only saves money each year in operational costs it also provides the following benefits:

- Eliminates the need for shared staff to travel between buildings adding instructional time
- Efficient use of support staff between grade levels
- Collaboration between grade levels improves transitions and learning for students

#### **1) How many students do we have used our district not from the district?**

- PK-12 Students 159

- 91 students our residents
- 52 Option
- 16 South Dakota
- Almost 57% of our students are considered resident students
- Based on who we had go out last year this is the breakdown for athletics in High School if we are not counting out of district students.
- Volleyball- 7, Football- 9, Boys Basketball- 4, Girls Basketball- 7
- Enrollment has stayed pretty consistent. I hear more about how students will plan on attending Cody if we have a building more than losing students over it.
- 2017/2018- 176, 2018-2019- 166, 2019-2020- 165, 2020-2021- 166, 2021-2022- 159

**What does it cost to run the buses into the other districts? Are we able to keep employees to run the buses?**

- We currently run buses into Gordon’s and Valentine’s districts. It is hard to determine exact amounts on the money we spend. We run three bus routes in which two of them go outside of our district lines. They get \$42.30 per day and a little more for the shuttle run. Late runs to Crookston and Merriman the driver get \$19.30. These are as needed.
- It is hard to find drivers everywhere. Many school districts continue to find ways to keep drivers on. The best solution is to not have routes. As of right now that isn’t a realistic solution for our families.

**What is the amount of guaranteed state aid that our district will receive?**

- As you have seen in our state aid over the years there is not guarantee with what you will be getting every year. Legislation could make a change to the formula. That’s why you have to be careful lowering your levy. You can’t rely on state aid dollars remaining the same.

2017-2018- \$892,407  
 2018-2019- \$775,004  
 2019-2020- \$1,088,760  
 2020-202- \$1,155,440  
 2021-2022- \$1,238,581

**What is the turnover rate of school employees?**

- Certified isn’t very high. After losing some veteran teachers it can be a little bit more of a revolving door if that employee doesn’t have what they need to stay. Housing is an issue, spouses can’t find work, etc. Classified staff is much harder to fill. It seems like everyone has a job or something else tying them up. Something we need to consider going forward.

**Will more information be shared with the public and who can I ask if I have questions?**

Please contact one of the following board members if you have any questions.

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