

Building A Bond: By The Numbers

Over the past few weeks, there has been a lot of discussion about Teton School District 401 School Board's decision to move forward with a \$30.05 million bond, with an additional \$7.2 million bond option contingent on the main bond passing. Do not hesitate to reach out regarding any concerns as to why the board is moving forward with this amount and why the second bond is an option. One key thing all voters should know is what the bond will include: Two new elementary schools, significant renovations to Teton Elementary School and Rendezvous Upper Elementary School with the option to renovate the middle and high school ~~and build an auxiliary gym.~~

Please see the below breakdown of the projects and costs estimated in the bond:

New Driggs Elementary School

- New school construction including site
- **Total: \$13,930,640**

New Victor Elementary School

- New school construction including site
- **Total: \$8,808,523**

Renovate/Modernize Teton Elementary School

- Upgrade technology throughout
- Renovate and increase bathroom sizes
- Provide secure entrance and Renovate Administration Area
- Provide new roof and insulations
- Add library and administration area
- Paving and base
- Various code upgrades
- Seismic upgrades
- **Total: \$2,200,629**

Renovate/Modernize Rendezvous Upper Elementary School

- Add classrooms and associated square footage
- Upgrade technology throughout
- Add bathrooms
- Increase gymnasium size
- Increase cafeteria size
- Provide secure entrance
- Provide new roof and insulation
- Add library
- Paving and base
- Various code upgrades
- Seismic upgrades
- **Total: \$5,111,466**

Bond Total: \$30,051,258

**Additional Optional Bond:
Renovate Teton High School**

- Add classrooms and associated square footage
- Add auxiliary gymnasium
- Add commons
- Add vocational agriculture classroom space
- Provide secure entrance and renovate administration area
- **Total: \$4,745,894**

Renovate Teton Middle School

- Add classrooms and associated square footage
- Add gymnasium space
- Provide secure entrance and renovate admin
- **Total: \$2,482,576**

[This amount addresses our community's long-term facility needs in a cost effective and well researched manner](#)~~The amount addresses a need the district can cost effectively address with this amount.~~ In 2014, the \$19 million proposed bond addressed the bare minimum for new facilities. This bond addresses our facility's needs with longevity in mind. And the community has expressed a desire to do so, too. [With both bond options, all of our staff and students K-12 will benefit from improved facilities.](#)

Why the \$7 million bond? [Given our current enrollment and estimated growth, the middle school and high school will both require expansion within 3-5 years. Focus group participants requested that we develop a long-term plan that meets the needs of our community. By including these items with this bond, we can capture shared cost savings, making these additions more affordable than if done alone in 3-5 years. If we wait another three to five years to address these needs that are on the horizon due to growth in our community, the amount needed will be higher. Construction costs are on the rise and the need will heighten.](#)

Then Versus Now

In August 2014, Teton School District proposed a \$19 million bond for new elementary schools and ~~maintenance-minor improvements~~ to existing facilities ~~similar to what we are proposing now~~. In 2014, however, the bond addressed the bare minimum and did not have longevity in mind. The \$30.05 bond addresses future growth and a deeper pool of needs. **But the tax impact is less.**

Why? In 2014, the bond had a 15-year term with a projected 3.87 interest rate. Per every \$100,000 value of taxable property, this added up to \$7.92 tax increase per month or \$95 per year. The current bond has a 20-year term with a 3.64 percent interest rate. Per \$100,000 value of taxable property, this equates to \$5 monthly increase or \$60 per year.

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With a higher amount, how can the taxable impact be less? Eric Heringer, the managing director of Piper Jaffray & Co. explained that this is because of the county's larger tax base, lower interest rate and the 20-year amortization versus 15 years in 2014. Three years ago, the county's taxable market value was \$1,333,647,574. Now, it is projected to be \$1,684,333,003 by 2019. The amount of property the bond is taxed toward is larger, decreasing the individual impact.

To stay up to date with bond information, visit tsd401bond.org or reach out to the school board with questions and concerns. In the weeks to come, the board is committed to answering any questions that may arise, as we work to be as transparent as possible.

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