

Facilities Update

Dr. Kenneth Hall

On May 4 of this year, the voters of Crawford ISD approved a \$1.895 million dollar bond. Please allow this notice to help inform you of the bond progress and other facilities upgrades that are taking place at our school.

Let's begin with the upgrades that were initiated this summer. This year, we are moving our sixth grade students from the elementary over to the middle school. In preparation for that move, we have made several upgrades to the middle school wing. The scope of work for the middle school consisted of remodeling the restrooms with all new plumbing and fixtures. We also had the tile floor and walls resurfaced and new stall panels installed. To complete the middle school project, the interior of the building received a fresh coat of paint, and new carpet and tile was installed to the classrooms, hallway, and offices. We will be installing new lockers during the fall semester, and roofing and HVAC replacement will be coming soon.

Some other facility projects that are on-going are replacing the floor in the high school gym, replacing soffits, fascia boards, and painting of the middle school locker rooms and gym, and installing new scoreboards at the football and baseball fields. Early in the summer, we contracted with Quality Hardwood Floors to analyze and repair a 300 square foot area of the high school gym floor that had some buckling in it. When that part of the floor was removed, it was determined that an air conditioning condensation drain was plugged, causing moisture to collect under all the floor, so it had to be replaced. That project is scheduled for completion the week after Labor Day. Last week we started the repair and replacement of the soffits of the middle school locker rooms and gym. Parsons roofing is working on the demolition and reinstallation of old/damaged soffits. They will also replace fascia boards and paint that area of the building. The time frame for completion is not clear yet, but it is likely to be around the second week of September. A great big "thank you" goes out to TFNB of McGregor for sponsoring our new scoreboards at the football and baseball fields. Our maintenance staff has prepared the mounting beams and electrical access for installation. September 20th is the expected completion date for the scoreboard installation. Thanks again to TFNB.

The progress with the bond projects is continuing to move forward. The bonds were actually sold in July. After the transaction closed on August 13, we received our bond funds and are now able to move forward with the projects. The process for soliciting bids and starting the projects should begin sometime in the next few weeks. As most of you will remember, the primary bond projects identified by the facilities planning committee were replacing the roof at the secondary campus, replacing the HVAC equipment at the secondary campus, installing new lights at the softball and baseball fields, replacing the track, and building new restrooms at the football field.

Next, Wednesday night, the Crawford ISD Board of Education will meet to approve the budget and tax rate for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. In 2016, the voters of our community voted to approve a tax ratification. At that time, the total district tax rate was \$1.23 (\$1.04 general operating) and \$0.19 for debt). Our plan was to perform a tax swap raising the general operating tax to \$1.17 and lowering the debt rate to \$.06 keeping our total rate at \$1.23. We performed this tax swap because by having a higher general operating tax rate, we were able to generate more state money being contributed to our district, and our total tax rate remained at \$1.23. As we prepared for the bond election, Crawford ISD hosted three town hall meetings to discuss the facility projects and the impact they would have on our tax rate. You may remember that it was estimated that the bond would raise our tax rate by six to eight cents, raising our total rate to \$1.29-\$1.31. During this last legislative session, our representatives in Austin compressed our general operating tax rate to \$1.06835. For us, that means the 10 cents they compressed out were actually pennies that had been moved from our debt tax during the tax swap. That means that we will have to move those pennies back to our debt service this year. In order to pay our current debt (including the new bond), we will have to set a debt service rate at around 22.5 cents, that means our total rate will probably be about \$1.29. That is certainly in line with what we were projecting during the spring town hall meetings. I hope these details help simplify everyone's understanding of the proposed tax rate. If you need more information, feel free to call Dr. Hall at 254.486.2381, or you may prefer to attend the public hearing on the proposed budget and tax rate. That hearing will be held in the high school conference room on Wednesday, August 28, at 6:30 PM.

Thank you all for your continued support of the staff and students at Crawford ISD.