

Why Now?

Growth Projections:

Since the 2014-15 school year, our enrollment has increased nearly 60 students. The last time we had this many students in our school district was 2002 when Shallow Water School was open. At that time, 120-150 students were attending in Shallow Water, meaning that the buildings we currently use have not held this many students before. We average approximately 75 students per grade level, and are projected to increase to 80 students per grade level by 2020.

Safety:

Our safety goals of tornado safety and secure building entry are pressing projects. We feel like we are exposed right now, and need to accomplish these projects as soon as possible for the safety of our students and staff.

Aging Buildings:

It is typical to get 20-25 years out of a building before major upgrades are needed. Major upgrades include heat and air units, roofing, interior updates to flooring and ceilings, and exterior upgrades to the building's structure. This is the 30th year our elementary has served us, the 57th year our original middle school has served us, and the 37th year the middle school wing has been used.

Construction Costs:

Inflation in construction costs is about 4% per year. If we were to wait one year with this plan, it would cost \$1,000,000 more.

Interest Rates:

Recent trends show interest rates rising. We can lock in at an estimated 3.88% with this project. If we see a 1% increase in the interest rate, it will cost taxpayers approximately \$2.5 million more. Two percent would equate to approximately \$5 million in cost over the life of the bond.

Senate Bill 19:

State legislators passes SB 19 in the 2017 legislative session. This bill puts a cap on the dollar amount of bond issues that can be approved by the Kansas State Board of Education. This year's cap is \$330 million, and we were able to be approved for our \$25 million plan within this cap amount. The cap is full with other schools trying to make improvements, and there is a waiting list of other districts trying to be approved. If our bond election fails, we will go to the end of the waiting list to make another attempt to provide size, safety, and efficiency to our district. This wait could be up to two years unless the legislation is changed in the 2018 session. Waiting can increase costs and jeopardize the educational environment we offer our students.