

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ALPINE ISD CALLS FOR NOVEMBER BOND ELECTION

The Alpine Independent School District Board of Trustees voted 6-1 to hold a bond election in November at their meeting Wednesday evening, Aug. 8.

The dissenting vote came from Trustee James Jones, who said he wished he had more time to review the options. However, he said the bond would have his “full support.”

The board called for a bond totaling \$22,588,000, which amounts to an approximate 20.57-cent tax impact per \$100 of valuation.

Construction projects included in the bond are a new academic building; fire sprinklers and new roofing, along with the removal of asbestos materials in the band hall, gym and shop area; shop space and ventilation for the welding program; women’s locker space to satisfy Title IV equality requirements; and the addition of storage and renovation to the band hall.

“This is first and foremost about the safety and needs of our students and staff,” said Superintendent Becky McCutchen. “We have established several security protocols over the course of the summer which will begin with the new school year. Based on recent facility studies, the high school building needs to be replaced and this comes at a higher cost than we have available in our fund balance.”

The board also decided to pursue some of the projects that were ranked as lower priorities by a citizens committee.

A circle drive at the elementary school, additional bay space at the bus barn, additional space for the Career and Technology Education (CTE) program, and air conditioning in the District’s gyms are projected to cost \$2,928,000 with no additional tax impact.

“Our fund balance will cover those costs,” said McCutchen. “We appreciate very much the time our voters took to voice their opinions, including those who cast their ballots last May against the bond. We heard those concerns, and reduced the scope. A new gym has been taken completely out of the proposal.”

A \$29.5 million bond election failed last May by 61 votes, 703-642.

“We don’t expect a unanimous vote by any means,” said McCutchen, “but our job is to provide our students with the best possible education in the safest possible environment.”

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