Get the Facts - September 2019
Information regarding the November 2019 bond for a new high school in Kamas.

On August 15, 2019, the South Summit School Board of Education approved a resolution to bond for $87 million to build a new high school. The overall price of the bond has increased from the estimated $75 million that was presented in February, due to construction costs. However, the financial impact for taxpayers has actually decreased because of changes in tax valuations, interest rates and population growth. The following table lists the estimated tax impact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary residence</th>
<th>Non-primary residence/business property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market Value</td>
<td>Annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>$254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$423,000*</td>
<td>$358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$424</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*average primary residence in South Summit School District

In February, the Board presented a preliminary estimate of $376/year for an average home of $438,000. More recent estimates show only $358/year for an average home of $423,000. The Board is still committing $1.25 million for the first seven years to offset the cost to taxpayers until the growth catches up and can sustain the full impact of the bond. With the Board’s contribution, the impact on citizens is actually about $10 less per $100,000 than what was projected for the 2017 bond proposal.

Who Shares the Cost?

The South Summit School District land boundaries are very large and include the Uintas, Silver Creek/Promontory area near Park City and the Kamas Valley. Our District is unique in that up until recently there has primarily only been student enrollment on the East side. However, the Silver Creek area, which provides ⅓ of our current tax base, now has a development under construction, and considerable growth is expected in the next few years. The development when fully built will be larger than the city of Coalville.

The chart shows the breakdown of costs to those who will be paying for the proposed bond.
Why Bond?

We are growing! Current projections show that student population will increase 48% within the next ten years, yet all of our current schools are close to reaching their functional capacities. Thus, we are faced with an enrollment that will increase from 1,693 students in 2018 to 2,500 students in 2028 without the needed space to do so. In order to serve the number of students that will be in our District, bonding is inevitable and must be done responsibly.

In addition to the classroom and learning space needed to accommodate our growing community, there are significant capital improvement needs, including roofing on our existing buildings and outdated HVAC equipment. The Board is addressing these needs as funding is available, using resources specifically for capital improvements.

The District currently collects approximately $3 million annually for capital projects, but also needs to use these to fund technology equipment purchases, new buses and cars, routine maintenance of facilities and grounds, and safety upgrades. Safety is our number one priority and will always be given the first and foremost attention. Be assured, a District building will never be occupied if there are ever questionable safety issues. We have hired professionals to inspect all of our buildings to ensure student and employee safety. The capital improvement projects will prolong the use of our existing buildings and ensure long-term safety.

How will funds be used?

The new high school will be built on district owned property west of Kamas and will be a comprehensive high school campus that includes adequate and appropriate learning spaces for English, math, fine arts, science, technology, business, extra-curricular clubs and organizations, and indoor/outdoor athletic facilities and fields. Having a fourth school will allow us to realign the grades, thus utilizing all of our current school buildings at better capacity levels.
Where will the new high school be built and why are athletics included?

Property west of Kamas

Some residents in our community have communicated to the Board of Education that they support building schools but struggle with bonding for athletic fields when we already have nice facilities, especially our stadium. Certainly we do have nice facilities, in fact so nice that the demand far exceeds availability. These facilities were built before the high school had boys and girls soccer or spring baseball and softball. The current soccer/football stadium will still be used for high school competitions, middle school classes and events, and recreational activities available through the Aquatics and Fitness Center. The Board considered a bonding option that did not include athletic facilities, but at a cost of less than $5 more a month (on an average $423,000 primary residence), they determined it is more responsible to include them now.
What will the new high school look like?
possible rendering

The mission of South Summit School District is to support, empower and inspire individuals to achieve academic and character excellence. In order to fulfill our mission, the Board of Education and administration are committed to being proactive by preparing a learning environment that empowers our students with the skills they need to succeed.