



CASSIA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 151

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Cassia County's Board of Trustees have passed a resolution calling for a facilities bond election on March 12, 2019 for the amount of \$56.7 million for the term of 20 years. After more than a year's investigation, that was initiated by a citizen's facility committee chaired by John Evans, Jr., the Board has chosen to present a school bond for community consideration. The public vote was taken at their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, December 20.

Eighteen months ago a community group approached the Board requesting the ability to investigate facility needs in light of significant growth to the county. The committee worked independently of the Board and presented their recommendations in July. Once accepted, the Board underwent their own review and ultimately concluded that a construction bond was warranted. Both committee and Board utilized district and county data, two architectural firms, a construction management team and information from the 2015 school bond.

The bond can be summarized by the following categories:

- Growth 53%
- HVAC upgrades 16%
- Maintenance 14%
- Contingency 8%
- Workforce Development (tech center improvements) 7%
- Operational Efficiencies 2%

Growth in the district has been driven by significant industry development. To highlight growth, Burley High School's current enrollment of 900 students will reach 1200 students in 3 years. Industry growth has also placed a greater emphasis on our regional technical center.

John Evans Jr., President and CEO of DL Evans Bank, who served as chair of the citizen's school bond committee, thanked the committee members "for their time, effort, and advice for improvements that are needed at our school facilities in Cassia County. The population growth in Cassia County is causing the District to remodel, upgrade, and repair existing facilities to meet the needs of our students, teachers, and citizens." He told the Board that he is in "full support of the School Board of Trustees and I recommend that we go forward with the passage of a new school bond election in 2019. There is nothing more important than to provide our area students with a great education, and adequate school facilities to meet their needs are a must."

Superintendent, Dr. James Shank confirmed that growth and expansion are impacting daily operations, adding that "we can't afford to do nothing. Jobs are being created, homes are being filled and schools have needs."

Patrons can expect a full presentation of facility projects, tax impacts and timelines in the coming weeks. Preliminary information is available immediately on Cassia's website. More information will be added to provide voters with needed facts leading up to a March election.