

BALLOT ISSUE 3D

The Road to the 2016 Bond Proposal

The growing needs of the Five Star District are no secret. Limited funding has challenged the ability to address overcrowding and repair aging buildings to ensure students learn in comfortable, safe and dry learning environments. As a result, the district set out on a year-long community engagement process to best prioritize and address these needs.



A number of schools have deteriorated roof decks and mechanical units.



Rusted building structure steel in the crawlspace of a school.



Mobile classrooms at Meridian Elementary to relieve overcrowding.



Deteriorating sewer lines plague a number of our schools.



Smoke tests are done to find failing sewer lines in need of repair.



Renovation at Stukeley Elementary as part of their security upgrade work.

Conducted school walkthroughs

- Facilities team walked schools alongside principals to address needed investments.

Visited schools with the Five Star Leadership Academy

- Parents and community members went on tours of schools to learn more about school-specific facility needs.

Engaged the community on its values and priorities

- Online survey to parents on priorities for their schools.
- Telephone town hall.

"The maintenance of the schools is very important to make sure our children have a safe and comfortable learning environment. That should be a main priority for the district" – Survey participant

- Superintendent Chris Gdowski makes his recommendation to the Board of Education for a \$350 million bond proposal.

AGING BUILDINGS

Nearly half of the bond addresses the natural aging of our buildings, as well as renovating arts, theater, music and physical education spaces.

OVERCROWDING

About a third of the bond addresses overcrowding by building a new school to meet community growth and constructing additions at schools.

SAFETY & SECURITY

The bond invests in safety systems such as upgraded security cameras, consistent security card access and enhanced emergency communications.

CLASSROOM NEEDS

The bond provides every school with funding for specific instructional upgrades that meet unique learning needs, such as furniture, technology, space modifications, safety & security upgrades and specials/electives.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The bond provides building spaces for new learning opportunities to meet the demand for career and technical education, as well as early childhood education.

TECHNOLOGY

The bond updates critical communication systems, maintains reliable internet access and enhances online learning opportunities for students at all schools.

SEPTEMBER 2015

FEBRUARY 2016

MARCH 2016

APRIL 2016

MAY 2016

JUNE 2016

JULY 2016

AUGUST 2016

Established Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LRPAC)

- Comprised of parents, community members and school staff, they spent the year reviewing and prioritizing the district's immediate and longer-term needs.

- Held funding challenges conversations at school staff and PTO/A meetings.

- Launched Funding 101 website to explain funding challenges and myths.

- LRPAC presented recommendation to Superintendent Chris Gdowski and the Board of Education.

- Facility scorecards were made available providing a snapshot of their neighborhood or child's school building - what is in good shape and what needs improving.

- Launched "Did You Know..." social media campaign.

Launched bond informational pieces for community

- "The Road to the 2016 Bond" publication
- Bond webpages
- Community-wide and school investment flyers available at Back to School nights

Board of Education Meeting

- Board of Education approved placement of bond on the November ballot.

On Aug. 24, 2016, the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education approved a resolution to place a \$350 million bond on the November 2016 ballot with NO TAX RATE INCREASE to residents because the district has paid down and refinanced existing debt.

"This bond isn't only important for our kids now, but also for those that are coming up. How can we expect our students to be the best they can if we don't do our best to support them?"

– Rocky Top Middle School parent

"When Rocky Top was built 13 years ago, we were told it was a mega-middle school with a capacity of 1,250 – today we welcomed 1,369 6th, 7th and 8th graders and we will easily top 1,400 in the coming weeks as they finish buildings in our neighborhood."

– Marie Perez
math learning specialist at Rocky Top Middle School

"Every success I have is because of Bollman Tech. There's no doubt in my mind that these careers that we're setting up for these young people are directly going to impact everyone in this community - we can't get our cars fixed, or our HVACs repaired or our houses built if there is no one to do that and if there are no schools for those trades, how are they supposed to learn."

– Bollman Technical Education Center Alum

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Career and technical education opportunities prepare students for in-demand careers in fields such as skilled trades, technology services, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, etc.

OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS

1,213 students TURNED AWAY = **25%** of all students who applied
MISSED OPPORTUNITIES due to lack of space



"This is a tremendous opportunity for our students and community. What we've done as far as transparency in preparing for this bond and explaining school funding and our needs puts us in a great position as a trusted school district and employer in our community. I believe we have the support for this initiative and I'm proud to vote yes to place this issue on the ballot."

– Kathy Plomer,
president of the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education