



## 2016 Bond Election – Frequently Asked Questions

**1. *What is the total project cost and could the District get by with less expensive options?***

The total project cost is \$37.2 million. This includes \$27.3 million to build the new 3-5 school; \$8.4 million to renovate and expand the existing BES to house grades K-2; and \$850,000 for a 2,000 square foot addition and renovations to the existing Administration Office, if the budget permits.

The District has explored many alternatives for keeping these projects as cost-effective as possible, while providing for inevitable future growth. We looked at many areas where money could be saved up front, and weighed those options against future costs for maintenance, operating expenses, and facility expansions (if the buildings only met current enrollment). The proposed projects are the result of this thoughtful evaluation that will provide for student and staff needs well into the future, at significantly reduced cost to the tax payer over time. These projects were recognized by the Colorado Department of Education for delivering an excellent value as compared to other proposed school building projects in the state.

**2. *What is the tax impact?***

The bond will cost \$6/month for every \$100K of a home's value. This would be \$200/year for the average home in Bayfield valued at \$280K.

**3. *What happens if the Bond does not pass?***

The District is at a tipping point where new elementary school facilities must be built, or additional modular classrooms and/or increased class sizes will be necessary to address our growing enrollment needs. These "stop-gap" measures are not the best use of the District's scarce funds, will hinder student learning, and will only postpone a more permanent and effective solution to the growing safety and educational deficiencies at these schools.

If the bond does not pass, the District will lose the \$8.6 million BEST Grant matching funds that are paying for nearly one-quarter of the cost of these projects.

**4. *What is going to happen to the existing Primary School?***

The District intends to work with other government agencies to determine the best use of the West Campus/Old Gym going forward. Once the bond passes, we will collaborate with community partners (i.e., Family Center or Pine River Shares) who may be in need of the vacant office space in the East buildings after students have moved into the new K-2.

We would also like to study the potential for adding a District pre-school in the two modular buildings (four classrooms) that will be available once these buildings are vacated. We know there is need for additional preschool space in the community, and these classrooms and playground are suited to house preschool programs.

**5. *When will the new facilities be open for students?***

The new 3-5 school will be open for the fall semester of 2018. The K-2 school is more challenging since much of the work will need to occur while school is in session. The District is exploring construction opportunities for the K-2 school to be open for the fall semester of 2018 as well.

**6. *Will the new facilities be available for community use?***

The new facilities will be available for community use, subject to the District's policies and procedures. Please refer to policy KF, Community Use of School Facilities, located on the District's website at [www.bayfield.k12.co.us](http://www.bayfield.k12.co.us).

**7. *I don't have kids in the District, why should I vote yes?***

School improvements generate economic growth, infuse construction dollars into our community, improve businesses, and maintain and improve property values. Additionally, taking advantage of the contingent BEST grant funds will decrease the burden on our taxpayers, while addressing the needs of our students.

**8. *How much has the District's enrollment increased since the last school was built?***

Since Bayfield High School opened in 1996, the District's enrollment has increased from 1,051 students, to an estimated 1,350 students. This is nearly a 30% increase. Once the proposed projects are completed, the schools will be able to accommodate up to seven sections in grades K-5, which we estimate would allow for another 30% growth over the next 25 to 30 years.

**9. *What traffic improvements will the District be making to ensure there are no additional traffic issues at the new site?***

Recent traffic studies have established that improvements to the intersections at CR 501/Sossaman Drive, and East Oak Drive/Mountain View Drive will significantly improve traffic flow to the new 3-5 school and the existing middle school. Widening E. Oak Dr. with turn lanes, pedestrian/bicycle paths and a signaled crosswalk will improve traffic flow to, from, and between these two school sites. With the reconfiguration of the middle school parking lot to include a designated parent pick-up/drop-off loop, and modifications to the existing bus loop, traffic flow in the area is expected to be more efficient than our current situation.

**10. *Did the District look at alternate building sites, such as building on the existing primary or elementary school sites?***

Over the past four years the District has assembled diverse advisory and design committees and contracted with architectural and engineering firms for planning and other studies to determine the best, long-term solutions to the District's facility challenges. Serious consideration was given to upgrading the existing primary school site, but studies conducted by the District and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) clearly established that it would cost more to renovate the existing campus than to build a new one. While CDE rated this school replacement project as the highest priority in the state, their funding standards would not allow our \$8.5 million grant to be applied to upgrading the existing primary school.

**11. Why did the District choose to build a 3-5 school on the new site and not a K-2 school?**

The District has studied alternative grade-level configurations and has determined the proposed solutions are the best for our students academically. Additional benefits include:

- a. Proximity to BMS allowing for shared use of facilities
  - i. Gymnasium for BMS practices and competition (and tournaments)
  - ii. Shared use of athletic fields
- b. Easier pick-up/drop-off for parents with near-age children
- c. The site is ideally located for a future Boys and Girls Club

**12. When will the District gain access to the new school site from Highway 160?**

The planned access from Highway 160 requires a collaborative effort from a number of private parties and public agencies that may take several more years to be realized. By the time the new school is completed, this access road should be much closer to construction, but is not within control of the District and will be determined by CDOT and the Town of Bayfield. In the meantime, transportation engineers have established that the Highway 160 access will be beneficial to the school, but is not necessary for the efficient flow of traffic given the other essential road improvements planned as part of this project.

**13. Will the District use local contractors?**

The District has selected FCI as the general contractor for these projects. Over 35% of FCI's Durango office employees reside within District boundaries, and they are eager to work with our qualified Bayfield contractors and suppliers. The District will work closely with the project team to facilitate as many opportunities for local contractors as possible.

**14. Will the District be seeking LEED Gold Certification for the new building?**

The District participated in a LEED workshop for these projects to learn what would be required for LEED Certification and what the cost implications might be. Looking for every opportunity to maximize savings without compromising the quality and efficiency of these facilities has led the District to the decision not to pursue LEED Gold Certification. Most LEED requirements are consistent with the District's goals for energy efficiency, environmental responsibility and sustainability; while other requirements that would otherwise not be part of the project, would add considerably to the project costs.

**15. Why didn't the District address some of these issues within their last bond election?**

In 2012, the District leveraged the restructuring of existing debt that allowed us to address goals and critical areas that were identified through the community-developed strategic plan without having to raise yearly tax bills. We were able to construct the new performing arts center, auxiliary gym and baseball field and most importantly, purchase a 40-acre parcel of property that would allow us to address the critical building needs that we face today. It is important to note that the restructuring of debt that was obtained within the 2012 bond would have only given us the capacity to address about one quarter of our funding needs for these proposed projects.