### SCHOOL BOND INFORMATION

HARNEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

**NOVEMBER 2020 BOND ELECTION** 

## I BUDGET - \$18.95M

A) \$14.95M (Bond Levy) + \$4M (OSCIM GRANT)

The Burns & Hines School Districts (Joined into the Harney County School District in the mid 1990's) have passed only a few school bonds over the past 90 years.

Lincoln	1929	(91 years old)
Slater	1948	(72 years old)
Hines	1930	(90 years old)
High School	1959	(61 years old)

### **II TALKING POINTS Q&A**

# Q1. How does the \$4M OSCIM grant work?

A1. The School District has been awarded matching funds of \$4M from the State. If the Bond passes in November the money is awarded, if not the money goes to another district. The grant is for the November 2020 vote only, if the bond does not pass the school district may not have another opportunity for the grant.

# Q2. What is the bond amount being voted on and how much will it raise my property tax?

A2. The vote will be on a \$14.95M bond over 31 years. The cost will only be an additional \$0.84 Cents per \$1,000 of assessed value of your property. This increase falls well below other communities who are currently in pursuit of bond passage

The assessed value is the value you pay taxes on NOT how much your home would sell for. The assessed value is always lower. Link for tax assessed values: https://records.co.harney.or.us/propertywebquery

Example: If your home was assessed for \$85,000, your property tax would increase about \$5.95 per month (about \$72 per year).

# Q3. How did this process start?

A3. The School District was awarded a grant to have reports done to analyze the condition of the schools and research the long range student needs of the district. The reports indicated that the schools need a lot of repair and upgrades.

# Q4. How were the needed school improvements determined?

A4. A 'Facilities Committee' was formed in 2019 to prioritize what needed to be done to improve our schools. The report findings combined with input from the public and school district staff were prioritized to determine the most prudent use of the bond money.

# Q5. How did the facilities committee determine what needed to be done to our schools?

A5. The committee focused on prioritizing student needs first. Such things as safety, learning environment, accessibility, and opportunity were all at the top of the list. The committee also considered maintenance items and improvements that will contribute to the community in a positive way.

# Q6. If the bond passes, when would the work start and how long would it last?

A6. Design would begin immediately. Work will begin the summer of 2021.

# Q7 What specifically will be done with the bond monies?

A7. See the following Maintenance, Remodel and new facility narrative outline herein.



### **SCHOOL REPAIRS & DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

### 1. Interior Lighting and Ceiling replacement

The majority of classroom lighting at the facilities are original to the building. Replacement of the existing lighting will improve light quality and energy usage. During this replacement necessary ceiling repairs and replacement will also take place

#### 2. Roof repairs

Existing Roofing conditions vary, some of which are in need of repair and or replacement. Maintaining roof weather tightness prevents mold, structural damage, and costly damage to computers and books.

# 3. HVAC system Expansion & Retrocommission.

Aged heating and cooling systems need replaced and expanded. Newer systems need fine tuning. Improving systems provide a better learning environment, and saves energy.

# 4. Exterior Building Lighting

Some of the existing exterior lighting is not up to current standards. Providing adequate lighting at exterior doors and parking lots improve safety during after school events and prevents vandalism and break-ins.

#### 5. Window Replacement

Many of the windows throughout the school district leak and are not energy efficient. Window replacement will allow an increase in energy efficiency and will provide natural ventilation to classroom spaces.

# 6. New Flooring

The existing flooring at all facilities are in various states of condition. Some flooring is still original and is in need of replacement.

## 10. Interior Painting

Although the school district has done a great job maintaining the interior paint, manpower and facilities budgets have been limited. Repainting of interior spaces will improve the overall appearance of the existing school.

### **SCHOOL PROJECTS**

Projects below are above and beyond maintenance items. Some projects are contingent and require completion as a whole.

#### AT ALL FACILITIES

#### 1. Secure Entries

At the schools visitors can freely enter the school and gain access to the gymnasiums, hallways and classrooms. The current bond will provide a double front entry arrangement which will provide a secure entry where visitors must check in before gaining access to student occupied spaces.

#### 2. Exterior Access Controls

An access control system controls door locking electronically and will provide security at all exterior doors.

The advantages to such a system include automatic locking and unlocking at certain times as well as providing the ability of automatic lockdown in the event of an emergency. The schools will also be able to keep track of who is in the building during school and after hours, such access controls are the new standard on all school facilities.

## 3. Kitchen upgrades, remodel & equipment

The kitchens at both the grade school and high School have aged equipment and do not function efficiently. Remodeling the Kitchens and replacement of equipment are necessary to continue providing healthy food for the students and will help reduce School District food costs.



### STRATEGIC PLANNING APPROACH

The School Districts student capacity has been in gradual decline over the past 20 years but has recently leveled out. Slater is at 85% capacity, Hines is 83%, and the High School is 62%. Future growth is projected to be minimal over the next 20 years.

The School Districts facilities range in age between 61 and 91 years old and require repair, expansion, and consolidation in order to maintain current educational standards. The Facilities Committee's goals for improvement to our Schools and overall student success are as follows;

- 1. Provide safe and secure facilities for all students & staff.
- 2. Provide ADA accessible facilities.
- 3. Provide improved student and educational opportunities, increased teacher efficiency, and positive community impact.
- 4. Consider positive social impacts of student age grouping.
- 5. Perform deferred maintenance and repairs to existing facilities strategically and as cost effective as possible.
- Incorporate lifecycle facilities costs, energy usage, and required maintenance in order to be prudent with new Bond monies.
- 7. Consider transportation costs, busing requirements and time, and after school activities coordination.

The Facility Committee's mindful approach to such goals are realized by incorporating the following;

- Consolidate educational spaces focusing on making existing facilities more efficient by utilizing unused spaces.
- 2. Proactively mitigate underused and costly facilities.
- 3. Provide new spaces cost effectively.

# **STRAIGHTLINE**

### **OLD LINCOLN DISTRICT OFFICES**

Lincoln is in the worse condition, and would be the most expensive to fix out of all the districts buildings. Currently it is underutilized, costly to operate and maintain, is not energy efficient, does not meet current ADA standards, has a large backlog of deferred maintenance (including a failing boiler), and does not meet current school safety protocols.

 Selling the building and relocating the district offices to the Hines Facility will reduce district maintenance and energy costs and better utilize existing facilities.

# **HINES MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Hines is in fair condition, but the classrooms are in need of repair and the building does not meet nor lend itself to be updated to modern day school safety protocols. The building has underutilized space, numerous empty classrooms, and vacant areas of the building. The sloped site complicates ADA compliance and makes parent and bus drop off routes complicated. Considering these facility issues (along with educational benefits) the School district will redistribute grades as described below;

- 6<sup>th</sup> graders will attend Slater Elementary. Students will have opportunities to be role models and provide leadership to younger students. It will also allow them to engage in age-appropriate activities without being exposed to the social and academic pressures of older students. As a result it allows them to stay 'younger' a bit longer.
- 7th & 8th graders will have classes at the High School campus. Students will use grouped new and repurposed classroom spaces. Students will have more opportunity for elective and higher level classes earlier in their education.
- The existing Gym, locker rooms, and kitchen will remain functional for school and community use.
- Old classroom spaces will be used for district offices and district storage

## **SLATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-6)**

Slater has benefited the most past school improvements. Current ADA standards can be accomplished with minimal modification. There is room for improved site access and separated parent and bus drop off routes. The upgraded and efficient HVAC system can be easily expanded. The front entry can easily be modified to meet current school safety protocols and access.

- Construct (4) new Classrooms to accommodate new 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Remodel the front entry to provide a secure entry and improve school presence.
- Remodel, update and expand undersized kitchen and cafeteria space to provide healthy meals and longer eating time for the students.
- Reconfigure the parking lot and roadway to separate bus and parent drop off locations. This will improve before and after school safety concerns.
- Expand the recently upgraded mechanical system to improve student comfort and further expand district Entergy cost savings.
- Remodel the music room space to improve the teaching, performance and functionality to accommodate the expanded music program.
- Modernize existing and provide new toilet rooms for students and staff.
- Relocate and modernize the library into newly constructed space and remodel the existing library into offices for student programs.
- Provide existing classrooms with new paint, lights, cabinets, and flooring.

# **BURNS HIGH SCHOOL (7-12)**

The High school is in the best shape relative to the other facilities. The schools central location contributes to the community in a positive way.

The current capacity of the High School is at 62%. Student enrollment has been gradually declining but has leveled off recently. There are currently (6) empty classrooms not being used. The other instructional spaces are generously sized relative to current standards.

The High School has ideal site access, adequate parking, and room to grow. The main entrance can be easily modified to meet current school safety protocols and current ADA accessibility standards can be accomplished with minimal modifications.

- Construct (8) new classrooms, office space, and new secure entry for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The (6) existing empty classrooms will be utilized as well.
- Construct a new performance gymnasium.
   Located adjacent to the existing gymnasium it will have public toilets, concessions and locker rooms. The new gym will provide required space for the new middle school students and to help get kids home earlier from after school sports practice.
- The front lobby of the new gymnasium will extend to the existing school providing a secure and monitored school main entry.
- Construct a new Construction Technology classroom building to expand the course in construction technology and provide practical construction space.
- Remodel the existing high school front office to provide a secure visitor check in area.



- Construct an outdoor concessions stand and toilets to accommodate students and the community during softball, baseball and track events.
- Demolish the old maintenance building and construct a new outdoor recreation space with basketball hoops and student areas.
- Modernize and expand the Kitchen to allow for lunch time efficiency and reduce food waste.
- Provide acoustical sound treatment in the existing music room and Cafetorium to improve learning and performance characteristics.
- Remodel the existing library into a modernized learning environment.
   Improvements will include a student digital resource suite and new student spaces.
- Upgrade the existing boiler and HVAC systems to improve energy efficiency, district utility costs and provide improved thermal comfort.
- Expand the parking lot adjacent to the existing gym.

## **BOND GRAPHICS**

The drawings on the next pages graphically show areas of improvement outlined herein.





