

Frequently Asked Questions with explanations:

1. There was no presentation at the “town Hall meeting” on February 13th and we were expecting something, why not?

By definition a town Hall meeting is “an event at which a public official or political candidate addresses an audience by answering questions posed by individual members.” <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/town%20hall>

There were no questions asked of the board directly – when a few comments leaned towards a need for some clarification, Board Chairman Chuck Overacker addressed them.

2. Why is the plan to combine the Administration offices, SPED offices/music classroom and PreK now when not in the past?

Currently those three areas are housed in three separate buildings from the rest of the district buildings. By combining them into the new school the following will happen:

- Increases safety for the students, as they will not have to be walked outside of the school to another facility for anything.
- There will be more than one administrator in the building if issues should arise.
- Sharing of clerical staff when absences occur- saving the district money.
- Improved efficiency for staff that work in more than one of those buildings (less time loss due to traveling between buildings) including teachers, aides, specialists, custodial and maintenance.
- Reduced utility costs – as an example over \$4700 was spent on power alone in 16/17 then again in 17/18 for just the Admin building and SPED Building/music room. With the PreK program, there is an unknown since we just started the new agreement with the City, and so far we have spent \$740 on power for just 1 1/2 months. Each of these individual buildings also have a water bill that includes minimum amount that would be incorporated into the one more energy efficient building.

3. Some people are saying it is a 25.6 million bond and another says it is up to that amount which is it?

The bond election is for an amount “not to exceed” 25.6 million. This means if the design and estimated costs come in under the approved amount on the vote, the lower bond amount will be sold. The amount of the sold bond will be used to collect the taxes on. It will still be a 20-year bond but possibly at a lower cost.

4. Who would be housed in the new building?

The plan is for the PreK through 8th grades to be housed in the new building along with the Special Services and Administration offices. This means over 2/3 of the district’s student population would be housed in this new building.

5. Why do we not see any plans for the building?

The input the board and administration received from patrons was they would rather go with no set plans and get approval for a dollar amount first, then use a community committee to provide input on the architect and plans knowing the money has been secured.

It has been likened to going to the bank and getting approved for a mortgage before house hunting, or designing your house plans.

6. Is this a blank check for the Board to do what they want?

The Board has laid out its plan that upon approval of the bond, they will seek the input of the community via committee to assist with the selection of an architect and design a building that will address the safety of our students, meet the needs of the district, and still be fiscally responsible to the taxpayers.

7. Why not delay the election?

The Board felt this was a good time in the economy to go forth with the bond and the community group supported this. There is the potential for additional students if the mining industry progresses as planned, there is a possibility of getting a “bubble” class (one where an additional teacher would be needed to handle the number of students) and currently there is absolutely no additional classroom space available to house an additional class in the Elementary school. If the district ever wants to provide full day every day kindergarten, there is no room.

Even upon approval, it is an estimated 2-year process to have one built and thus every delay puts it out even farther.

8. Where did the square footage amount come from if no set plans?

The district looked at the needed number of classrooms, allowed for a few extra rooms in the case of expanded enrollment, the state required square footage along with average classroom sizes in new schools being built across the state, required hall way size, etc. and came up with the estimated square footage needed.

9. Is there a gym or not?

Yes a regulation size gym floor along with seating for 500 was included in the estimates for square footage and costs.

10. Why is a regulation gym with seating for 500 needed for an elementary school?

This is a PreK -8th grade school. There are requirements to offer physical education to all the students. Including the 6,7, and 8th grades in the school, comes the needs to have a regulation-sized floor for their practices/sports.

In addition, when an assembly/concert etc. at the school will happen, seating would be needed for both students and parents.

The hope is the committee would also include a simple stage at one end of the gym as to allow for performances. This was included in the cost estimates, but would be a final decision based on the building committee input.

11. Is there really a need for an additional gym?

Currently the gym at the SJSHS is utilized from before 6 in the morning until after 9 at night during the majority of the school year for sports teams and classes. When an outside entity needs to use the gym space for assemblies, drama productions, art council productions, dance recitals, etc., the scheduling of who and where they can be is logistically very difficult and usually results in someone/group not getting to use the facilities. This increased level of use, also wears a facility down fast.

12. Why is the estimated cost per square foot higher than what other districts had?

As with other items in Salmon, the cost is higher here than say Boise or Idaho Falls. The Hospital had used an estimate of \$345 per square foot is what the District had been told, and so we chose to use the estimate of \$300 per square foot to cover the expected increase.