

Q: Two recent bond elections (in 2014 and 2015) were rejected by NISD voters. Why does the district need to call a third election so soon after those failures?

A: The most recent bond approved by Nacogdoches ISD was in 2001. As a community, our responsibility to provide quality learning experiences for our students doesn't go away because a bond has failed. Our children will compete for college and career opportunities with students from other communities that have continued to invest and improve facilities for their students, regardless of what we do. Problems identified by earlier facility studies remain. They're still with us today, but we're a few years farther down the road, and construction prices have only increased. For instance, Emeline Carpenter Elementary is an outdated design and aging school desperately in need of replacement. The district also has an opportunity to expand its career and technical offerings at the high school, which this bond proposal would accomplish. Additionally, a number of priority maintenance projects must be addressed at other buildings within the district. Those previous facility studies identified many of these needs. Again, just because earlier bond referendums were rejected doesn't mean the needs went away.

Q: How much will this bond cost me on property taxes?

A: It's important to note homeowners that are over age 65 or are disabled will NOT see any tax increase on their residential homestead property if they qualified by or prior to the 2018 tax roll.

The property tax rate would increase to \$1.55 per \$100 of valuation from the existing rate of \$1.3325. The actual impact of the increase will be substantially modified because NISD provides an additional Homestead Exemption of 20 percent above and beyond the \$25,000 mandated by the State of Texas. In other words, a home valued at \$93,750 has a taxable value of \$50,000 because of these exemptions. That means that homeowner would see an annual increase on property taxes of \$109, or a little more than \$9 per month. A home valued at \$156,250 would have a taxable value of \$100,000 and would see an annual increase in property taxes of \$218 or about \$18 per month.

Q: There's no way to know what the school district will do with this money. Why should voters approve the bond; I don't want to write a blank check.

A: On this page, you can see all the projects planned for the bond proceeds, ranging from a new campus for Emeline Carpenter Elementary School down to roof and air conditioning upgrades at several campuses. In October, before the election is held, Nacogdoches ISD trustees will appoint a bond review committee that will be charged with ensuring NISD does precisely what's promised. That includes scheduled public presentations to the board of trustees as projects are planned, constructed and finished.

Q: Why is the district combining the two middle schools into one large campus?

A: Combining the two junior highs has been the plan for a number of years. That was the case with the 2014 and 2015 bond referendums. It is believed this will help with the high school transition as it will lessen rivalries as students become more familiar with one another. It will allow NISD to have a sixth-grade wing to help those students with the transition from elementary to secondary school. Having more instructional staff on one campus will allow for more areas of student interest to be considered.

Q: Why is the cost higher for building a new Emeline Carpenter Elementary School at the existing site? Shouldn't the cost of construction be the same no matter where the new school is located?

A: There are two options for Carpenter... Plan A and Plan B. Building on the existing site – Plan B – is actually the more expensive option because the school would have to be constructed in phases while classes in session. The bond proposal includes \$1,540,000 (land acquisitions for instructional facilities and infrastructure) in case the new school is constructed at the current location. If the district goes with Plan A, some of those funds would be used for purchasing the needed land. Some of those funds would be used to clear the current Carpenter site to make it available for other purposes. Additionally, the bond review committee would provide input for any recommendation involving remaining funds that would be utilized for other school building needs.

Q: If a new school is built at a different location, what happens to the Emeline Carpenter name?

A: The new school would retain the Emeline Carpenter name.

Q: Why does NISD want to build a technical training high school facility when it already has Malcolm Rector Technical High School on North Street?

A: In reality, the current Malcolm Rector program is not functioning as a technical training school. The Malcolm Rector site today is more of, which is greatly needed, a school of choice/credit recovery program. The plan in the bond proposal would create an authentic Career and Technology Center adjacent to Nacogdoches High School. It would retain the Malcom Rector Name.

Q: If a new career and technical facility is constructed at NHS, what happens to the Malcolm Rector facility?

A: At this point, the current location of Malcom Rector would be recognized and branded as a separate high school of choice/credit recovery. Additionally, the facility on North Street would continue to house the District Alternative School.

Q: Why are there so few details about money set aside for the District Support Center?

A: There are two options currently under consideration regarding the District Support Center. Should district administrative operations remain in the E.J. Campbell building on Shawnee Street bond funds would be used for much needed renovations. For the second option, we are in conversation with a local organization for the possible purchase of a building from them. If that takes place, the district would use the allocated bond funds to purchase and renovate the new facility.

Q: Why would the district include \$14 million of maintenance items in the bond proposal? Aren't these projects that could be administered within the normal operations budget?

A: These are major projects that were previously identified by earlier facility surveys. Using \$14 million from the operations budget puts it in competition with funds used for classroom instruction, supplies and teacher salaries. It is far wiser to pay for the priority maintenance projects from designated capital funds rather than have them compete with things needed for instruction. The projects in question are vital to the district – replacing aging heating and cooling units and repairing leaky roofs – and some of them go back as far as a facility study conducted in 2012. By including them in the bond, they could be addressed all at once instead of one or two every year.

Q: Fredonia Elementary would be converted into a Pre-K center. Wouldn't it be better to keep Pre-K students near their neighborhood schools instead of placing them all in one facility?

A: This would allow the district to streamline its instructional methods, ensuring a strong focus on Pre-K students. The significance cannot be overstated of establishing a foundation for strong reading skills at this age. Laying the groundwork for these students dramatically increases the odds of success in future grades.

Q: What's the purpose of spending \$5 million to renovate the transportation department when most of the time the buses are on the road picking up or dropping off students?

A: It's at this facility where key maintenance is conducted by NISD on its fleet of school buses. Oftentimes, the district's transportation staff can find and repair problems before they become serious issues. Nothing we do is more important than ensuring the safety of our students. The project would expand the paved areas for parking and would add a service bay for buses. It would also improve areas used for fueling and washing of buses.

Q: Why are there plans for a new press box at the football stadium? There's nothing wrong with the existing press box.

A: The old image of the press box is not applicable for today's uses and needs. Our plans for NISD include facilitating the growth and development of broadcast and digital media opportunities for many of our students. Students interested in audio/visual technology and production will utilize this facility as a classroom and laboratory. Students will use this space for production and operation of the new video board being installed at the NHS stadium. Students will create content and use the video board as kind of a "show and tell." Our students will learn valuable skills in a growing industry using professional-grade equipment as they operate the three camera system and control room for events being held at the stadium. Students will have the opportunity to earn industry certifications in software and digital media fields while exploring a growing area for individual entrepreneurs.

The typical functions of keeping the clock and allowing for teacher/coaches to keep an eye on the events on the field will be joined by having space for observation of the stands and parking lot by our security team.