

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Why do we need to add to our present high school facility?

Answer: Enrollment at SCHS has increased from 450 to around 600 students. We have added classroom space but cannot keep up with escalating costs of building without the use of a bond to fund the cost of additional large education facilities, bathrooms/locker rooms, food service, and activity areas.

Question: How much is the proposed bond referendum?

Answer: \$12,500,000.

Question: How will this bond affect our current tax rate?

Answer: **NO INCREASE** in property tax rate (Revenue Neutral)

Question: When is the election?

Answer: Ballots will be mailed out on **February 26, 2019**
Ballots due at the Colfax County Court House by **March 12, 2019**.

Question: What is the proposed construction timeline?

Answer: Construction will begin June 2019 and completed August 2021.

Question: How long is the proposed bond obligation?

Answer: Proposed bond: 20-year bond. True interest cost: 3.540%. Final Maturity: 12/15/2039.

Question: Why is the bond necessary at this time?

Answer: Aging facilities and growing enrollment. The proposed bond will allow the board of education to improve facilities at the present or lower tax rate.

Question: What building improvements and new facilities are included in this proposal?

Answer: **Renovation** to the high school (1953) building; corridor, restrooms, and east gym. **New construction** includes kitchen/cafeteria, additional locker rooms, new gym and wrestling practice facility.

Question: How do our budgets compare with similar size schools?

Answer: Cost per pupil is \$8,058. 25th largest district, 8th lowest per pupil cost in the state.

Question: How is the district funded?

Answer: 60% Property Tax, 1% County Funds, 30% State & Special Ed. Aid, and 9% Federal grants.

Question: What funds can be used for new construction?

Answer: **Special Building Fund** (maximum 14 cents) limited under the 1.05 General Fund levy limit
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (QCPUF) (maximum of 3 cents for 10 years)
Bond Fund: Subject to approval of the voters.
We are currently levying 10.89 cents in the QCPUF, Building, and Bond Fund

Question: Will the board continue to levy in the building fund if the bond passes?

Answer: The new and existing bonds will require funding at the current level for one year. In year 2, bond requirements are reduced by \$200,000. Years 3-20, annual bond payments are reduced \$300,000.

Question: What are the alternatives to this bond?

Answer: The board may need to pass a bond, and levy an additional 3 cents for up to 10 years, to bring 1953 high school building into compliance. They may also continue to levy in the building fund for year-to-year building improvements. This may result in a levy increase without the benefit of additional facilities.

Question: Who is paying for materials to inform the public about the proposed bond?

Answer: Schuyler Community Schools Foundation, Inc.

Question: Why is the proposed bond necessary at this time?

Answer: The Board of Education believes the timing makes sense with the current bonds being paid off within the next couple years, low interest rates and the need to address facility compliance issues/needs. The proposed bond will allow the board of education to improve facilities at the present or lower tax rate. In 2013, the board of education adopted a long-range facility plan. Following the construction of the new elementary building, the facility plan outlined a number of district priorities including renovation of the preschool building, increased activity space with the field house, additional classrooms at the high school, renovation of the career and technical education (Voc. Ag, CTE) classrooms and labs.

The proposed bond would allow for continued Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) renovations to the high school (1953) building, kitchen/cafeteria expansion, improved locker and restrooms, and conversion of the east gym and new gym and practice areas without an increase to the current property tax rate.

Question: How much is the proposed bond referendum?

Answer: \$12,500,000.

Renovation (1953 High School Building): East gym, corridor, restrooms, furniture and equipment (estimated cost \$2,000,000)

New Construction: Gym, Kitchen, Cafeteria, Locker rooms, wrestling practice area, restrooms, parking lot, furniture and equipment (estimated cost \$9,000,000)

Professional Services: Design Architects, Electrical Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Structural Engineer, Civil Engineer, Interior Design, Acoustic Design, Food Service Design, Construction Management, etc... (estimated cost \$1,500,000)

Question: How will this proposed bond affect my current tax rate?

Answer: **NO INCREASE in property tax rate (Revenue Neutral).** The district is currently levying taxes of \$1,500,000 (10.89 cents) per year in the building fund and two bond funds. The proposed bond will restructure our remaining bonds and include the new bond at a lower rate.

Question: Who is the project Architect?



Answer: The Clark Enersen Partners from Lincoln, NE were selected from a list of 11 architect firms. Selection was based on general quality and reputation, quality of past performance, past experience with similar projects, capacity of in-house professional services, cost estimate, and fee structure.

Question: When is the election?

Answer: Ballots will be mailed out to registered voters on **February 26, 2019** and will be due back at the Colfax County Court House by **March 12, 2019**.

Question: What are the identified NEEDS addressed in this project?

Answer: High school enrollment has increased from 450 students to around 600 students. The new and renovated facilities would address the following program needs:

Restrooms: The bond issue will allow us to renovate existing high school restrooms and to add new high school restrooms sufficient to meet student capacity needs that are handicap accessible under current ADA guidelines.

Parking: The bond issue will allow us to: **1.** increase the number of handicap accessible parking spaces, **2.** to rearrange and reconfigure bus loading and unloading in front of the west gym to the south side of the gym for before, after and during school activities, and **3.** to rearrange and reconfigure the street service entrance from the west side of the high school building to the south side of the building for food service, maintenance and trash services.

Food Service: The bond will allow us to do the following to the kitchen, serving area, lunch room and commons area: Increase the size of the student food serving area, with the goal of handicap accessibility, reducing food service times and lunch schedules; Reduce the lunch periods from four to two; Increase seating to accommodate students in each lunch period; Increase meal options and service lines for breakfast and lunch programs.

Concessions: The bond will allow us to create one central and larger concession area with tables to accommodate storage and vending during activities, to accommodate special school and community events, and to provide access to the football field/track venue

Event Center: The bond will allow us to renovate of the east gym and stage to accommodate handicap accessibility, to increase seating, and to improve acoustics, lighting, heating and air conditioning for performing arts, dance, music, drama, meetings community events, etc...

Gymnasium: The bond will allow us to add a new, larger competition gymnasium to accommodate varsity wrestling, basketball, volleyball, large school and community gatherings, graduation.

Locker Rooms: The bond will allow us to add new, additional locker room space to accommodate both home and visiting teams, provide for a training room, and provide for officials dressing room.

Wrestling: The bond issue will allow us to add a new practice room on mezzanine level to accommodate wrestling practice for youth, middle, and high school athletes and a storage room for athletic equipment.

Question: What are alternatives to this proposed bond?

Answer: Possible increase in current tax rates to address facility needs if improvements are scheduled on a year-to-year, pay as you go basis. The board of education will continue to levy \$1,500,000 to meet our current bond obligations and ADA compliance requirements. The board may consider one or a combination of alternatives if the proposed bond is not approved:

- a. Continue to levy at the current rate in the bond and building funds to pay present bonds and make more costly renovations on a year-to-year basis.
- b. Continue to levy at the present level in the bond fund and approve an additional bond in the **Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (QCPUF)** to address ADA and life safety compliance requirements. Increase tax levy of 3 cents for up to 10 years (\$417,265 per year).

Question: What is the proposed construction timeline?

Answer: Construction will begin in June 2019 and completed August 2021. **Phase I:** kitchen, cafeteria, gym, locker rooms, and parking lot will be completed by the fall of 2020. **Phase II:** renovation of the high school (1953 building) will begin in December 2020 and completed by August 2021.

Question: Will the board continue to invest in the building fund?

Answer: The first year of the proposed bond will require most of the current levy in support of the current and proposed bonds. Year two reduces the bond payments by \$200,000, The remaining schedule reduces annual requirements by \$300,000. The board will have the option of accessing the difference to support the general fund or the building fund under the 1.05 levy limit at that time. See debt service schedule.

Question: How long is the proposed bond obligation?

Answer: Proposed bond: 20-year. True interest cost: 3.540%. Final Maturity: 12/15/2039.

Date	Debt Service	Other Net Debt Service	Net Levy	Assessed Valuation	Levy (cts per \$100)
08/31/2019		969,095.00	969,095.00		
08/31/2020	497,431.67	983,952.50	1,481,384.17	1,390,893,335	0.106506
08/31/2021	426,370.00	852,465.50	1,278,835.50	1,390,893,335	0.091943
08/31/2022	667,695.00	514,720.00	1,182,415.00	1,390,893,335	0.085011
08/31/2023	660,345.00	520,947.50	1,181,292.50	1,390,893,335	0.084930
08/31/2024	667,770.00	516,213.75	1,183,983.75	1,390,893,335	0.085124
08/31/2025	664,895.00	515,428.75	1,180,323.75	1,390,893,335	0.084861
08/31/2026	666,795.00	513,726.25	1,180,521.25	1,390,893,335	0.084875
08/31/2027	668,395.00	516,235.00	1,184,630.00	1,390,893,335	0.085170
08/31/2028	664,770.00	517,861.25	1,182,631.25	1,390,893,335	0.085027
08/31/2029	661,142.50	518,450.00	1,179,592.50	1,390,893,335	0.084808
08/31/2030	810,040.00	370,475.00	1,180,515.00	1,390,893,335	0.084875
08/31/2031	1,180,117.50		1,180,117.50	1,390,893,335	0.084846
08/31/2032	1,183,020.00		1,183,020.00	1,390,893,335	0.085055
08/31/2033	1,179,620.00		1,179,620.00	1,390,893,335	0.084810
08/31/2034	1,180,340.00		1,180,340.00	1,390,893,335	0.084862
08/31/2035	1,184,055.00		1,184,055.00	1,390,893,335	0.085129
08/31/2036	1,180,735.00		1,180,735.00	1,390,893,335	0.084890
08/31/2037	1,181,310.00		1,181,310.00	1,390,893,335	0.084932
08/31/2038	1,182,400.00		1,182,400.00	1,390,893,335	0.085010
08/31/2039	1,183,700.00		1,183,700.00	1,390,893,335	0.085104
08/31/2040	1,183,200.00		1,183,200.00	1,390,893,335	0.085068
	18,874,146.67	7,309,570.50	26,183,717.17		

Question: How can I vote in this election?

Answer: To be eligible to vote for the March 12, 2019 special election, the deadline for registering online, through the DMV, or other agencies is Friday, February 22. That is also the postmark deadline for mailed-in registrations. Citizens also have until 6:00 P.M. on Friday, March 1 to register in person at their county election office.

To register to vote online you need to log into NEReg2Vote via Google or use the Secretary of State website, www.sos.ne.gov, to connect with the online registration system. The system is user-friendly, easily accessible, available by mobile application, and accessible in both English and Spanish. Valid Nebraska driver's licenses or state ID cards are required for online voter registration. If you need to go to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to obtain a driver's license or to update, please ask the clerk that you want to register to vote as well. It will be done electronically and sent to your county election office.

If you do not have a Nebraska Driver's license or State ID card, you can still register to vote by filling out the Nebraska Voter Registration Form, which can be found on the Secretary of State website under Voter Forms in the elections section, and mailing it to your county election office. Alternatively, you can register in person the county election office.

Question: How does Schuyler Community Schools property taxes compare with area schools?

Answer: Schuyler Community Schools currently receives local and county tax support of 61%. The remainder of the budget (39%) is supported by state aid, special education reimbursement, and federal and private grant programs.

			2017-18 District Levy		2016-17 Audit Data			
2018-19 State Aid Data	Formulas Students	Cost Per Pupil	General Fund Levy	Total Levy	Local Taxes	County/Other Receipts	State Receipts	Federal Receipts
Clarkson	185.27	\$14,772.76	\$0.7346	\$0.7893	79.60%	0.46%	17.50%	2.49%
Howells-Dodge	244.73	\$14,338.37	\$0.4964	\$0.6018	82.10%	0.76%	12.90%	4.23%

Leigh	193.68	\$15,609.36	\$0.6000	\$0.7350	78.70%	1.15%	15.80%	4.36%
David City	608.23	\$15,003.24	\$0.6648	\$0.7816	78.70%	2.30%	15.40%	3.54%
North Bend	592.58	\$11,828.81	\$0.5567	\$0.7410	72.60%	0.89%	23.30%	3.16%
Lakeview	856.39	\$10,087.14	\$0.6109	\$0.6556	78.50%	0.61%	15.60%	5.22%
Columbus	3,719.75	\$8,462.56	\$0.9839	\$1.2482	51.20%	1.50%	43.20%	4.09%
Schuyler	1,882.69	\$8,057.96	\$1.0210	\$1.1234	60.30%	0.83%	29.70%	9.10%

Source of Information: Nebraska Department of Education

Question: How does Schuyler Community Schools budget compare with area schools?

Answer: Schuyler Community Schools is currently the 25th largest district in Nebraska. While we have a more diverse population with varied educational needs, we are the 8th lowest cost per pupil in Nebraska. See per pupil cost comparison with area schools listed above.

State aid Information Summary	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Formula Students	1,788.79	1,856.63	1,852.66	1,882.69
Schuyler General Fund Expenditures	14,255,909.06	15,008,445.00	14,952,807.00	15,170,621.00
State Average Per Student	8,925.53	9,223.76	9,359.36	9,382.69
Schuyler Expenditures per Student	7,969.56	8,083.72	8,071.01	8,057.96
Schuyler compared to State Average	-955.97	-1,140.04	-1,288.35	-1,324.73
Rank in Size	26 of 245	26 of 245	26 of 245	25 of 245
Ranking from the lowest cost per student	14 of 245	8 of 245	9 of 245	8 of 245
	Schuyler	Schuyler	Schuyler	Schuyler
Increase from 2015-16 to 2018-19	298.23	114.16	-12.71	-13.05

Source of Information: Nebraska Department of Education

Question: How does Schuyler Community Schools budget compare with similar size schools?

Answer: Cost per pupil is \$8,058. See information included below.

County	District #	School District	Enrollment	Budget	Cost
SARPY	77-0046-000	SPRINGFIELD PLATTEVIEW COMMUNITY	1,114.77	12,723,838	11,414
HAMILTON	41-0504-000	AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,193.78	13,034,997	10,919
YORK	93-0012-000	YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,227.25	11,687,704	9,524

CHEYENNE	17-0001-000	SIDNEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,266.49	13,135,177	10,371
BOX BUTTE	07-0006-000	ALLIANCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,303.34	11,884,125	9,118
SEWARD	80-0009-000	SEWARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,364.22	14,194,769	10,405
OTOE	66-0111-000	NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,368.35	13,449,517	9,829
RED WILLOW	73-0017-000	MC COOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,380.29	12,365,003	8,958
HALL	40-0082-000	NORTHWEST PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,474.62	14,209,353	9,636
CASS	13-0001-000	PLATTSMOUTH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	1,554.23	15,155,069	9,751
SCOTTS BLUFF	79-0016-000	GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,818.51	16,995,648	9,346
SALINE	76-0002-000	CRETE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,851.03	16,158,554	8,729
COLFAX	19-0123-000	SCHUYLER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	1,882.69	15,170,621	8,058
GAGE	34-0015-000	BEATRICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	1,947.79	17,473,443	8,971
LANCASTER	55-0145-000	WAVERLY SCHOOL DISTRICT 145	2,000.45	16,688,102	8,342
WASHINGTON	89-0001-000	BLAIR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS	2,280.49	18,768,679	8,230
LANCASTER	55-0160-000	NORRIS SCHOOL DIST 160	2,289.18	19,268,385	8,417
DOUGLAS	28-0059-000	BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2,605.28	18,366,001	7,050
DAWSON	24-0001-000	LEXINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	2,809.60	23,682,606	8,429
DOUGLAS	28-0054-000	RALSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3,306.62	25,334,592	7,662
SCOTTS BLUFF ADAMS	79-0032-000 01-0018-000	SCOTTSBLUFF PUBLIC SCHOOLS HASTINGS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	3,319.71 3,494.38	25,757,792 29,427,5	7,759 8,421

			35	
		3,689.9		8,940
		7	32,989,3	
DAKOTA	22-0011-000	SO SIOUX CITY COMMUNITY SCHS	33	
		3,719.7		8,463
		5	31,478,6	
PLATTE	71-0001-000	COLUMBUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS	29	

Source of Information: Nebraska Department of Education

State aid is figured on enrollment and average per pupil costs of similar size districts. Information included above demonstrates the board's commitment to maintaining fiscal responsibility and efficiency.

Question: Who is paying for materials to inform the public about the proposed bond?

Answer: Schuyler Community Schools Foundation, Inc. has accepted the responsibility of organizing the materials, meetings, volunteers, and paying all expenses. If you would like to serve on a committee please see the contacts included below.

Question: I have more questions. Who can answer them?

Answer: More information is available at: <https://www.schuylercommunityschools.org/Domain/13>. We would be glad to speak with you individually or with any group or organization about the proposed bond. Please contact **Sheri Balak** at sheribalak@gmail.com, **Joyce Baumert** at mandjbaumert@gmail.com, **Sandy Seckman** at sandykseckman@hotmail.com, **Jim Kasik** at jim.kasik@schuylercommunityschools.org, **Stephen Grammer** at stephen.grammer@schuylercommunityschools.org, or **Dan Hoelsing** at dan.hoelsing@schuylercommunityschools.org or call (402) 352-3527 and ask for Mr. Kasik, Mr. Grammer or Dr. Hoelsing.

Additional Questions:

Question: Should the Event Center (East Gym) floor have fixed or flexible seating?

Answer: The Board of Education reviewed the school and community needs. The advantages and disadvantages of fixed theater seats or flexible seats on the main floor of the east gym were discussed. Fixed seating provides an appropriate venue for activities produced on the stage. However, fixed seating allows limited opportunities for events traditionally held on the main gym floor. Fixed seating also creates obstacles for maintenance of ceiling and sound equipment. The advantage of fixed seating on the bleachers and flexible seating on the floor allows for events on the stage as well as activities on the main gym floor including concerts, banquets, dance performances and meetings, etc."

Question: How will this project affect student and event parking?

Answer: The project will include a hard surface parking lot with improved food delivery service, trash pickup, and bus zone on the south side of the building. The number of available parking stalls will actually increase and traffic flow improved with a southeast entrance and exit.

Question: *How does our high school compare to other schools?*

Answer: Accreditation: Schuyler Central High School is an AdvancED accredited school. This is the highest accreditation for Nebraska schools.

Answer: Graduation Requirements: Schuyler has the 2nd highest graduation requirements in the area at 255 credits. Columbus Public Schools requires 260. The majority of high schools require 220 credits. Full-time students can earn 35 credits per semester.

Answer: Graduation Rate: A number of Schuyler graduates enter high school as new arrivals to our country. Deficits in their academic preparation and language barriers often require more time to meet our graduation requirements. While our 4-year graduation rates are 3% below the state average, our 7-year rate is within 0.19% of the state average.

Year's to graduate	State %	District %
4-year	89	86
5-year	91.5	86.82
6-year	92.28	87.16
7-year	93.08	92.86

Answer: Enrollment in dual and college credit classes. In 2017-18, 102 of 105 students enrolled in college and dual credit classes received a grade of B or above. In 2018-19, 140 junior and seniors are currently enrolled in college classes (25% increase).

Answer: Percent of students who enroll in college compared to other schools our size.

Schuyler Central High School	74%
Lexington High School	74%
Columbus High School	71%
Grand Island High School	71%
York High School	70%
South Sioux City High School	70%
Fremont High School	69%
Omaha South High School	63%

Answer: Participation in NSAA Activities: Students who participate in NSAA activities are more likely to excel in the classroom, have higher graduation rates, fewer discipline referrals, lower absentee rates, improved social and emotional wellbeing, and a more positive attitude toward school and civic engagement.

School Year	Total Participation Numbers	% Increase Over Previous Year
2015-16	695	N/A
2016-17	756	8.80%
2017-18	860	13.80%