Why are we voting on March 3, 2020?

College Community School District is a growing district. Enrollment at all grade levels continues to outgrow current facilities. The graduating class of 2015 had 321 students. In 2020, approximately 393 seniors will graduate. Growth is spread throughout all grades. This year, each grade level 3rd through 12th has grown by 40 or more students since kindergarten. Throughout the district, nine grade levels currently have 400 or more students.

What will the bond pay for?

Voter approval will provide $54 million of the total $75 million needed for this phase of the district’s 10-Year Facilities Plan, which was authored by the Facilities Advisory Committee of parents, volunteers, teachers, and administrators, and adopted by the school board in 2014. The remainder of the project will be funded using the 1-cent sales tax (SAVE) revenue, approved by voters through the revenue purpose statement in November 2019. This phase of the plan includes a new 5/6 building as well as significant renovations to Prairie Creek for 9th graders and the Delta program. The first phase of the 10-Year Facilities Plan has alleviated overcrowding at Prairie High School and updated our three oldest elementary schools.

10-YEAR FACILITIES PLAN

- **PHASE I**
  - Renovated high school music rehearsal spaces, cafeteria, weight & locker rooms, science classrooms.
  - New high school commons and administrative offices.
  - Updates and renovations to high school classrooms and media center.
  - Updates to district’s three oldest elementary schools.

- **PHASE II**
  - New 5/6 building south of Prairie Point.
  - Significant renovations to Prairie Creek for 9th grade and other district programs, including a new walkway connection to the high school.

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learn more: prairiepride.org/bondvote2020
How will the bond vote affect my taxes?

IT WON’T. The district will maintain the current tax rate of $16.61 regardless of the outcome of the vote. We can do this because both our taxable valuation and enrollment are steadily increasing. Our growth is not only in student enrollment but also in the commercial and residential tax base which allows us to keep the tax rate stable. Additionally, some portions of the tax levy are projected to decrease which allows for the general obligation bonds to be sold without an overall increase in taxes. We are able to pay off debt more quickly as well as fund these additional projects to fulfill the promise of the 10-Year Facilities Plan.

How do my taxes compare to other corridor districts?

After this vote, taxes will remain below the corridor average. As Prairie has grown and expanded, the district’s tax rate has remained stable over the past 10 years. The College Community School District school board has been fiscally proactive and conservative by restructuring bond debt and paying off debt as well as utilizing SAVE funds. As a result, the March 3, 2020 vote will not increase taxes. In fact, regardless of the outcome of the vote, taxes in our district will remain the same.
Phase II of the district’s 10-Year Facilities Plan is two fold. First is the construction of a building for 5th and 6th grade. Second, renovations at Prairie Creek — including a walkway addition to the high school — will create an ideal facility for 9th grade. As a result, 7th and 8th grade students will have adequate space at Prairie Point with room for growth. College Community’s central campus is a point of pride for our district. **This plan expands the central campus by building on our success and creating space for all.**

**PRAIRIE CREEK RENOVATIONS**

- Renovations to accommodate 9th grade and Delta
- Separate secure entries for each program
- Maximize resources to expand opportunities for all students
- Walkway connection to the high school for 9th grade
- Interior renovations including paint, flooring, and ceiling
- Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades

**NEW 5/6 BUILDING**

- 180,000 square feet designed specifically for 5th and 6th grade
- Eight neighborhoods with six classrooms, restrooms, and lockers for 120 students each
- Two gyms, art, music, and media center
- Separate, secure entrances for activities and academics
- Expands central campus south of Prairie Point
How do I vote?

**ABSENTEE & SATELLITE**

Eligible voters of the College Community School District may vote via absentee ballot prior to March 3, 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 February 14, 2020, in which eligible voters of Linn County may vote. Representatives from the Johnson and Benton County auditor’s office will distribute absentee ballot applications to residents of those counties.

**ELECTION DAY: MARCH 3, 2020**

On election day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., eligible voters may vote at the following locations depending on their county of residence:

**LINN COUNTY**
College Community School District — District Office
Ely Public Library
Fairfax Public Library

**JOHNSON COUNTY**
Shueyville Community Center
Swisher Library
Solon Library

**BENTON COUNTY**
Walford Community Center

*Johnson County residents may only vote at their general election polling location

**Bond language:** Shall the Board of Directors of the College Community School District in the Counties of Benton, Linn, and Johnson, State of Iowa, be authorized to contract indebtedness and issue General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed $54,000,000 to be used together with sales tax revenues to provide funds to build, furnish, and equip a new 5th/6th grade building and improve the site therefor, and to improve, repair, remodel, and equip the current Prairie Creek building to serve 9th grade students, including a walkway addition connecting to Prairie High and related site improvements?