

CUNNINGHAM-WEST KINGMAN CO. USD 332 SCHEDULES BOND ISSUE ELECTION

Voters in Kingman County USD No.332 (Cunningham-West Kingman County Schools) will go to the polls on Tuesday, April 5th to decide if now is the right time for a bond issue to make additions and improvements to district schools in Cunningham.

The bond proposal requests the authority to issue no more than \$13,245,000 in general obligation bonds to finance the proposed improvements. The proposal was developed over many months of study and input from patrons, as well as staff in the District.

Recently, the USD 332 Board of Education adopted a resolution calling the election and requesting permission to hold such an election from the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education has since approved the request at their February meeting.

The proposal is to demolish the more than 100-year old two-story high school building and the gym lobby area to make room for new construction. The existing gym would be retained. A new classroom and support area wing for Middle and High School students would be constructed at the east side of the buildings. An addition at the front of the gymnasium would create a new lobby, restrooms, and concessions area. The plan is then to construct new spaces to replace the old high school building to create a new Vo-ag Shop, woods shop, Vo-tech classroom, FACS lab, office suite, and a new Media Center to also function as a storm shelter. The bond proposal would provide approximately 34,000 square feet of new modern educational spaces for the District. The proposal also includes improvements and upgrades to the interior of the Elementary School and HVAC installation at the gymnasium. With the new construction, the outdated separate shop building will be repurposed for maintenance and storage.

The District feels that now is an opportune time for the needed capital improvements. Interest rates are near historic low levels. No one can seem to remember the last voted bond issue in the District. USD 332's total mill rate at 36.486 mills is the lowest of all school districts in the area and one of the lowest in Kansas. The District has no outstanding bonded indebtedness which is unique as compared to neighboring schools. With bond approval, the District's total mill rate will still be one of the lowest in the area.

The proposed bond issue is estimated to require a mill levy of 9.9 mills. A mill is \$1 of tax on each \$1,000 of assessed value of property in the District. The estimated impact on a \$75,000 home in the District is only \$7.12 per month in additional taxes.

The District is forming a K.I.D.S. Committee (Keep Improving District Schools) to help educate USD 332 voters about challenges, proposed solutions, and the bond issue cost. The goal of the K.I.D.S. Committee is that every voter in USD 332 have adequate and accurate information to make an informed decision on April 5th. Anyone wishing to join the K.I.D.S. Committee efforts are encouraged to contact Superintendent Robert Reed at the District offices (620-298-3271).