

SPECIAL BOND ELECTION - SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

THE WHY?

As we look to the future, one of the major issues that we face in our district is only having one functional gym. The majority of school districts in Nebraska have multiple gyms to utilize throughout a given school year. We currently have to run early and late practices for activities such as basketball and other groups, such as cheerleading and youth sports, use our gym as well. At the Elementary School, it creates a scheduling nightmare because we use the multiple purpose room for both PE classes and it serves as our cafeteria. We cannot have PE classes 30 minutes before lunch and 30 minutes after lunch because we need time to prepare for lunch and time to clean up after lunch. On top of that, when there is inclement weather outside, Elementary School students are forced to have recess in their classroom, which is very problematic for a number of reasons. The school board's long-range goal is to erect a new gym and to provide a new playground area at the Elementary School because we have more than enough room over there and we also have the ability to connect it to our Elementary School. If the special bond election passes, the students, staff, and community members will use the new proposed gym and the new proposed playground area on a daily basis throughout the school year and over the summer months. The new gym would be used daily as a PE classroom for students as well. Based on the district's long-range strategic planning, the district also wants to add a preschool wing on the Elementary School (2 new preschool classrooms). From a safety and security standpoint, this would get all PK-6 students in one building. It will also help with the transition of the 3-year-old preschool students on to the 4-year-old preschool program and it will allow preschool teachers the ability to collaborate on instructional items throughout the school year by being in the same building. Currently, it is not ideal for our K-6 art teacher to move from classroom to classroom for art classes on a cart and if the bond passes, it will allow us the ability to transform the current 4-year-old preschool room into a permanent art room. In addition, our 3-year-old preschool is currently full and

due to size limitations, we can only have 10 students in this program. A new preschool wing would allow us the ability to serve up to 20 students total in the 3-year-old preschool program and serve up to 20 students total 4-year-old preschool program. The school board understands the importance in investing in high quality early childhood education because it will pay off down the road in a number of positive ways. Lastly, a successful bond election will allow the district the ability to fix current drainage issues around the Elementary School building. The board of education has engaged in master planning over the years in an effort to create a vision for learning and to engage in facility projects involving both short-term and long-term planning. With the interest rates at an all-time low and the need for some additions at the Elementary School, the board of education has decided to move forward with a \$2.89 million dollar special bond election on September 14, 2021.

