

Pioneer Pleasant-Vale Public Schools Bond Election Facts

Election Date : April 4, 2023

Polling Places: Regular precinct locations in the Pioneer Pleasant-Vale School District

Polls Open: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Need: To approve a \$4,725,000 School Bond Issue for Pioneer Pleasant-Vale Public Schools

On April 4th a bond issue will be placed before the patrons of the Pioneer Pleasant Vale School District to address several areas in immediate need. A major portion of the funds will be used to improve the safety and security of our secondary campus, rooted in recommendations from our local law enforcement safety assessment performed on our campus. Based on this safety assessment, we plan to move the main entrance to the breezeway entrance so that security vestibules can be added and locked down in case of emergency. A principal's office will be added at the entrance to process and monitor all visitors who wish to enter the building. Covered canopies will also be added to shelter our school students and visitors as they enter the building. We will also use some of the money to remodel existing bathrooms near the cafeteria. The funds will also allow for the creating of a new living skills classroom for our students with special needs and disabilities. The proposed Bond Issue will provide the much-needed funds to address these areas of concern.

These projects will benefit our students and school by providing a safe place to learn and grow. It will also allow us to address certain improvements and needs that the school cannot afford on its own.

These bonds will be repaid by property taxes within the Pioneer Pleasant Vale School District. Because of continued growth of the School District's tax base and with the expiration of some of the previous bond issue, this Bond election **WILL NOT** cause an increase in property taxes, so this project can be completed with no additional cost to our taxpayers!

***Vote April 4th
Pioneer Pleasant-
Vale Public
Schools!***





Pioneer Pleasant Vale School, Dist. 1-56

High School -- 6520 E. Wood Rd.
Waukomis, Oklahoma 73773

(580) 758-3282

Elementary -- 6020 E. Willow
Enid, Oklahoma 73701

(580) 234-9628

BRENT KOONTZ
Superintendent

TOM BETCHAN
High School Principal

LARRY COONROD
Elementary Principal

Dear Constituents,

The safety of our students and staff at Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools will always be our main concern. Research shows that students who feel safe at school learn more and perform better. We all watch the news and see what is happening within our school walls across the country and the aftermath that it leaves on everyone involved. School intruders, threats of violence, and emotionally unstable individuals in communities have terrorized school campuses for many years. Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools has addressed many of these potential threats through added hardware, cameras, training, and drills. Although Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools has made large strides in improving our safety and security of our campuses, there is still work to be done.

At our regularly scheduled board meeting in January, the Pioneer Pleasant Vale School Board voted to approve a bond election to be held April 4, 2023. This small, school safety and security bond issue is in direct response to a Security Assessment performed at Pioneer High School by the Enid Police Department's Asset Security Team and the Garfield County Sheriff's office.

During the on-site security assessment, the team identified safety and security vulnerabilities and/or concerns for our Pioneer High School Campus. The team then prepared a list of recommendations for the Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools Board to consider. This bond issue is designed to directly address those vulnerabilities and concerns. Among the main concerns is moving the main school entrance to the breezeway for better access and security while repositioning the principal's office at the entrance to the building to support this added measure of security. Moreover, secure doors, cameras, and vestibule rooms will be added to control access to the building. By adding secure doors/vestibule rooms in the entrance, administrative staff can monitor and control access to the school campus. If there is a problem, the administration can then immediately lock off that entrance to the remaining portion of the campus and initiate safety protocols immediately while law enforcement is notified. While the school already has many cameras covering the campus, additional cameras will be installed as well as access control on main entrances for added monitoring and security.

Remaining funds will be used for a nurse's station and treatment area, remodeled living skills classroom for our students with disabilities, a new media center to increase space for online education and testing, and remodeled lobby bathrooms that will replace the existing bathrooms with eight stand alone family style bathrooms for added privacy.

The bond issue WILL NOT raise your property taxes. Our district will remain the lowest -taxed district in the county. The amount of the bond issue will be \$4.7 million. This amount will cover all fees, interest, contingency, plans, permits, stamps, and renovation and construction costs. Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools anticipates this bond issue being the last major renovation/construction bond issue for years to come. Our district works very hard to get the most value from every tax dollar spent and is proud of our school campus facilities and how they benefit our students. It is very important to the Pioneer Pleasant Vale School Board to keep our millage tax at a minimum but also support our school system and keep our students and staff safe for decades to come. We have been blessed as a district to be able to improve our schools while paying our debts without putting an overbearing burden on our home/land owners. We will always continue to respect that and uphold that philosophy.

Attached is a letter from Captain Gary Fuxa from the Enid Police Department. He personally took part in the security assessment mentioned earlier in this document and continues to work with our school system to improve student safety. His letter points out our district's security shortfalls at the time of the on-site security assessment. His recommendations are also included in the letter.

Mr. Koontz will be scheduling Bond Issue Information Nights at each campus in March. The school system will notify you before those meetings so that you may attend and ask questions regarding this project. Until then, please call the school at your convenience and direct any questions to Mr. Koontz's office. Again, thank you all for your unwavering support of Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools and the safety and security of our students.

Sincerely,



Brent Koontz
Superintendent
Pioneer Pleasant Vale Schools



January 31, 2023

The Enid Police Department Asset Security Assessment Team ("Team") assessed Pioneer Pleasant Vale High School for security threats and concerns. After the tour, the Team provided school administrators a list of threats to the safety of school students, faculty, and staff. Concerning security shortfalls existed, including unsecured exterior doors allowing multiple points of unrestricted and unmonitored ingress and egress.

While administrative offices were traditionally placed in the middle of the school campus to be at the "center of activity"; school districts across the nation have adopted a new concept of relocating the administrative offices to the front entrance area of school campuses and limiting ingress and egress to one central point during school hours. This began as a response to the tragic school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999, and continues as the frequency of mass casualty attacks has increased. The placement of administrative offices at the front entrance of schools provides a physical barrier between possible intruders and the rest of the school. The use of this type of security measure has become more prevalent in the past few years.

New data from the National Center of Educational Statistics (NCES) shows nearly 98% of all participating school districts have taken steps to improve physical building security by restricting unmonitored entries and exits from the building during school hours. This adds layers of security to the physical campus. By having the administrative office near the entrance; and with the addition of secure doors vestibule rooms installed in the entrance, administrative staff can monitor and control access to the school campus. At a minimum, visitors should not be able to enter the school without first registering or checking in at the main office. By having the office located at the front entrance, administrative staff can isolate and contend with any threat or issue that presents itself. If warranted, office staff can quickly initiate the schools' emergency action plans as needed. Beneficial staff training would include, but not limited to: intruder response, lock down/evacuation procedure, first responder arrival procedure.

This concept is endorsed by the Council of Educational Facility Planners International, the Department of Homeland Security, and Hartford Consensus as a method to make it more difficult for a mass casualty attacker to carry out his or her plans. In a mass casualty scenario, time management is critical. This system buys time. The average response time nation-wide for "mass casualty events" is approximately three minutes in an *urban populated area*. The Pioneer Pleasant Vale High School is unique in that it is located outside of any municipality (at least six miles from any municipal jurisdiction). There are many factors that affect first responder response time, one of the largest of which is how far available units are from the location of the emergency. Because seconds count, school districts should consider and implement ways to delay intruders, providing first responders the opportunity to arrive on scene and secure the school.

Prevention of a mass casualty attack is always the best answer. But when prevention fails, the next layer of protection for a school's students, faculty, and staff is maintaining a strong and secure campus. Implementing these practices will help by disrupting the intruder's plan and providing critical time for schools to initiate emergency action plans and first responders to arrive on scene.



Captain Gary Fuxa
Enid Police Support Services Division