

Bond Issue 2020 Questions and Answers

What will the new Upper Elementary School facilities include?

- A new classroom building to replace aging structures we are currently in
- Increased safety for students in grades PK-3 by creating inside access to Art, Music, PE, and Computer classes as well as the Library.
- Five classrooms per grade level to prepare for future growth.
- Special Education rooms and facilities.
- The gym is planned to be a full-size court and a FEMA storm shelter.
- New pick-up and drop off area for Upper Elementary students that will take traffic off of Clear Pond Road and also free up the high school parking lot during these times.

What will the gym renovations include?

- A new stage, stage dressing and bathroom off the East end
- Coaches offices
- Storage room for chairs and new floor covering
- Weight room
- Locker room renovation
 - ADA Hallway and locker room access
 - ADA bathrooms
 - New uniform storage and laundry facility in both home dressing rooms
- Refinish and replace (if needed) the wood floor
- ADA public restroom renovation including a Family Restroom
- Elevator to the second floor.
- New bleachers upstairs with ADA seating
- Facelift outside on the front side
- Lobby renovation
- New heating and air conditioning

What about the elementary playground during construction?

- Our plan to schedule the moving of the existing equipment to the east end of the playground as soon as we know the proposal has passed. A fence will be constructed on the east side along Elroy Lane. The district will pay this cost and will be done early in the summer.

Were and will teachers and staff members be involved in the planning and final design of the facilities?

- The existing drawings are not final plans. However, the Upper Elementary staff has been very involved in this initial layout of their new facility. Administrators, coaches, students and teachers have already provided very meaningful feedback regarding the Activity Center upgrades. After the passage of the bond further feedback will be sought concerning many facility details.

Will the new stage be built to allow for better acoustics during performances?

- Acoustics will be improved by the fact that the sound will be coming from a stage designed to do exactly that. It should be a big improvement for our groups who have been performing from the gym floor. We will include up to date lighting and sound that should also enhance performances.

Where will the new Upper Elementary be located and where will the parking lots be?

- The location of the new site was chosen due to the desired location of the proposed FEMA shelter/gym. This location allows for us to apply for the largest facility possible since it could feasibly serve every student and staff member in the district. This is because it is located in the required proximity of everyone in the district per FEMA guidelines. In the drawings you can see two teacher parking lots, one off of Clear Pond in front and one off of Elroy Lane in the back. The new pick-up and drop-off loop in front will take a lot of traffic off of Clear Pond in the mornings and afternoons and completely off of the high school parking lot.

What will happen to the Old Red Schoolhouse?

- Our plans are to move Ole Red across the street and turn it into a permanent Alumni Center. It could be used during class reunions and for a possible booster club meeting site as needed.

What cafeteria will the Upper Elementary be using?

- This is a question we are working on. We do not need an additional cafeteria at this time. The upper cafeteria would benefit from serving fewer students. This would create some much-needed flexibility for our middle and high school schedules. We will be consulting with other districts and experts in this field to come to a final decision. The goal will be to make the scheduling as efficient as possible in both cafeteria locations while being more supportive to our academic scheduling.

How can all of this be done with no tax increase?

- Ten years ago this community supported the building of the second phase of the Lower Elementary School. The school millage rates have remained at that rate since that time. That actual valuation of property within Bethel's district has gone from just under \$16,000,000.00 to \$30,000,000.00 during that time. Our bonding capacity is based on that valuation. This increase has enabled an opportunity to access this bond project through a series of bonds over the next 16 years. The last Lower Elementary bond is projected to pay off early and therefore creates this opportunity for our patrons and students. If this proposition passes and property valuations continue to rise as expected this district could be poised in another ten years to continue the vision started at the Lower Elementary. The next phase, as secondary facility, could be voted on with another no tax vote. This is about the future of Bethel Public School and providing the best possible facilities for our students, staff and community long into the future.