

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When is the election? The election is Tuesday, Nov. 7.

How much is the bond? The bond is for \$110 million to upgrade and modernize Skyline and Idaho Falls High School with no tax rate increase.

What will the bond pay for?

- Top-to-bottom renovation of Skyline High School
- Rebuild of Idaho Falls High School on a new site
- Provide modern learning environments with easy access to technology
- Provide learning commons areas where students can convene, collaborate and create
- Provide enhanced safety and security for students and staff

Where would the new Idaho Falls High School be located? The new school would be located on a 58-acre site on 49th South between Holmes and St. Clair. The district has a purchase option agreement to buy the land if the bond passes.

What is the extent of the renovation planned for Skyline? Plans call for a top-to-bottom renovation of Skyline. When the project is finished, about 80 percent of the school will be new or totally remodeled. In addition, Skyline's science wing was completely remodeled just a few years ago.

What is the time line for the projects? If the bond is successful, design work would begin in 2018, construction would begin in 2019 and the projects would be completed in time for the start of school 2021.

How can the district do a \$110 million bond with no increase to the current tax rate? Current growth in Idaho Falls plus rising property values in Idaho Falls School District 91 would generate the revenue necessary to repay the bond, according to the district's financial consultants. The Board of Trustees has a long history of sound financial management and careful financial planning.

When can we see the plans? Conceptual plans are currently available on the district website at www.ifschools.org. Once the bond passes, the plans and designs will be reviewed and finalized.

What exactly does a 21st century learning environment mean? Modern learning spaces are flexible and adaptable so teachers can easily provide different kinds of instruction. They also allow for easy access to technology with an infrastructure that has the outlets needed for a classroom of laptops, WIFI connectivity and more. Classrooms have flexible furniture systems and a standard technology package including short-throw projectors, interactive white boards and enhanced audio visual systems.

Will these plans address future needs? Yes. The designs for both Skyline and Idaho Falls are flexible enough to address D91's needs today and in the years to come. Both designs also anticipate future growth.

What are the plans for the old IF High School? Once the bond projects are completed, the existing Idaho Falls High School building would be repurposed to meet other district and community needs. Plans currently call for it to house D91's career and technical programs, which are currently scattered throughout the district. It would also become home to the district's administrative offices. The current administrative building would become a technology center. The city has long-term plans to improve the Civic Auditorium and utilize the areas it currently owns like the art and band classrooms. The district is continuing to work with other community groups to identify other potential uses.

Has the City shown any interest in acquiring the IFHS building? The city has not expressed an interest in acquiring the building, but the district has had a number of discussions with the city about potential partnerships and future uses for the building.

What ancillary facilities will be part of the new Idaho Falls High School and ReDesigned Skyline High School? The plans call for both high schools to have an auditorium, as well as new music, band and art spaces. Skyline and Idaho Falls High School would continue to use Ravsten Stadium for football games and track meets.

Will the auditoriums or theaters be big enough for graduation? Plans call for auditoriums at both schools that would accommodate about 1,000 people. Larger venues are cost prohibitive, costing \$2.5 to \$3 million more apiece because increased building requirements and regulations.

Will the effort allow for work-ready graduates? The focus of this effort is to provide facilities that will support a 21st century education so students are prepared for success after high school. The effort will also allow the district to centralize all its career and technical programs in one location in the existing IFHS building. Now those classes are held at various schools scattered throughout the district.

Will you be using local contractors for these projects? A local company, Bateman-Hall, is serving as the construction manager for this project. Once the bond passes, the work will be put out to bid, and Bateman-Hall would oversee that bidding process. We expect local contractors to be very involved in this project just as they were a few years ago when Dora Erickson, Ethel Boyes, Edgemont and Longfellow elementary schools were rebuilt.

What steps will be taken to ensure up-to-date technology that can change with the times? Technology is changing at a rapid rate. These designs include a lot of flexibility so instructional spaces can adapt and change as the needs of our students and staff change.

Will teacher input be considered if the bond passes? Teacher input has been considered throughout the design process. If the bond passes, designers and administrators would continue to work with teachers as the designs are finalized.

What were the reasons behind deciding to build a new IFHS? The Board of Trustees originally looked at a ReDesign of both Idaho Falls and Skyline high schools. Plans to ReDesign both schools were developed, but the cost estimate for IFHS was about \$46 million. The design was really good, but it could not address all of the constraints of the IFHS campus.

The city owns the Civic Auditorium, several classrooms on the north side of the building and the parking lot on the north side of the building. It also has an easement on the land behind the high school so the district cannot use that land. Because of these issues, board members decided it made sense to look at a rebuild of Idaho Falls High School on a new site, and ultimately decided that made the most sense.

Are you properly considering the community's ties to the current IFHS? Idaho Falls High School has a long and proud tradition in the community, and there are no plans to abandon the building. The goal is to repurpose it to fill other community and district needs. The city has a long-term plan to make improvements to the Civic Auditorium, and there have been some discussions about repurposing the school as part of an effort to revitalize the area around First Street.

How will the redesign unify our district? The designs call for upgrading and modernizing both Skyline and Idaho Falls high schools, which will mean all our high schools will have similar instructional spaces, and that those instructional spaces will support a 21st century education. This is something that will eventually benefit all students in Idaho Falls School District 91.

Have our students' needs with disabilities been considered? Yes. The needs of students with disabilities, as well as the staff who support them, were carefully considered during the development of the plans.

What security measures are being included in the new schools? Plans for both schools include measures that would enhance safety and security for students and staff. Those measures include: improved sight lines throughout the building so it's easier to monitor activity within the building, improved sight lines from the administrative areas and controlled access to the buildings. In addition, separate pick-up and drop-off areas are being designed for students, parents, visitors, busses and staff, which would greatly reduce the rise of accidents and injuries.

Could the costs be offset by revenue generated from using the current IFHS for purposes that would generate revenue? It would depend on the final plans for the existing building.

Why can't we redo the boundaries between 91 and 93? The process for redrawing school boundaries or consolidating school districts is outlined in state statute. In 2011, D91 commissioned a study looking at the consolidation of D91 and D93. The study found that there really wouldn't be any cost savings, and that there would be some real tax implications for patrons.