



REPUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT #309

"The Republic School District will cultivate a safe, challenging environment for achieving maximum potential and student success."

30306 East Hwy. 20 * Republic, WA 99166 * (509) 775-3173 * Fax 775-3712

Dear Community Members:

Running a bond is one of the most difficult decisions a board must make. There is never a good time to go to the voters and ask them to increase their taxes. Running a bond takes the time of the administration and staff. It requires the use of resources to gather information and data. It requires hours of planning and decision making.

In property-poor districts, such as Republic, the decision to run a bond is usually made when a point of crisis has been reached. Generally, a bond is proposed when the school district has run out of space, or as in our case, the facility has reached a point where it is on the verge of failure.

The high school building was opened in 1966. It was built during a time of economic boom. This was a time when buildings were built fast and efficiently. Construction methods used solid materials but they also used methods that "baked" in the various systems (water, heating, sewer, and lighting) to create structures that are hard to modify and upgrade.

Buildings built during this era were expected to last about 30 years. In fact, that is the time frame the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction sets to determine the life of a building. This community has been very lucky that the current high school has exceeded that lifespan and has served the needs of the community for over 50 years.

Here is a quote from a Study and Survey that was conducted in 2013: *"In the older facilities (High School Completed in 1966...) the systems have declined, but not due to deferred maintenance. Most old and inefficient systems are functioning and serviceable after an average age of nearly 40 years—a testimony to good maintenance over this period. However, practically speaking, some older systems are outdated by current code and energy conservation standards, and will be approaching the end of their useful lives in the next 5 to 10 years. In particular, the High School unit ventilators, roofing and piping systems may need attention sooner than this time frame."*

The bottom line is that it is time for a new building. The major systems in the building are beginning to fail. The water and sewer systems are corroded, blocked and in some cases leaking. They cannot be repaired because the pipes run inside the solid block walls or are set into the concrete foundation. The heating system is worn out and while it can be cobbled together to work, it needs constant attention and is extremely inefficient to operate.

The building lacks modern fire suppression systems, fails to meet modern requirements for access by disabled persons and contains materials that have been proven to cause health problems. The building was also built during an era when access to the school by outsiders was not an issue of concern.

Last year the community rejected a proposal for a new school. The proposal that was put forth last year asked voters to pass a bond issue for \$7,930,000. This proposal would have received state matching funds in the amount of about \$6.7 million. This proposal included money to make a major renovation to the sports fields.

This year the Republic School District will again be asking voters to approve a bond issue. Based on feedback from voters, the Board of Directors has significantly modified the bond proposal. The proposal that will be put before this November ballot will only focus on items directly related to student learning.

The bond will modernize the metal/wood shop. It will construct a new 7th-12th grade school. Funding will be included to change the entrance to the elementary school to make it more secure. There are no funds included for sports fields.

The new proposal asks taxpayers to approve the sale of bonds in the amount of \$6.9 million. This \$1 million less than the last bond proposal. These changes mean two things: first, the cost to the local taxpayer is reduced. Second, the state match is increased and the state matching share for the project would be \$7.6 million.

The projection is that the cost to the taxpayers for this bond would be \$1.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The term of the bond would be 25 years.

There will be much more information available in the coming weeks. If you have questions about this bond issue or any other school matter please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at the school 509-775-3173, home 509-775-0965 or via e-mail, jgwinkel@republicsd.org.

John Glenewinkel
Superintendent