

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILLIPS

Referendum 2018

Commonly Asked Questions

Updated: 03-06-2018

Question 01: How did we get to the need for a referendum on the Phillips Elementary School (PES) site?

Answer: After extensive on site observation and documentation by the architect and engineers it was determined that the district facilities are in very good condition with the exception of a portion of the elementary site. Specifically, the 1958 portion of the elementary building has outlived its life and is in need of significant repair or replacement. This section has structural issues, ADA accessibility concerns, safe access and control limitations, unrepairable plumbing systems, and HVAC systems that can no longer be repaired because parts no longer exist for the system. The committee's goal was to review and plan for the next 20 years. It is important to note that all other facilities are in good condition that will support this goal because of the way in which the district was able to work within the budget to provide annual maintenance and upgrades for the past five years.

Question 02: Will there be an operational referendum in the near future?

Answer: No, the district intends to continue to operate within the current budget format.

Question 03: Will the soil test support building to the South of the current PES site?

Answer: This is a potential concern but alternative plans are ready in the event the soil test show that it is too expensive to build at that end of the current PES site.

Question 04: Did the Board consider building at the current middle/high school site?

Answer: Yes, the Board and facilities planning committee requested plans for this option. However, the decision was made to keep the elementary students at the current site for several stated reasons... (potential of future growth-keeping age groups separate - maximize use of existing space)

Question 05: What is the current enrollment by building and what are the projections for the future?

Answer: Elementary - 367 6-12 Campus – 442 Total Enrollment - 809

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The current data suggests a stable enrollment with slight growth. We currently average 54 students per grade and our birth to three numbers as well as our early childhood counts show that to continue for the next three years.

Question 06: Will the project be bid or is one contractor managing all functions?

Answer: Yes, the project will be bid and the Board will determine the type of management structure the project will follow.

Question 07: What is the current square footage of the elementary building and what will it be once completed?

Answer: The current elementary building is 60,805 sq ft and the completed project will be 73,176. The additional 12,371 sq ft are made up of constructing classrooms that are the industry standard for elementary schools. The standard for early learning grades is 1,500 sq ft and we have two rooms at 1,154 sq ft and four rooms at 775 sq ft. This equates to a difference of 3,592 sq ft of additional space for these six classrooms. Middle aged learners are now in classrooms that are 900 sq ft and we have seven rooms at 775 sq ft making a difference of 875 sq ft of additional space. There are three classrooms at 828 sq ft making a difference of 216 sq ft of additional space. The current office/administration and entrance is 3,468 sq ft and the project with new secure access shows 5,475 sq ft making a difference of 2,007 sq ft of additional space. This equates to a total of 6,690 sq ft for building to the new standards for instructional spaces. The remaining 5,681 sq ft of additional space is made up of expanded hallways, bathrooms that are compliant for ADA, storage, maintenance and large group instructional area.

Question 08: What part of the building is the 1958 section?

Answer: Please see the attached document showing all ages of construction for this site.

Question 09: This project is for the elementary building. What about the Middle and High School?

Answer: The resolution is specifically designed to address only the Elementary facility. The other buildings are already sufficiently maintained to be used for the next 20-25 years.

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Updated: 03-22-2018

Question 10: Your building plan calls for a \$12.6 million facility that is intended for 20-25 years. Why won't this new building last longer than that?

Answer: It certainly will! What this means is that the new building will be maintained for the next 20-25 years with no large capital expense (roofing-HVAC controls-lighting etc...). The building will be around for at least 50-75 years if well maintained. The 1971-72 high school building will easily remain viable for the next 20-25 years because we have maintained and upgraded it from within the general fund budget. In 25 years the high school facility will be 71 years old and working just fine. We expect the new elementary facility to be the same.

Question 11: Is the plan an expensive Band-Aid or will the project address all of the elementary facility needs?

Answer: We believe the plan will address all of the elementary facility needs for the next 20-25 years. It allows for moderate growth and corrects many shortcomings that the current building has (safe access and control-standard size classrooms-handicap accessible bathrooms-elevation issues, etc...).