



Hello Bulldog Families,

Over the last 12 months, parents, teachers, students, local residents and your USD 348 school board members have been providing input and working to develop a long-range facilities plan for our schools. One of the results of that process is a bond issue that will go before USD 348 voters on May 16th.

As part of our Bulldog family, I wanted you to be among the first to know about the bond issue and the improvements proposed as part of the bond plan.

Based on the input we received from many of you - along with teaching staff and community members - we have prioritized the bond plan improvements to focus on three areas:

- **Student learning**
- **Safety & security**
- **Outdoor learning & activities**

We have prepared an informational webpage on the USD 348 site – at www.USD348.com/bond - to house bond issue details for your review, such as the facilities plan, property tax impact and election specifics. We will also continue to send information home about the bond issue so that you will have the latest updates.

Below, I have addressed some of the questions you may have about the bond issue.

What upgrades will be completed as part of the bond plan?

At the end of this letter, I have included a list of core improvements that would be made under this plan.

Why now?

There are three primary reasons why the school board felt it was important to move forward with a plan:

- First, there are safety, security, accessibility and parking congestion issues at our buildings that we feel should be addressed sooner rather than later.
- Second, technology, career & technical education and student learning have changed over the last 30 years, creating a need to make sure our learning environment and hands-on teaching opportunities provide the skills our students need to be successful in the workforce.
- Third, to preserve our local enrollment numbers under the state's new "open enrollment" law. This law allows students the option to seek enrollment in any district they choose. Our neighboring districts – including Eudora, Wellsville and Ottawa – are pursuing or have recently completed major bond projects.

How much will the bond cost?

The proposed \$25 million bond is an increase of 2.90 mills. On a home valued at \$200,000, this would cost \$5.56 per month. On the www.USD348.com/bond page we have included the monthly and annual cost for various valuations of residential property, commercial property and ag land.

When is the election?

Election Day is Tuesday, May 16. USD 348 voters may vote in person from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Election Day at their polling place. Voters also have the option to vote in-person at the Douglas County Election office starting April 26, or voters may request a mail ballot from the Douglas County Election office.

Turn over for more information >

Where can I get more information?

First and foremost, contact me or any member of the school board with questions. Additionally, we are hosting two community town halls to provide additional information on the bond plan and answer your questions. I hope you can join us for one or both of these community conversations:

- **Thursday, April 13** – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Baldwin High School Commons
- **Thursday, April 20** - 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center at Baldwin Junior High

Again, as you review this information, please don't hesitate to contact me personally with any questions at mdodge@usd348.com or 785-594-2721.

Thank you for being a part of our Bulldog family, and for the privilege of educating your students.
#BaldwinBuilt

Mark Dodge
Superintendent

What improvements will be made if the bond passes?



Learning, Career & Technical Education

- Flexible space so that our teachers can easily adapt to different learning styles, including more small group, **hands-on and personalized learning** as well as **outdoor learning**
- A **Career Technical Education Center** that provides our students with real-world learning and exposure to different career options
- Bringing our high school and other facilities **up-to-date with today's technology**



Safety, Security & Protecting Our District's Investments in Students

- Adjoining our high school, junior high and CTE building **so that students are not leaving buildings unsupervised** to get to their next class
- Improving **parking and traffic flow** for Intermediate Center drop-off and pick-up
- **More parking** and increased circulation for the high school and junior high
- Establishing PE locker rooms connected to the high school gym to **ensure safety and supervision**
- Bringing our facilities up to par with neighboring districts so we can protect the community's investment in our schools and **protect our local enrollment** for years to come under the state's new "open enrollment" law



Field & Track Improvements for More Student & Community Access

- **Installing turf** so we can make the most efficient use of the field, allowing it to be usable in wet or dry conditions for games, band and PE classes, grade school field days, and Recreation Commission activities
- **Bringing our track up to regulation** so our students can have meets at home
- **Adding seating** so that families and the community have a spot to cheer on our Bulldogs
- **Installing lights** so we can host evening events - like senior night and football/soccer games - that parents can attend without having to take off work or canceling junior varsity opportunities due to lack of daylight