

## Frequently Asked Questions



**01. What is the district asking for in this Bond?**

**Proposal 1** requests funds to:

- Build a new Parnall Elementary school, large enough for the student population & to meet all educational needs
- Increase school safety through structural changes at school entrances;
- Replace plumbing, heating, roofing, etc., systems;

**Proposal 2 (Enhancement Package)** requests funds to:

- Renovate portions of the High School to add a media center, cafetorium (combined cafeteria/performance space), and another gymnasium;
- Address student/community requests to provide additional space to support education, the performing arts, and athletics.

**02. How much will each Bond Proposal cost?**

- Proposal 1 = \$29,900,000 or 2.85 Mills
- Proposal 2 = \$10,200,000 or 1.00 Mill

**03. How much will it cost me?**

- Proposal 1 – about \$10.00/month for an \$80,000\* home with a taxable value of \$40,000.
- Proposal 2 – about \$3.33/month for an \$80,000\* home with a taxable value of \$40,000.

**04. What interest rate can the District expect to pay if the Bond passes?**

- Proposal 1 - 4.75% for 25 years
- Proposal 2 – 4.50% for 20 years

**05. Would a Sinking Fund be better than a Bond?**

- Sinking Funds provide a limited, annual stream of revenue for construction projects.
- Sinking Funds spread construction out over years, with many disruptions & less cost-efficient construction delivery.
- Sinking Fund millage rates are capped, thus higher rates & more time are required to produce needed revenue.
- A Sinking Fund would not provide enough revenue to address the immediate needs of utility replacement & building maintenance.

**06. Would local workers have an opportunity to assist with the projects should the Bonds pass?**

- Local contractors are encouraged to bid on our projects.
- Many are the successful, qualified, low bidder.
- A Bond helps keep tax dollars in our community and strengthens our local workforce – ie. on-site workers buy gas, eat, and shop in our area.
- The Northwest District has hired an architect & construction manager to administer this program, follow all applicable regulations, & give as much opportunity to local labor and suppliers as possible.

**07. Why try to pass this Bond now?**

- Most building systems – plumbing, heating, roofing, etc. – are older than their 40 year expectancy.
- Repairing these systems has become significant. Costs are coming from the General Fund which typically funds student education. This is now impacting delivery of the kind of education the Northwest Community expects.

**08. With improvements, are we considering energy efficiency and long term maintenance?**

- Such improvements will not only keep our buildings functioning, but mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems will be designed to current energy efficiency standards.

**09. Why replace Parnall Elementary instead of fixing the current one?**

- Parnall is currently undersized by at least 30% based on the number of current/projected students.
- Parnall has significant layout, utility, and space usage issues.
- To renovate and add on to Parnall, the cost is approximately \$11.7 million, still leaving a dated layout and some of the structural issues which can't be addressed through renovation.
- A new school would address all of these issues and cost \$15 million.

**10. Why spend money at Flora List?**

- Flora List is a great resource to help alleviate space needs of Alternative Education (currently in portables), the Day Care, and Administration.
- Roughly \$450,000 is allocated to make this space suitable for these programs.

**11. Why haven't the buildings been maintained throughout the years?**

- Northwest has funded ongoing cleaning & basic maintenance of the major "systems" but most have exceeded their 40-year life expectancy.
- Bonds typically fund larger-term facility maintenance & system replacement.
- In 44 years, we've secured \$1.6 million (in 1990) specifically for facilities upgrades.
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**12. If we do not pass the bond, how do we make some of the much needed repairs?**

\*Paid for by Mountie Nation for Change.

- Our General Fund is typically used for general repairs. If we face a large maintenance concern (i.e. failure of a boiler) this will result in depleting our Fund, putting the district in financial hardship.
13. **Is it necessary to put \$30 million into the District right now?**
    - Yes - with the District's history of bond failures, our facilities have developed a lengthy list of systems that have exceeded their 40-year lifespans and are in dire need of repairs and/or replacement.
  14. **Why do we have air conditioning at Northwest Elementary School that hasn't been fixed?**
    - The repair costs have been beyond the General Fund budget for repair. Currently, this expense is not included in the Maintenance Budget.
  15. **Why doesn't our district have an auditorium, performing arts center or a pool?**
    - During construction it was not a priority of the District/community.
    - The minimum cost of a new auditorium is over \$20 million.
  16. **Do the schools meet current building codes for plumbing, electrical, fire, safety, etc.?**
    - At construction time, our schools met building codes; however, they no longer meet all current building codes.
    - A Bond would address the highest priorities of current health & safety standards.
  17. **Why is there so much rust in the water systems at the High School and Middle School?**
    - These water systems use local wells, originally treated by water softeners from 1968 & distributed through galvanized piping from 1956. These systems are dated and have outlived their capacity to treat and distribute water.
  18. **Why are there missing ceiling tiles?**
    - Several building ceilings have been repaired/replaced. The remaining ceilings need to be replaced due to their age, but we currently do not have the funding.
  19. **Why do the roofs leak and need replacing?**
    - 90% of the roofs have been replaced/repared during the last 20 years; many are still under warranty.
    - Many however are nearing the end of their warranty, while others have exceeded their designed lifespan.
    - The roofing areas of concern will incur significant costs that are difficult to fund out of the General Fund & outside of a Bond.
  20. **Why do the buildings seem to be too hot or too cold?**
    - Our boiler system has very limited controlling capabilities because of its age – it's either "all on or all off" – regardless of the outside temperature
  21. **What can the bond funds be used for?**
    - Allowed expenses include major remodeling, new construction, busses, technology, furniture, and land purchases.
  22. **What can the bond funds NOT be used for?**
    - Bond funds cannot be used for bus maintenance, instructional materials, teacher or administrative salaries.
  24. **Will the repair and maintenance issues at Northwest Elementary be addressed even though the bond doesn't allocate much money toward that building?**
    - Northwest Elementary is the newest building and has the fewest immediate demands. The bond addresses controlled entry, boilers and air conditioning which will put this building on par with the other buildings.
  25. **Why are we building a Cafetorium at the high school when we may eventually build a new high school or auditorium?**
    - In the event that a new high school is ever built, the spaces that we are currently renovating would easily transition into a middle school. Therefore, the money being spent is not being wasted.
  26. **What about Technology upgrades?**
    - All the plans for renovation will incorporate the technology that has been acquired from the current Technology Bond.
    - There is an ongoing update/maintenance plan in place.
  27. **Why are we seeing work being done on Flora List before the bond has even been vote on?**
    - The current work occurring at Flora List is fixing basic flooring, painting, cleaning and a re-organization of space so that the central administrative and business offices, Preschool/Child Care and Alternative Education can be moved into that space. The bond money would allow further renovations that would address the mechanical, plumbing and electrical needs.

