

To the Parents and Patrons of Latta Schools:

In July, the Latta Board of Education voted to call a bond election in order to construct a new elementary school including driveways and parking, build a new agriculture building, make safety improvements to the existing buildings and to repair the roof of the current elementary building. The decision to call the election was made following a recommendation by a steering committee consisting of parents, patrons, faculty and administration.

All patrons of Latta School and members of the Latta Community are invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the upcoming bond election. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 27th in the Latta Auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

As Latta School approaches its 100th anniversary, we are growing at a fast pace. New houses are being constructed in multiple additions in our district and more are being planned. Since 2005 our school has grown from 688 students to 915 in 2019. At our current rate of growth, our district will surpass 1000 students in a few years. Below is a list of what will be accomplished if the patrons of our school district vote to support the passage of the bond:

1. A new elementary will be constructed. This will provide room for future growth and give our youngest students safe access to physical education, music, the cafeteria, the library and a storm shelter, without ever having to exit the new elementary building.
2. Driveways and parking for the new buildings will be constructed so that traffic congestion from the intersection of CR 1560 and CR 3540 will be greatly alleviated. This will improve safety around the school campus and in the neighborhood.
3. Construction of the new elementary will alleviate overcrowding in our district's only cafeteria and in the current elementary storm shelter. It will also reduce the length of the lunch period and make it more pleasant for students. Lunch time is currently from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in order to serve all students.
4. Safety improvements will be made to existing main buildings. Secure waiting areas will be constructed in these buildings in order to improve school security.
5. The existing elementary will be utilized as a middle school once the new elementary is constructed. This will make more classrooms available for secondary students and help the district to reduce class size in the upper grades over time.
6. A new vocational agriculture building will be constructed. Our current facility was purchased in used condition in the 1970's. It was disassembled at another site and then reassembled on our campus. Enrollment in agriculture has increased from 25-30 students in 2013 to 85 students pre-enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year.
7. Repairs will be made to the existing elementary roof. This roof has multiple leaks and repairing it will keep the building in good condition so that it may serve the district well for many years to come.

As you can see from the list above, there are many ways as to how the district will benefit from the proposed improvements. If you have any questions about this proposal, please call me at 332-2092.

Sincerely,

Cliff Johnson
Superintendent