

## **FAQs - College Community Schools March 3, 2020 Bond Referendum**

### **Why is the bond issue needed?**

Our enrollment is outgrowing our current facilities. Prairie Point is about 50 students over capacity. By moving the 9th graders back to Prairie Creek, they will have access to resources in the high school such as CTE, etc. In addition, Prairie Creek was not built for 5th and 6th graders, therefore is not the ideal learning environment for those students.

### **Was this part of the 10-year facilities plan?**

**Yes**, these proposed projects are the second phase of the 10 year facilities plan.

### **If approved when would the building be completed and how will the process look for the 5th and 6th graders and the 9th graders?**

We are anticipating one year of site preparation and approximately two years to build the building. Renovation on the current Prairie Creek would begin as soon as possible after students were moved.

### **The new 5/6 building will be located just south of Point. Why this location?**

Point and Creek are on the same schedule so having these buildings next to each other reduces congestion on campus and improves traffic flow.

### **Will this raise my taxes?**

**NO!** Because of our increasing property valuations, we are able to hold the tax levy stable. Some pieces of our tax levy, such as General Fund, are decreasing due to increased valuation. This allows us to increase the Debt Service portion without the overall levy increasing. Taxes will not increase if the vote passes but also won't decrease if the vote fails.

### **What would happen if the bond vote fails?**

If the vote fails, we cannot bring it back to the voters until March of 2021 per recent revisions to Iowa Code.

### **Are there satellite voting opportunities?**

**Yes**, satellite voting will be available on Friday, February 14 at Prairie High School in the main entrance from 2:00 – 9:00 PM

### **Will Absentee Ballots be available?**

Eligible voters in the College Community School District may vote via absentee ballot prior to March 2, 2020. Ballots must be requested from your county auditor by 10 days prior to the election. The District plans to hold a satellite vote on Friday, February 14, 2020, in which eligible voters of Linn County may vote. Representatives from the Johnson and Benton County auditor's offices will distribute absentee ballot applications to residents in those counties.

### **What is causing the growth at College Community?**

Prairie continues to be one of the fastest growing districts in the state. Many factors contribute to that growth. The district's location in the Eastern Iowa Corridor and the schools proximity to both Cedar Rapids and Iowa City helps promote both commercial

and residential growth, as does the district's reputation for quality education. Many families choose to locate within the District because of the schools and ideal location.

\* The College Community Schools enlisted the services of a demographic firm, RSP and Associates, to ensure that the anticipated growth at the beginning of the 10-year plan is still anticipated prior to taking the 5 / 6 building and 9th grade relocation to the voters. This firm's analysis indicated that growth will continue to be between 50 and 70 students per year, which necessitates additional facilities to manage continued growth.

### **MORE QUESTIONS?**

If you have additional questions regarding the March 3 bond referendum that have not been answered, please email Steve Doser, Community Relations Director at College Community Schools at **[sdoser@crprairiepride](mailto:sdoser@crprairiepride)**.

*Updated: January 20, 2020*