



The vision of the Creston C.S.D. is to provide the foundation for students to become lifelong learners and positive, confident, and compassionate citizens.

Dear Panther Partners:

Over the past six years, the district has been working on plans to renovate and construct new learning spaces to support the educational programs our children participate in. Mr. McDermott started the process in 2016 by soliciting a community survey that identified ten key projects. Over the course of the past six years, half of those projects have been completed. In the past two years two separate community driven advisory committees have worked with two different facility managers studying facility data, options, and the impact on children, staff, families, and the community. Through a collaborative process, the plan meets the long term educational needs of our children, staff, and communities. The school board worked diligently to hold the district levy flat for Creston residents, while Prescott residents will see an increase as the former Prescott district accepts new debt for the district.

The proposed plan improves and adds new learning spaces for our children. Improvements are planned for science, band, choir, vocational, and performing arts classrooms. New spaces allow for our youngest learners to be housed in the same learning center as the elementary and middle schools students and streamlines services and increases operational savings. A new activity center serves students of all age groups and supports the many classes and activities our students and community are involved in. The school board has worked diligently to develop a financing plan that will not increase school levy (taxes) for residents of Creston. The community committee made it very clear that they did not support any proposals that would raise school taxes. The community group and school board are asking the Creston and Prescott communities to vote on a \$29.4 million dollar general obligation bond to improve and add new learning spaces.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

1. Why retire the Early Childhood Center (ECC)? The committees spent a considerable amount of time studying this and provided the following resolution. The ECC is the oldest building in the district and houses around 150 students. The estimated cost to renovate the ECC is \$14 million and the estimated duplicate costs for personnel and services (staff, food service, transportation, custodial, etc.) is \$250,000. This data was used to compare the cost of construction of a new space at the elementary school to accommodate the students and to save \$250,000 per year due to streamlining staff and services.
2. What will happen to the ECC building? Two options have been identified. One option is to sell the facility and space to a suitable and value added community interest. Another option is to demolish part or all of the facility, with the exception of the AEA building. The existing playground can be relocated to the elementary school. The project includes funds for demolition. The school board is committed to ensuring the ECC will not become a public nuisance or an eye sore.
3. Will my school taxes go up? The school board and community committee are committed to holding the school levy (tax) flat for Creston. Prescott school taxes will increase to reflect the same levy authority as Creston.
4. Will my school taxes go down? Not likely, as the general obligation bond will be used to secure revenue to address the continued needs of the district.
5. When is the vote? Absentee ballots can be requested from the courthouse now. Absentee voting at the courthouse opens on Wednesday, August 24. Voting stations will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 13.

I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions so you can make an informed decision as you cast your ballot on Tuesday, September 13. To learn more about the projects and the impact on our schools, community, and residents please visit the district website. The community committee is holding a public forum on Wednesday, August 31 from 5:30-6:30 in the High School Commons.

Please feel free to contact me for more information at dstender@crestonschools.org or 641-782-7028. Thank you for supporting our schools and making them the pride of our communities!

Creston Cares,

Deron Stender
Superintendent

#CrestonCares

Web: crestonschools.org

Twitter: @CCSD_Panthers

Facebook: Creston-Panthers

#CrestonCares