



TEAMWORK FOR EXCELLENCE

P L A N O
Independent School District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEBRUARY 2, 2016

Plano ISD Board of Trustees calls school bond election

Plano, TX — February 2, 2016. At tonight's school board meeting, Plano ISD trustees agreed to include a bond proposal on Collin County's May 7 ballot. Collin County voters residing within the Plano ISD attendance zone will be asked to consider a single proposition to provide \$481 million toward eight major project areas **with no increase to the tax rate.**

Project Area	Amount
1. District-Wide Renovations and Upgrades	\$209,970,000
2. Fine Arts	\$94,305,000
3. Technology	\$73,935,000
4. Expanding Classroom and Program Capacity	\$50,675,000
5. Early Childhood Education	\$21,285,000
6. Safety and Security	\$12,270,000
7. Buses	\$9,720,000
8. Athletics	\$8,840,000
	\$481,000,000

Desiring strong input from stakeholders, the Plano ISD Board of Trustees appointed a Facilities and Technology Task Force in August 2015, an advisory committee comprising citizens, business leaders, parents, school administrators and teachers. The task force met eight times from September to January in order to evaluate and prioritize the district's needs. Their research included garnering input from the community during a public hearing in December, as well as through public input sessions during regular school board meetings. After five months of study and public input, the task force made final recommendations to school trustees which are included in this bond proposal.

If approved, all Plano ISD campuses will benefit from district-wide renovations and facility upgrades, as well as technology upgrades. Specific proposed uses include:

- **District-Wide Renovations and Upgrades:** Major renovations at Shepton High School and Robinson Middle School. Refurbishments at Barksdale, Gulledge, Haggar, Haun, Miller and Skaggs Elementary Schools, Bowman and Wilson Middle Schools and Jasper and Williams High Schools. The bond proposal also addresses needs for schools and service facilities such as carpet and air-conditioning equipment, updating fire alarms or energy management systems and site improvements for parking or fire lanes.
- **Fine Arts:** With more than 60% of Plano ISD secondary students participating in fine arts programs, funding includes an auditorium for large and acoustically appropriate performances. Currently, the district spends in excess of \$45,000 annually to rent space for district performances. The bond package would allow for construction of a Plano ISD performing arts and multipurpose facility to be used for performances by all fine arts programs in the school district. Other fine arts projects include additions to current campus-based fine arts facilities to increase classroom size, improve space functionality, increase storage capability and make dance floor improvements.

- **Technology:** The district's current operating budget cannot support large technology purchases without taking dollars away from other instructional programs. This bond package includes district-wide improvements to technology infrastructure and additional equipment to support classroom technologies that help maintain the district's 2013-16 Technology Plan. The technology portion of the bonds is repaid over a shorter term (5 years) than the other projects.
- **Expanding Classroom and Program Capacity:** Funding would include purchasing property and constructing new facilities that will increase classroom capacity across the school district and expand program offerings for students and teachers.
- **Early Childhood Education:** As studies have shown that preschool education increases the academic success of students, the bond includes plans for a fourth early childhood center in conjunction with planned expansion of pre-k opportunities.
- **Safety and Security:** District-wide upgrades and improvements would include access control systems; security camera systems; emergency communication equipment; campus panic alarms; security upgrades for senior high schools; and safety upgrades for Clark Stadium.
- **New Buses:** Funding would be allocated to replace 90 buses as they reach the end of their fifteen-year useful life.
- **Athletics:** Proposed upgrades to athletic facilities include replacing artificial turf at Clark Stadium and the three senior high school indoor practice facilities, adding artificial turf at the Clark Triple Fields, Williams High School Field and the three senior high school outdoor practice fields, replacing the scoreboard at Clark Stadium, adding locker rooms on the home and visitor sides of Clark East Field, a locker room renovation at Plano East Senior High School and softball and baseball bleacher enhancements/expansions.

"It has been eight years since the school district has held a bond issue to address major facilities and technology needs," said Nancy Humphrey, school board president. "The 2008 bond election included \$490 million toward several major projects and was initially planned to provide for capital needs through 2012. Its lifespan is twice what was originally intended, and now voters will have the opportunity to consider our district's needs."

The Plano ISD Board of Trustees is committed to providing state-of-the-art facilities and leading edge technology resources for all students, while remaining good stewards of taxpayer dollars. Plano ISD's bond ratings are Aaa/AA+, the highest ratings assigned to Texas school districts by Moody's and Standard & Poor's rating agencies. All items promised in the 2008 bond have been addressed and/or are in progress. For 13 consecutive years, Plano ISD has earned the highest rating of "Superior Achievement" in the state's School FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) program. This rating shows that Plano ISD's schools are accountable not only for student learning, but also for achieving results cost effectively and efficiently. The report is based on staff, student and budget data that the financial services team submits annually to the Texas Education Agency.

For 32 consecutive years, Plano ISD has also earned the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. Plano ISD's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has been judged each year by an impartial panel to meet high standards, including demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure to clearly communicate the school district's financial story. The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental financial reporting and accounting. Its attainment represents a significant achievement by government and its management.

Due to the district's strong fiscal management practices, Plano ISD has been able to maintain the second-lowest property tax rate among Collin County school districts, which will remain unchanged if voters approve this bond proposal. Because payments on existing debt are declining as old debt is being paid off, the school district can issue these new bonds without a tax rate increase, based on current interest and tax base growth models.

Voters will decide May 7 whether to approve Plano ISD's \$481 million proposal. The last day to register to vote for the May 7, 2016 election is Thursday, April 7. Early voting is April 25-30 and May 2-3. The ballot will allow voters to vote "for" or "against" the following measure:

"THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$481,000,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, ACQUISITION AND EQUIPMENT OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS, THE PURCHASE OF NECESSARY SITES FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND THE PURCHASE OF NEW SCHOOL BUSES AND THE LEVYING OF THE TAX IN PAYMENT THEREOF"

Visit the district website at www.pisd.edu/2016bond for more information.

About Plano Independent School District

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) (www.pisd.edu) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for each student. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs more than 6,500 staff members who serve more than 55,000 students in 72 schools and 11 service facilities. Plano ISD schools empower students to be able to adapt to new learning and career opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be disciplined and creative in their thinking.

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