

GRAND ISLAND CSD 2009 CAPITAL PROJECT REFERENDUM

The following information is being provided to clarify some commonly asked questions that have been presented to the Board at many recent Capital Project presentations. As overall guiding principles in the development of this project, the Board of Education (BOE) places the highest priorities on health and safety followed by the education of our students at each of our schools.

Capital Maximum Project Cost: \$47,369,800.00

- Upon approval by the public this is the maximum allowable funds that the District can spend on this project.
 - Funding sources:
 - Capital Reserve Fund \$5.3 million - This Fund (Savings Account) was established by public vote in May 2008 in the maximum amount of \$10 million to better position us for future capital projects. The dollars placed in this fund can only be used on an approved Capital Project.
 - Local Share \$2,054,811.00 - This is the remaining funds required to pay for the project.
 - State Aid covers the balance- The state reimburses 80 cents per dollar towards aidable construction projects.

State Funding

- Can the state take away funding? No! Once a public referendum vote is successful, the State is obligated to provide the reimbursement at the aid ratio published at the time of the vote.
- Even with the looming budget cuts coming one item that has not been mentioned for cuts is Capital Project funding. Capital projects help stimulate growth in the local economy and create jobs.

High School Program Called the International Baccalaureate (IB)

- IB has a rigorous academic curriculum that is recognized for its quality by universities around the world. It can complement and/or be an alternate to Advanced Placement (AP) classes. We encourage **ALL** students to expand their educational experience and avail themselves of the opportunities that AP and IB classes provide. The District approved moving forward with the IB curriculum in 2011 and will be offering IB classes at the start of the 2011-2012 school year.
- This program has no connection to the proposed capital project.

Rework of Past Work

- By nature, renovations must to some degree impact existing conditions. It is a priority of the BOE not to rework any area that is not necessary and to ensure that the work completed will support the District long into the future.
- The existing High School Main Entrance is to remain and continue to function as a afterhours public entrance to the Event Center (Auditorium, Gym, Pool and Library)
 - This area will be enhanced by taking part of the space currently occupied by the existing offices to create a public entrance for the Library.
 - Toilet facilities will be renovated and expanded to accommodate our public event area. The existing toilets do not meet ADA (American Disabilities Act) a federal law and are required to be updated to comply with all regulations.
 - The improvements will allow the District to close off the rest of the facility during public events yet utilize the recently renovated Viking Mall as it was intended to be used. This will reduce security and custodial cost by controlling access to the rest of the facility.
- Relocation of the High School Office will create a true/effective 'control point' with direct line of sight to the proposed main entry, bus and parking areas. This allows the critical pupil services to be brought together at the main entrance for parent and visitor convenience. This will minimize public traffic during school hours and provide a greater presence of our building administration in the academic wing. In this day and age we must maximize our level of security via a greater visibility of who is entering the schools.

Site Work

- Site work is not directly aidable under SED Guidelines. It is required to be part of a larger project that impacts instructional building space. Site improvements must also be contained within the Incidental Cost Allowance, which is based on our proposed instructional improvements and is capped at \$3.1 million in aid-able site work. Based on this calculation the Board, with significant input from the public Capital Project Committees involved in the process, established the scope of site work starting with Safety First, then Required Infrastructure followed by our Athletic Facilities.
- It was determined that a long standing traffic issue in front of the HS/MS complex needed to be addressed. A Bus Loop is to be developed adjacent to

the sidewalk along the building creating a drive lane for buses and a separate drive lane for parent drop off.

- The proposed plan not only greatly improves safety by eliminating dangerous cross traffic conflicts, it also enhances emergency access at all times.
- The existing paved area is not wide enough to accommodate the additional drive lanes so the project will include redeveloping the grass area to create much needed event parking as well as drive lanes.
- The improvements to the athletic fields have been coordinated to best impact a wide range of students yet not placing additional burden on local taxes:
 - Lighting to the football field/running track
 - A football/lacrosse practice field
 - Home bleacher with 750 seats (ADA Accessible), press box and storage
 - Sound system including CCTV provisions
 - Re-surfaced the existing 6 lane track
 - 2 soccer/lacrosse fields
 - Enhance 2 existing baseball fields
 - Concession stand including utilities
- Any further funding of site work would not be aidable by the state and would need to be funded totally by Grand Island taxpayers.

Board & Committee Directives that established the Capital Project Scope

- Health and Life Safety concerns are always the first priority. This is also required by SED.
- Education - to provide the best education to all Grand Island students
- Maximize the state aid available with the least amount of local share
- Emphasis on doing it once and not doing any work that would be required to be redone as part of future phases of the District Master Plan.

ALL OF THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

The project we as Grand Island Residents will vote on November 17, 2009 achieves all of these goals. Based on our needs we have the opportunity to bring \$47 million of much needed work to our District for minimal additional local taxpayer cost. This is achievable due to State Aid as well as our communities' forward thinking when it approved the Capital Reserve fund back in 2008. As a result this project is achievable with an additional local cost of \$2,054,811.00. The Grand Island Board of Education is very proud to present the proposed project to the Public for Vote.