

FINANCE—AN ADVANTAGEOUS TIME

\$13.245 million bond issue to pay project costs plus bonding costs of issuance and capitalized interest during construction.

NOW is considered an advantageous time for the bond issue because:

- Interest rates, estimated at 2.75% for the 25-year bond, are near historically low levels, making the cost of repayment more affordable.
- USD 332 has a large and growing tax base as the district's assessed valuation has grown by more than \$9.5 million (16.46%) in the last decade. The total assessed valuation is \$69,991,696.
- To be conservative in our plan of finance, we have assumed future growth of only 1% thorough 2032 and only ½ of 1% thereafter.
- USD 332 has no existing bonded indebtedness.
- The USD 332 total mill rate at 36.486 mills is the lowest in our area and one of the lowest in the state of Kansas.
- Proposed 2022 bonds are estimated to require at mill rate of 9.9 mills.
- With bond approval and the estimated 9.9 mill increase, the District's total mill rate will still be one of the lowest of school districts in our area.
- A mill is \$1 of tax on each \$1,000 of assessed valuation of property in the District.
- 2022 bonds will require estimated additional taxes on a \$75,000 home of \$85.44 per year or \$7.12 per month.
- According to information from the four Counties (Kingman, Pratt, Harper and Barber) in which USD 332 has tax valuation, State Assessed Utilities pay more than 69% of our taxes and would pay approximately that percent of the proposed bond payments.

ESTIMATED BOND ISSUE TAX EFFECT

\$13.245 MILLION BOND ISSUE

Type of Property	Estimated Assessed Valuation	Estimated Bond Tax Increase at 9.9 Mills	
		Yearly	Monthly
\$50,000 Home*	\$ 5,750	\$ 56.93	\$ 4.74
\$75,000 Home*	\$ 8,625	\$ 85.39	\$ 7.12
\$100,000 Home*	\$ 11,500	\$ 113.85	\$ 9.49
\$50,000 Commercial Prop.**	\$ 12,500	\$ 123.75	\$ 10.31
160 Acres Dryland Farm***	\$ 6,624	\$ 65.58	Yearly Cost/Acre \$ 0.41
160 Acres Pasture***	\$ 1,872	\$ 18.53	Yearly Cost/Acre \$ 0.12
160 Acres Irrigated Farm***	\$ 21,600	\$ 213.84	Yearly Cost/Acre \$ 1.34

* For taxing purposes, residences are assessed at 11.5% of their fair market value.

** For taxing purposes, commercial property is assessed at 25% of fair market value.

*** For taxing purposes, agricultural property is assessed at 30% of use or productivity value (not fair market value).

Agricultural property productivity values are the average of various types of properties in Kingman County from the Kansas Department of Revenue (CRD40)

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO DETERMINE THE ESTIMATED TAX IMPACT ON YOUR PROPERTY BY FINDING THE ASSESSED VALUATION ON YOUR TAX STATEMENT AND MULTIPLYING THE ASSESSED VALUATION TIMES .0099 (9.9 MILLS).

WITH TODAY'S LOW INTEREST RATES AND TAX BASE GROWTH, THE COST OF IMPROVING EDUCATION AND FACILITIES IN USD 332 MAY NEVER BE MORE AFFORDABLE!

ELECTION INFORMATION

- Election Day is Tuesday, April 5, 2022
- The polling location for all Election Day voters in USD 332 is: Cunningham Community Center, 104 N. Main Street in Cunningham, Kansas and Zenda Community Center, 213 N. Main Street in Zenda, Kansas
- Last day to register to vote is Tuesday, March 15, 2022
- Early voting in person begins on March 22, 2022, starting at 8am and will end on April 4, 2022 at noon. M-F at the Kingman County Courthouse, 130 N. Spruce St., Kingman
- Last day to request advance ballots by mail is March 29, 2022
- Advance ballots by mail must be postmarked by 7pm on April 4, 2022
- Early voting in person ends on April 4, 2022 at 12 noon
- For more election information, please visit: www.usd332.org

IT'S AN IMPORTANT QUESTION

The preparation of our young people to become productive citizens in a complex world is an important priority. The environment and quality of our facilities as well as educational programs are all important factors in the quality of teaching and learning in our District. After more than 100 years, we have certainly received our money's worth and more from our high school building. Teaching and learning is more challenging in buildings that are outdated and inadequate. Safety and security of our students and staff must also be addressed. With low interest rates, now is the time to consider an investment for the future of our children, our community, and area.

The April 5th bond issue proposal was developed over many months with input from many sources. The USD 332 Board of Education and Steering Committee have invested hundreds of hours of study and research and believe the bond proposal is needed and affordable.

Parents and patrons are encouraged to get the facts and please vote on or before Election Day, April 5, 2022. Now is the time to consider an investment to bring education in Cunningham—West Kingman County Schools into the 21st Century with continued quality education.

Cunningham USD 332 Area School District Mill Rates

2021-2022	Total Mills	Bond & Interest
Belle Plaine USD 357	60.818	14.250
Clearwater USD 264	60.278	18.080
Maize USD 266	58.800	19.245
Valley Center USD 262	58.763	19.442
Derby USD 260	58.366	16.681
Fairfield USD 310	58.092	9.529
Attica USD 511	57.053	0.000
Haysville USD 261	57.040	15.371
Burrton USD 369	55.745	7.221
Buhler USD 313	55.479	13.433
Renwick USD 267	55.436	14.290
Hesston USD 460	55.396	12.195
Goddard USD 265	54.500	14.498
Mulvane USD 263	54.106	11.076
Oxford USD 358	53.945	12.017
Caldwell USD 360	53.765	0.000
Huthinson USD 308	53.507	12.026
Newton USD 373	53.298	11.832
Wichita USD 259	52.535	8.489
South Haven USD 509	52.466	0.000
Halstead USD 440	51.298	9.218
Conway Springs USD 356	51.206	5.999
Wellington USD 353	51.201	10.914
St. John-Hudson USD 350	50.211	0.000
Pratt USD 382	50.093	6.603
Haven USD 312	50.019	10.275
Cheney USD 268	50.000	12.338
Chaparral USD 361	50.000	5.271
Stafford USD 349	49.720	0.000
Barber County North USD 254	48.116	0.000
Argonia USD 359	47.986	0.000
South Barber USD 255	47.938	0.000
Skyline USD 438	46.457	0.000
Proposed 2022 Bond Issue (Increase of 9.9 mills)	46.386	9.900
Kingman-Norwich USD 331	45.019	0.000
Pretty Prairie USD 311	44.844	2.022
Sedgwick USD 439 ** passed bond in 2021	43.197	0.000
Macksville USD 351	42.847	0.000
Nickerson USD 309	42.667	0.000
Cunningham USD 332	36.486	0.000
Averages	51.761	11.693

Of the 39 Area School Districts: Avg. Mills of Districts with Debt
Cunningham USD 332 ranks 39th as to total mill levy and has no current bonded indebtedness. With 2022 bond approval, USD 332's projected mill rate would still be in bottom 6 of the area as to total mill levy and below the average of Districts with bonded indebtedness.

Kingman County, Kansas U.S.D. No. 332 Cunningham-West Kingman County Schools

School Improvement Bond Issue Election April 5, 2022

BOND ISSUE TO ADDRESS EDUCATION AND FACILITY CHALLENGES

On April 5th, voters in USD 332 will go to the polls to decide if now is the right time to make needed improvements to education and support facilities in Cunningham—West Kingman County Schools. Last December, the Board of Education adopted a resolution scheduling the special election requesting the authority to issue no more than \$13,245,000 in tax-exempt general obligation bonds to finance the proposed projects.

USD 332 is unique in not having had a voted bond issue for improvements in many decades. It is also very unique in having the lowest total mill levy in the area and one of the lowest in the entire state of Kansas. With today's low interest rates and bond approval, USD 332 will still have one of the lowest total mill rates in the area. The current total mill rate is 36.486 mills.

The Cunningham—West Kingman County Board of Education has made facilities a priority in recent months. In 2020, the Board began discussions and formed a Facility Steering Committee consisting of parents, patrons, students and staff to evaluate educational programs, current buildings and their conditions, and to prioritize possible improvements to be considered for a capital improvement program. An architectural firm, a construction management firm, and bond finance experts were retained to help the Board and Committee. The Steering Committee considered renovation as compared to new construction and determined that new was a better long term investment for the district.

After numerous meetings, lengthy discussion, and consideration of many options, the Committee prioritized and made a recommendation to the Board of Education for a project and bond finance. The Board accepted their report and adopted a resolution that submitted a request to the State Board of Education for permission to place the question on the April ballot. In February, the State Board approved the request.

The proposed bond is more than just an educational issue. Communities are known by their schools, educational programs and to what degree education is a priority. Families and new businesses nearly always look at schools before making a decision as to where to relocate.

This informational brochure will hopefully provide information to explain the April 5th proposal. Please get the facts, register to vote, if necessary, and plan to cast your ballot on or before Election Day. Additional information can be found at:

www.usd332.org



BOND ISSUE INFORMATION

U.S.D. No. 332
104 W. 4th Street
Box 67
Cunningham, Kansas 67035

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WICHITA, KS
PERMIT 1148
ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER



USD
332

Cunningham • West Kingman County

INSIDE

- Bond Issue Information
- Challenges & Proposed Improvements
- Site and Floor Plans
- Finance—An Advantageous Time
- The April 5th Ballot Language

This informational brochure produced and distributed by USD 332

Our Children... Our Future... Our Responsibility!

Our Children... Our Future... Our Responsibility!

Vote April 5, 2022

CHALLENGES

- In a community and area like ours, our public schools are arguably our most important infrastructure asset.
- Quality education is difficult to accomplish in buildings that are outdated and inadequate.
- In USD 332, we have the opportunity and responsibility to provide education to about 210 students each year in our district.
- Unusual for Kansas rural districts, our enrollment has actually increased by more than 15% in recent years.
- The original 2-story Middle/High School building is more than 100 years old.
- Education and teaching have changed since this building was designed and constructed.
- With its age and much hard use, the building has significant physical and educational challenges.
- Limited space requires some teachers to share classrooms, limiting their effectiveness.
- The building also lacks space for today and tomorrow's changing curriculum.
- Science and FACS (Family & Consumer Science) classrooms are very outdated and inadequate.
- The library/media center located in the basement is considered inadequate.
- Mechanical and electrical systems are outdated and expensive to operate and maintain.
- Restrooms and other support areas are in need of major renovation or replacement.
- The separated shop building is too small and inadequate for this vital part of our curriculum.
- With agriculture being the core of our local economy, our schools need a dedicated and adequate area for students interested in agriculture and vocational education.
- The existing separate shop building lacks space for projects and storage.
- Existing storm shelter areas are considered poor and not accessible to the handicapped.
- The storm shelter area in the Grade School basement has windows that could spell disaster in a violent storm situation and also has no restroom facilities.
- Safety and security of students and staff must be priority and require improvements.
- The Grade School is considered structurally sound but needs some interior upgrades.
- Our USD 332 school buildings need expansion and improvements to prepare our young people for the future.



CUNNINGHAM SCHOOLS PROPOSED BOND IMPROVEMENTS



BOND ISSUE SOLUTIONS

- Demolish the existing 2-story 1917 old high school and the gymnasium lobby area to make room for a portion of the planned new construction.
- The existing gymnasium would be retained.
- Construct, equip and furnish an area to infill the demolished old high school location to create a new Vo-Ag Shop, woods shop, Vo-tech classroom, Family & Consumer Science Lab, office suites, and a Media Center to also function as a FEMA standard storm shelter.
- Construct, equip and furnish an addition to the front of the retained gymnasium to create a new expanded lobby, restrooms, and concession area.
- Construct, equip and furnish a new wing for Middle/High School education with classrooms and support spaces including a new science lab area.
- Total new construction of approximately 34,000 square feet of modern, functional space.
- To not totally disrupt education, a phasing plan would see the new wing constructed first before the demolition to allow for minimal learning disruption.
- Make improvements and upgrades to the interior of the Grade School.
- Install HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning) in the gymnasium.
- Provide fire suppression system improvements to certain areas of the Grade School.
- Install improvements for enhanced safety and security at building entrances.
- The outdated separate shop building would be repurposed for maintenance and storage needs.
- Improvements to make teaching and learning more effective in our schools.
- Improvements to make our schools safer and more secure for students and staff.
- Improvements to help us to attract and keep quality teachers, staff, and students in USD 332.
- Improvements to make our school system and community more attractive to families and businesses considering relocation to help our tax base and economy grow.



THE APRIL 5TH BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the following be adopted?

Shall Unified School District No. 332, Kingman County, Kansas (Cunningham—West Kingman County) issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$13,245,000, to pay the costs to: (a) construct, equip and furnish a new high school building within the District including classrooms and support spaces, a shop area, storm shelter, and including furnishings and technology; (b) make improvements and renovations to the existing Elementary School within the District including, but not limited to, installation of air-conditioning (HVAC) to the gymnasium, providing necessary asbestos abatement, and improvements to office area fire suppression; (c) demolish the existing high school building and gymnasium lobby area to create space for the planned new construction; (d) make upgrades and improvements to security systems and parking areas at the District site; (e) make all other necessary improvements appurtenant thereto (collectively the "Project"); and (f) pay costs of issuance and interest on said general obligation bonds of the District during construction of the Project; all pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 10-101 et seq., K.S.A. 25-2018(f), K.S.A. 72-5457, and K.S.A. 72-5458 et seq.?



CUNNINGHAM SCHOOLS PROPOSED BOND IMPROVEMENTS

DID YOU KNOW?

- Tax-Exempt interest rates are near all-time low levels making the cost of repayment more affordable than in past periods.
- Cunningham—West Kingman County Schools has not had a voted bond issue in many decades and has no outstanding bonds.
- The USD 332 total mill rate at 36.486 mills is the lowest in our area.
- State Assessed Utilities account for more than 69% of our taxes and would pay approximately that percentage of the proposed bond payments.

VOTE APRIL 5, 2022