

Argument for the Bond 2019

South Summit School District (SSSD) needs your support to ensure that our students receive an education that prepares them for success. We are the fifth fastest growing district in Utah, and enrollment is projected to increase almost 50% in the next 10 years. Our current buildings are facing overcrowding, and we don't have space to effectively educate the expected 800+ new students.

The Board of Education has researched multiple options to manage growth. We have considered additions to our existing buildings and expanding our current campuses; building new elementary schools; modular classrooms; and building a new high school with/without athletic facilities. With interest rates at historic lows and the growth of our community, the price difference is less than \$5 per month for the average homeowner. Based on community input and long-term cost analysis, the best-long term solution is to build a new high school that includes athletic facilities, and then spread the growth among all four Kamas schools.

The issues facing our district are many and varied. In addition to overcrowding, there are several safety concerns with all of our campuses. One serious concern is that of students crossing the street in front of the high school. Other concerns include the deficient sizes of our campuses in comparison to national recommendations for school safety, playground space, and extracurricular opportunities. The high school gyms also pose a safety concern as we are unable to close down the rest of the school during public events occurring during non-school hours.

For many years we were fortunate to have revenue from oil found within our district boundaries, which helped us build and remodel facilities without burdening taxpayers. Responsible planning enabled us to build additional classrooms onto the middle school using capital money, thus allowing us to manage growth through grade realignments, delaying the need for new buildings for as long as possible. Furthermore, the district has secured land for future buildings as the right opportunities have presented themselves. Our district has a rich heritage of being proactive and responsibly planning for growth. Now the time has come to build a new high school, and that is not possible without bonding.

Bonding is the most cost effective way to build a new school. The bond will increase taxes by approximately \$30 monthly or \$358 annually on a \$423,000 home (average home in SSSD) based on county assessed market value.

We know our community's success is closely tied to our children's success, and it is our commitment to support, empower, inspire and prepare every child, every day, to achieve academic and character excellence. In fact, valuing individuals and preparing them for success is South Summit School District's vision. Additional information,

including answers to common questions about the bond, can be found at www.ssummit.org/future-vision-bond. We are committed to maximizing the amazing resources we have available and depend on your affirmative vote to support quality educational opportunities for our children.

South Summit Board of Education
September 2019