

The Weekly Comet

From Dr. Tom Meyer, Superintendent of the Bellevue Community School District

Believe In The Blue! Believe In Bellevue!

Bellevue school board calls special election for March 7

A quick update for everyone on a recent action by the Bellevue CSD Board of Education on January 9.

As part of their regular business Monday night, the Bellevue Community School District board of education officially called a special election to partially fund a long-range phased facilities plan that will provide equitable educational spaces for Bellevue’s youngest learners.

Voters will be asked to consider a question that would allow the district to levy additional property taxes to pay for \$13.1 million in a general obligation bond. The entire press release is on the following page, but more information will be shared each week in “The Weekly Comet” and can be found on the Bellevue Community School District website at the following link: <http://www.bellevue.k12.wa.us/bondlandingpage>

Why are we Voting? What’s the Plan?

Bellevue's 175-year-old elementary school is **out of space and time**. In order to provide equitable educational spaces for Bellevue's youngest learners, the Bellevue Community School District is asking voters to approve a \$13.1 million general obligation bond during a special election on **March 7, 2023**.

Bellevue Community School District
BOND VOTE
Tuesday, March 7, 2023

WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME?
Following the last two bond votes, the district and community-based committees went back to the drawing board to come up with a plan that responded to community concerns. The final plan is a phased approach that costs less (despite current inflation) and will impact property taxes less.

+ Phased Approach

Phase 1 (Bond Referendum)

- PK-2 stays in the existing elementary school
- 3-5 moves to a new building at the middle/high school site

Phase 2 (District-Funded)

- Renovations and improvements to the high schools fine arts and CTE spaces
- Other facility projects to address space needs based on enrollment, including a potential addition to the 3-5 building for PK-2

+ Lower project cost

- \$13.1 million compared to \$16 million (2018) and \$14.5 million (2019)

+ Less property tax impact

- \$2.70 per \$1,000 of property tax valuation compared to \$4.05 (2018) and \$3.75 (2019)
- The project cost will be supplemented by PPEL and SAVE funds which will not raise property taxes additionally.

Upcoming Events, Early Dismissals, and "No School" Days

- January 16 - No School for Students - MLK Day; Teacher Professional Learning
- January 18 - Comet Athletic Booster Meeting - 6:00 in the Bellevue MS/HS Board Room
- January 25 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
- February 8 - 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Learning
- February 20 - No School President's Day
- March 8 & 9 - Parent/Teacher Conferences; 2-Hour Early Dismissal
- March 10 - No School

Press Release

Bellevue school board calls special election for March 7

Construction of new 3-5 building to be partially funded by general obligation bond

BELLEVUE – As part of their regular business Monday night, the Bellevue Community School District board of education officially called a special election to partially fund a long-range phased facilities plan that will provide equitable educational spaces for Bellevue’s youngest learners.

As a result of the action, which is a direct result of a community petition signed by community members and presented to the board, a vote will be held on March 7, 2023. Voters will be asked to consider a question that would allow the district to levy additional property taxes to pay for \$13.1 million in a general obligation bond.

This proposal was presented to the district by a community-based committee of approximately 50 community members that worked with the district. The plan reflects concerns shared by the community following past bond votes. The phased approach costs less (despite current inflation) and will also lessen the impact on property taxes.

The \$13.1 million bond, which requires voter approval, will partially fund phase 1 of a five-year facility master plan. The first phase includes a new building at the middle/high school campus for third through fifth grade. The remainder of the project will be paid for using a combination of district PPEL and SAVE funds. PreK through second grade will remain at the current elementary school for the immediate future where they will have much-needed additional space once the 3-5 students are relocated.

Phase 2 will include renovations and improvements to the high school’s fine arts and CTE (Career and Technical Education) spaces and/or other facility projects to address space needs based on enrollment, including a potential addition to the 3-5 building for PK-2. Phase 2 will be funded using state sales tax revenues and will not affect property taxes.

For more information about the bond, go to <https://www.bellevue.k12.ia.us/bondlandingpage>. The district also plans to hold a community open house at the existing elementary school in February.

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Student Activities

Reading in 1st grade, students involved in a wrestling meet at Bellevue on Tuesday night, and Robert Paulsen (the new Comet boys basketball single-game scoring leaders with 44 points on Saturday vs West Branch in Cedar Rapids), and the Comet Marching Band.



