



# Chelan voters asked to pay for new high school

by Nevonne McDaniels | March 5, 2019, 5:26 p.m.

Education

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CHELAN — Plans for a new Chelan High School campus, which have been part of the district's long-term facilities vision for more than a decade, are getting another look this spring.

The Lake Chelan School Board decided last month to ask voters on April 23 to consider a \$75.5 million bond proposal that would fund:

- A new high school on land the district bought in 2008, next to the Mountain Goat soccer field on North Apple Blossom Drive. Cost: \$59 million.
- Remodel the 70-year old Morgen Owings Elementary School, adding preschool and kindergarten classes and a multipurpose gym, modernize and upgrade current classrooms and replace the roof and HVAC system. The remodeled facility would house preschool through third grades. Cost: \$5.5 million
- Convert the current 27-year-old high school/middle school at 215 W. Webster Ave. into an intermediate school for grades 4-8, modernizing special education classrooms and expanding the ag science, woodshop and science academy, plus upgrading heating and air conditioning systems. Grades 4-6 would be self-contained in one section and grades 7-8 in another. Cost: \$3.5 million.
- Renovate the 53-year-old Sargent Field, including installing a turf field for youth soccer and football, build new bleachers, overhead lighting and press box, upgrade the concession stand and parking and rebuild locker rooms and public restroom facilities. Cost: \$7 million.

The bond measure requires a 60 percent "yes" vote to pass. It would cost taxpayers an estimated \$1.50 for every \$1,000 of assessed value for 20 years. The expiration of a previous capital levy and tech levy, though, cuts the total increase to 86 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

For the owner of a \$400,000 home, that works out to an increase of \$28.67 a month or \$344 a year.

The new and renovated facilities would meet the district's anticipated space requirements for the next 30 to 40 years and consolidate athletic venues, easing some safety concerns with student driving and busing for athletic practices. It also would resolve some traffic issues at the elementary school, according to the district. ([www.wld.us/Chelanschoolbond](http://www.wld.us/Chelanschoolbond)).

The new high school campus idea took shape when the Naumes property, now Apple Blossom Center, was being developed in the early 2000s, which presented an opportunity to have 41.3 contiguous acres for schools, community sports fields and outdoor recreation.

The developer donated 7.1 acres for a new school, signed over 12.3 acres to the city through an agreement to provide ballfields, dedicated 14.9 acres to open space that the district can use for trails or athletic fields and the district purchased about 7 acres in 2008. The \$2.8 million deal was funded with part of a \$5.5 million voter-approved bond measure that also helped fund renovations to the community gym and upgrades to the high school/middle school and the elementary school. In 2007, voters rejected a \$9 million bond proposal for the project, which was pared down and resubmitted the next year.

Since then, the district has continued to work on the property. A \$500,000 state Department of Ecology grant in 2013 helped deal with lead and arsenic on the former orchard property before the construction of soccer and ballfields.

If the current proposal is approved in April, upgrades to Sargent Field would start within six months and planning for the new high school would start in June, with the goal of opening the doors for the 2021-22 school year. The modernization of the other buildings would follow.

The district has scheduled a series of meetings about the proposal. For information call 682-3515.