



2013 Bond Proposal Questions & Answers

What is the total amount of the bond?

The bond is \$79,965,000.

What projects are included in this bond?

The bond includes \$36.85 million for security and renovations, \$10.5 million for additions and \$33 million for capital projects including roofs, flooring, heating and air conditioning.

How many buildings get touched by the bond?

Every building in the district would be impacted by this bond.

How would this bond increase safety?

The bond would provide funds to add video intercom “buzzer” systems for all schools, plus connecting cameras, perimeter door status and card readers to a front office monitoring system. Classroom doors will have security locks. Permanent walls and doors will be installed in the fourteen elementary schools in the district with open concept layouts.

What else is in this bond?

Projects to address continued growth and general maintenance to protect the investment in our facilities. Three additions would be added to schools on the west and south side of the district where continued increases in enrollment are filling schools beyond capacity. General maintenance projects include items such as roofing, mechanical, electrical and lighting systems. Not including land, the district’s buildings have a replacement value of \$444 million. We need to uphold the investment our community has made in our buildings.

How many elementary buildings will be targeted for safety renovations?

The fourteen open and partially open concept buildings would be renovated with permanent walls and doors. All schools would be retrofitted for locked and secured perimeters and entry buzzers. Classroom doors will have security locks.

When would these projects get underway?

If the bond is approved, the process of choosing and hiring a project management firm, design firms and other consultants would start almost immediately, with design work following closely. The district wants to move rapidly but most importantly, get these projects right. Security would be a priority. Planning for the additions to relieve overcrowding would also begin as soon as possible.

What is the levy increase? What is the cost for a family in a \$100,000 house? A \$150,000 home?

The levy would increase by 3 ½ cents per year. This would be a commitment of approximately \$35 per \$100,000 in valuation. For a \$150,000 home this would be approximately \$52.50 per year.

Why now?

State funding is going down while the number of students is going up. For the past two years Millard has cut its budget. Enrollment has increased both years. The district has managed these challenges by increasing class sizes, cutting staff through attrition and postponing maintenance and repairs.

How long will this bond be good for?

This bond would meet security, growth and capital improvement needs for the next five years.

What are the alternatives to this bond?

The alternatives to this bond are larger cuts to the general fund, busing students east to schools with more available space and large scale realignment of boundaries.

Don't we have more pressing needs like additional teachers and transportation?

Bond funds are for capital expenditures such as buildings and equipment and cannot be used for items like transportation or employees. However, the bond issue would save teaching jobs and educational programs by removing facility needs from the general budget.

Who needs to know about this bond proposal?

This information is important to anyone who lives in Millard and anyone with a student in Millard schools.

Who can vote in this election?

Registered voters who live within the school district boundaries in Douglas and Sarpy County can vote in this bond election. Parents of students who are here on Open Enrollment or Option Enrollment cannot vote. Registered voters will vote at polls established by the election commissioner for each county. The Omaha Mayoral election will be on the same ballot for voters in the City of Omaha.

I have more questions. Who can answer them?

More information is available at www.mpsomaha.org. We would be glad to speak with you individually and also to speak with any group or organization that would like to hear more about the proposed bond. Please contact Millard's Communications Coordinator, Rebecca Kleeman, at rdkleeman@mpsomaha.org or by telephone at 402.715.8200.