

# ALL IN FOR OUR WILDCATS

## ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS

### How much are voters being asked to approve?

The school district is seeking approval of a bond referendum for \$24,000,000. The bond will be financed over 20 years.

### How will the bond issue affect the existing mill rate?

The 2019-2020 bond mill rate was 21.532. If voters approve the bond issue, the 2021-2022 bond mill rate would be 9.75 mills.

### What does the lowering of the mill rate equate to in tax dollars on my home?

For every one mill, a homeowner of a \$200,000 home contributes \$23 per year. During the 2019-2020 school year, a \$200,000 home was paying \$495.24 to support the bond fund. With a successful bond vote, a \$200,000 home would pay \$224.25, beginning in the 2021-2022 tax year. This is a tax savings of almost \$271 each year.

### How were the bond projects determined?

Through the ongoing work of our building and maintenance staff, as well as professionals in the field, a list of potential projects were identified. The district had a community committee meet to discuss needs of the district, as well as had the Board of Education and district staff examine the current and future needs of the district. A community survey was also conducted regarding a potential bond issue. Although many other potential projects were identified, the Board of Education paired down the projects to make a bond issue affordable, yet still addressed the needs of the district. The majority of the bond will reinvest in the district's facilities and technology, reinforce school safety and re-imagine learning spaces and programs across the district.

### Why is the Board of Education pursuing a 20-year period of time for the bond issue?

Bond issues can be all different lengths of time. The Board of Education felt that a 20-year time frame allowed the district to work through some immediate facility enhancements while still having the room for future growth across the district.

### Why should bond dollars be used to reinvest in facilities and not Capital Outlay dollars?

Many of the facility improvements on the bond require substantial dollars to replace. These maintenance items include: HVAC replacements, roof replacements, parking lots, energy savings (replacing windows and doors), etc. That would not be possible with using existing capital outlay dollars alone. Currently the capital outlay fund is maxed out at 8 mills. This generates roughly \$1,500,000 annually. Most of this money is used for annual maintenance and repair items. Some of the fund is also used to purchase maintenance and grounds equipment and new passenger vehicles or buses. On any given year, the district utilizes \$300,000 to \$400,000 from the capital outlay fund to be used for improvements across the district. The district has identified other needed projects across our campuses that will continue to be reinvested with current capital outlay dollars. One example is the playground at Rockville Elementary. If the bond is successful, the district will work on improvements to the RES playground as other bond projects are being completed. If the bond is not successful, projects like the RES playground, will have to wait as other items, such as roof projects, will take priority.

### How will the district invest in school safety and technology?

Areas of school safety that the bond will help support include: a high wind shelter at LMS, improved traffic patterns and parking lot configuration at LMS, improving site lines of office at BES to visitors, updating cameras and servers that support existing security measures.

The district will use a portion of the bond to continue to integrate new technologies into the classroom for teaching and learning. These new technologies are important for our teachers to continue to teach the needed 21st Century Skills, as well as STEM.

### What happens if the bond election does not pass?

If the bond issues is unsuccessful, the district will have limited dollars to invest in the improvements listed. As mentioned, the district does not have a sizable annual capital outlay fund to dedicate to capital improvements of this magnitude. Facility improvements would be prioritized, but many of the items on the proposed bond list would never come to fruition if the district has to rely solely on annual operating funds.

## Overall Mill Rate Comparison & Cost

School District	2020-2021 Bond Mill Rate	2020-2021 Overall Mill Rate	Annual Taxes for \$200K Home	
Eudora	27.973	69.882	1561.28	HIGH ↓ LOW
Olathe	14.674	69.124	1543.85	
Spring Hill	18.702	67.83	1514.15	
Gardner-Edgerton	19.011	64.5	1437.50	
Tonganoxie	23.14	62.596	1393.70	
Bonner Springs	18.397	62.077	1381.77	
De Soto	18.179	61.784	1375.03	
Ottawa	18	61.104	1359.39	
Blue Valley	16.806	60.478	1344.99	
Osawatomie	11.516	59.093	1313.13	
Baldwin	15	57.269	1271.18	
Piper	12.968	57.138	1268.17	
Louisburg	2 (9.75 if bond passes)	45.469 (53.219 if bond passes)	1178.03 (if bond passes)	
Paola	10.79	51.944	1148.71	
<b>Average</b>	<b>17.32</b>	<b>61.909</b>	<b>1377.91</b>	
<b>Highest Mill Rate</b>	<b>27.973</b>	<b>69.882</b>	<b>1561.28</b>	
<b>Lowest Mill Rate</b>	<b>9.75</b>	<b>51.944</b>	<b>1148.71</b>	

For more information, please visit

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