

WHEN WILL THE THE BOND ELECTION BE HELD?

Ballots will be mailed out at the beginning of April and ballots must be returned to the County Clerk's Office by noon on April 23rd.

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE MONEY GOING TO BE USED FOR AT USD 407?

\$17.5 million is a large amount of money for anyone to imagine in Russell County. The money will be used for the priorities listed here as defined by the community survey and the board of education's review of our current facilities.

1. Electrical upgrades at all attendance centers
\$3,380,815
 - a. Update electrical systems to handle increased usage for 21st century technology and equipment
 - b. Replace/repair/update fire alarms and clock systems
 - c. Add emergency and exit lighting
2. Heating and air conditioning at all attendance centers
\$11,554,166
 - a. Install variable refrigerant flow (VRF) heat/cooling systems
 - b. Remove existing systems
 - c. Repair ceilings as needed from installation processes
3. Building a 6- or 8-classroom addition at Simpson Elementary School
\$2,565,019
 - a. Replace 6 current classrooms at SES where the Kindergarten (Northeast) wing is currently
4. If Possible: Any additional funds will be used to improve Americans with Disability Act (ADA) accessibility at RMS, BES, RHS, and SES, respectively.



FINANCE BREAKDOWN

- A mill is \$1 of tax on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation of property in Russell USD 407.
- USD 407 currently has a total mill levy of 47.307.

Mill Levy Impact	
Bond Issue Size	\$17,500,000
Length of Bond Issue	15 years
Mills	19.600
Interest Rate	4.50%

PROPOSED BOND ISSUE PROPERTY TAX IMPACT CALCULATOR

Residential Property	
Appraised Home Value	Annual Increase
\$100,000	\$225.40 (\$18.78/mo)

Commercial Property	
Appraised Commercial Value	Annual Increase
\$100,000	\$490.00 (\$40.83/mo)

Cropland (160 acres)	
Appraised Value	Annual Increase
\$248 per acre	\$233.32 (\$1.46/acre)

Grassland (160 acres)	
Appraised Value	Annual Increase
\$39 per acre	\$36.69 (\$.23/acre)

WHEN WILL MY TAXES GO UP IF IT PASSES?

Once the bond ballot is passed by the public, the school would begin the mill levy adjustment with the next fiscal year budget. A patron's 2019 tax bill delivered in December 2019 would reflect the levy increase for the bond at USD 407 by just shy of 20 mills.

WHY ASK NOW WHEN THE ECONOMY FEELS LIKE IT'S DOWN?

The opportunity to ask the public to approve a tax increase never seems like a good time. USD 407 researched the facilities intensely the past four years. Looking at the prices of construction, energy use, energy research, and facility needs; this was determined to be needed now.

The mission of USD 407 is to teach all students to their fullest potential, provide an appropriate learning environment and prepare students to become functional and effective citizens in an ever-changing world.



**RUSSELL
USD 407**
FACILITIES BOND 2019

WHY DOES IT COST SO MUCH?

The costs are based on current costs of construction, anticipated interest rates that will be in place at the time of selling/purchasing the bonds, and anticipating local or out of area construction bidders.

It's possible that the cost of projects could be less than anticipated at the time of bond sale or projects bids. The timeline of sale, project start dates, and interest rates will determine the final costs at the time of the work without spending more than the bond amount.

HOW CAN I TRUST THAT USD 407 WILL DO WHAT THEY SAY THEY'RE GOING TO DO WITH THE MONEY?

Kansas statutes require all bond budgets to be strictly limited to the defined projects. The process to formulate and place a bond question on a ballot is very specifically outlined by Kansas statutes to ensure that school districts do not collect money without cause. Absolutely no part of the bond debt can be applied to expenses beyond USD 407's identified projects of electricity, HVAC, SES expansion, and finally ADA improvements.

WHY CAN'T THE SCHOOLS DO THE PROJECTS WITHOUT RAISING MY TAXES?

Schools generate money that is specifically allocated for facility maintenance and improvements. The Capital Outlay budget is designed as a place where districts can save money and utilize it just for specific capital investments.

USD 407 collects 8 mills each budget year that go directly to this fund to ensure the state that we are utilizing monies to purchase buses, clean facilities, maintain these facilities, and purchase classroom equipment.

These 8 mills have generated approximately \$500,000 each budget year. The chart below details the income and expenditures for the past three years of capital outlay.

Year	8 mills raised	Expenses Incurred
FY 2018	\$556,995	\$653,067
FY 2017	\$596,076	\$546,659
FY 2016	\$806,313	\$1,248,258

USD 407 Budget documents/ reports FY16-FY18



DO WE REALLY NEED SPACE IMPROVEMENT FOR A DECLINING ENROLLMENT?

The enrollment at USD 407 is stable, and has even increased slightly over the past seven years. Please see the chart to the right to see how USD 407 enrollment has been reported to KSDE via the September 20 count days.

Year	K-3 Enrollment	4-8 Enrollment	9-12 Enrollment	Total USD Enrollment
2018-19	286	308	254	848
2017-18	272	323	248	843
2016-17	259	304	256	819
2015-16	281	304	238	821
2014-15	247	301	226	774
2013-14	245	306	256	807
2012-13	242	301	243	786

KSDE Superintendent Organization Reports 2012-2018

WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL, THERE WERE MORE STUDENTS IN CLASSES. WHY DOES IT TAKE MORE ROOM TO TEACH?

Teaching and learning has evolved over the past two decades. The introduction of technology and space for students and teachers to collaborate in activities plays a major role in the design of classrooms in today's world.

We also have seen the introduction and development of inclusionary based work so that all students have access to their peers and highly qualified staff. Special education and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) create the regulations that educators embrace so that all students can be socially, emotionally, and academically connected to the classroom. Our classrooms in the 21st Century, versus our classrooms in the 1980s and prior, must create space for students with disabilities and welcome the opportunity for learning for all.

Unfortunately, crisis management is having one of the greatest impacts on the current state of schools and has changed immensely this past decade. Additional space provides the ability for instructors to move around and students to find a safe place during a crisis.

WILL THIS GUARANTEE THAT MY STUDENT WILL LEARN BETTER?

The bond passage would guarantee a more controlled atmosphere that is comfortable with air conditioning and balanced heating. It would guarantee a less harshly lighted environment, as fluorescent lighting would be replaced with LED options. Improvements could guarantee a more accessible environment for all students and staff.

There are some researchers who believe the learning and working environment's comfort levels and climate control have a very positive impact on productivity. But, there are no guarantees to learning or teaching in this bond question.

(Office climate control can be more important than you realize, AlphaStaff, August 2015)

HOW MUCH WILL AIR CONDITIONING ADD TO OUR OPERATING COSTS?

Operating cost are estimated to increase by 10 to 20 percent to provide air conditioning in all buildings and become code compliant with fresh air requirements.

COULDN'T WE HAVE ALREADY DONE THESE PROJECTS IF WE HADN'T SPENT ALL THAT MONEY ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD?

Some of the projects that are defined could have been started with the money that was spent to transition the field from grass to turf. The field was installed in 2015 for a cost of \$864,499, although a bit of that money was also to aid in drainage and concrete work at the north end of our track. The bond projects as detailed in priority for electrical, HVAC and the SES addition are such that very little of these projects could have been done for that amount of money.

