

Beatrice Public Schools

Striving to be among the best in the nation



Past:

In 1954 voters passed a bond issue to build four elementary schools, replacing the seven then in use.

Present:

Since 1958 elementary facilities have adapted to changes in education and society. Our current buildings are inefficient to run, were not constructed for 21st Century learning, and have physical plant deficiencies that need to be addressed.

Future:

The district weighs an option for improving educational opportunities for students.

Harrington School was built in 1925 by petition, rather than a bond issue. Presently, the district has four elementary schools. The district is looking at building a new elementary school. It would house preschool through fifth grade.



Past



Present



Future

Who will pay for a new school?

Q: A school bond would be paid for by an increase in property taxes. What are the types of property being assessed along with the percentage of each to the total valuation?

A: According to the most recent valuation report (2015 Certified School Adjusted Value Report) the school district has just over one (1) billion in assessed valuation (1,124,778,850). The chart below shows the breakdown of the different types of property and the percentage of each to the total valuation.

2015 Certified School Adjusted Value Report (October 9, 2015)		
Property Classification	Valuation Amount	% of total valuation
Personal Property	43,098,853	3.8%
<u>Centrally Assessed</u>		
Personal Property	26,689,173	2.4%
Real	10,287,947	0.9%
Residential Real Property	522,562,270	46.4%
Comm, Industrial Real Property	154,982,997	13.8%
Ag Improvements and Farmsites	13,064,020	1.2%
Agricultural Land	354,093,590	31.5%
Total Valuation	\$1,124,778,850	100%

What do you want to know?



Commonly Asked Questions About the Bond

Q: If the bond issue passes, what will happen to the existing buildings?

A: The existing buildings would either be: 1) sold for an appropriate reuse, compatible with the neighborhoods or 2) demolished, and the property sold for redevelopment compatible with the neighborhoods.

Q: How will safety and security be addressed in the new building option?

A: The new school will be constructed to provide a storm shelter in each of the four classroom neighborhoods. The proximity of the storm shelter areas to the students and staff are important for quick and easy access. The building will also be designed to have a secure main entrance (visitors allowed to enter the building only with school office staff permission).

Q: Does the facility have capacity for growth?

A: Yes, there will be room for some modest growth based upon our current student numbers.

Q: What was the intended lifespan of the existing buildings?

A: The lifespan of the existing buildings is relative to program requirements and the degree of maintenance and repair performed over the life of the building. The existing elementary schools received good care and maintenance, but building systems like heating, ventilation, and air conditioning need updating every 25 – 30 years. Also, the educational programs being offered today require more space and different types of space than that of 60 years ago. A 60-year lifespan is a reasonable expectation; then major improvements are necessary for any building.

Q: What impact do new schools have on economic development?

A: In a review of research by Jonathan D. Weiss, he concludes the following:

“While the research is emerging and difficult to measure, many studies have shown that public schools and school spending also impact state and local economies and can play a role in attracting business. By educating the future workforce, public schools help make states and localities more economically competitive. Also, as a basic industry, schools are major employers that have a short-term stimulus impact on state and local economies. Evidence suggests that the quality of public schools can also influence business site selection and labor location decisions.”