

## ANDERSON SCHOOL 2019 BOND QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### **WHAT IS THE AGE OF THE CURRENT FACILITY?**

The original “brown” school was built in 1972 with additions in 1980, 1985, 1986, and 1990. This part of the facility that houses 76% percent of our students/classes will be 30-48 years old next summer. The newest section of the facility was constructed in 2001. The 2001 addition includes the 7th and 8th grade classrooms, library, music room, gymnasium, and kitchen. A recent remodel of the front entryway was completed in 2013 to improve safety and security. This was funded by utilization of the Building Reserve Fund and community fundraising.

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### **WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE CURRENT FACILITY?**

The school in total, including the gym, is approximately 33,000 square feet. The “old” part of the school is approximately 16,000 square feet. The Kindergarten through 6th grade classrooms are in the older section of the school (30-48 years old). Having 76% of instructional space and/or students in the oldest part of the building creates a significant challenge to any construction or remodeling in that section of the building.

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### **WHY NOT JUST FIX THE OLD PART OF THE BUILDING (BROWN PORTION)? WOULDN'T THAT COST LESS MONEY AND TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING?**

The school in total, including the gym, is approximately 28,000 square feet. The “old” part of the school requires approximately 1.5 million dollars to fix the approximate 16,000 square foot building as well as an additional cost of temporary classrooms (mobiles) for \$300,000-\$500,000. These improvements are just to fix the deficiencies such as siding, windows, ventilation, fire alarm, accessibility issues, an inadequate number of toilets, and replacement of a deteriorating partial wood foundation. The 1.5 million would not improve physical class sizes, replace flooring, improve the bathrooms, provide flexible teaching spaces, increase the square footage, and more. The trustees have considered this option and do not see it as a long term fix and does not address the third goal of the Capital Project which is to improve classrooms and provide more opportunities for 21st century learning. Additionally, the District would need to find a place to house the 76% of students during the construction phase. The idea of having the majority of students displaced in mobiles for a school year as well as the cost of alternate classrooms is not ideal.

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## **WHAT IS THE PROJECTED GROWTH OF THE DISTRICT? HOW BIG COULD THE SCHOOL GET IN THE NEAR FUTURE? HOW FAST IS THE DISTRICT GROWING?**

Following a demographic study completed in April of 2019 we do not believe that Anderson School will ever be a 300+ student school. Due to the fact that sewer and water has not reached our district (and there are no current plans to do so anytime soon) growth and housing projects have been delayed in comparison to areas such as Four Corners. Based on the information we have right now we believe: 1) growth in the District is inevitable based on the trends in Bozeman/Gallatin County 2) our school could expect to reach an overall enrollment of around 250 students within the District. While the current project has three goals to address our current needs the project is also intended to be the long term fix for many years. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read the Demographic Review completed in April of 2019.

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## **HOW HAS THE DISTRICT BEEN FUNDING REPAIRS & OPERATIONAL MAINTENANCE NEEDS?**

In the last 5 years the District has spent approximately \$250,000 on corrective maintenance, large scale repairs, accessibility improvements, and other necessary improvements. The District has utilized the General Fund and sought out small grants to help pay for these expenses so that the Building Reserve could grow for a future boiler purchase and also invest into the planning for a future larger facility project. Over the last 5 years the District often utilized a combination of the Building Reserve funds with the General Fund for many necessary fixes and significant purchases. Approximately \$80,000 of the Building Reserve was committed in 2018 into the installment of 2 new boilers at the school to replace a nearly 20 year old boiler that continued to fail each year. The new boilers ensured heat in the building this past winter for the first time in over 5 years. However, the boiler replacement did not address the continued ventilation and building temperature issues. Below is an approximate breakdown of the facility expenses over the last 5 years:

Safety and Security: %5

Accessibility: %30

Repairs: %50

General Maintenance: 15%

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### **WHAT IS THE BUILDING RESERVE FUND?**

The District has been utilizing a 5 year voted levy called the Building Reserve. This was a voted levy for \$25,000 each year. This fund is designated to specifically addresses ongoing operational and maintenance needs of the district. In 2014 the Trustees and administration initiated a greater commitment to build up the Building Reserve for a large scale system replacement or a capital project. For a small district with many facility needs this is a tenuous process and requires the District to try to fix as much as we can while paying for routine and corrective maintenance. Over the last 5 years the District often utilized a combination of the Building Reserve Fund with the General Fund for many necessary fixes and large purchases. The Building Reserve supported the replacement of our failing boiler this past year and has funded the necessary planning costs of our current Bond project.

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### **WHAT ARE THE DISTRICT BOUNDARIES?**

Anderson School is one of the smallest Districts in regards to physical size or boundaries. The majority of students in the District are living in Greenhills Ranch, Hyalite Foothills, Hyalite Meadows, Forest Creek, and Cayuse Trail. The District is *approximately* 3 miles x 3 miles in size. For a map of the boundaries [CLICK HERE](#).

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### **WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT PLAN?**

Please review our Bond pamphlet with information on why as well as what is included in our design. Please [CLICK HERE](#).

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### **HOW DID THE DISTRICT GET TO THIS POINT?**

#### **WHAT HAS THE PLANNING PROCESS LOOKED LIKE?**

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for a timeline of “How we got to our 2019 Bond Project.”

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### **ARE THERE OTHER FUNDING MECHANISMS FOR THE DISTRICT TO USE TO FUND THIS PROJECT AND OTHER RELATED COSTS?**

The district continues to seek out improvements to the educational facility that includes upgrades for ADA compliance, building security, fitness trails, and occupancy sensors for lighting. In 2015 a Quality Schools Grant was submitted in hopes to secure over \$200,000 in funding to replace all aging systems and improve air quality in the classrooms. Over 50 schools submitted applications and NO SCHOOLS were granted any money. The projects were not funded. ([CLICK HERE](#) to view the submitted grant) The District is applying for a Department of

Commerce Grant (Due September 21st, 2019) to seek funding for the \$350,000 needed to replace our inadequate septic system. No matter what happens with the Bond election the District will be required to replace the septic system that was just recently discovered in our investigative process to be highly inadequate for our size school and has no plans on file with the state or county. The process required with the state of Montana DEQ for approval is already underway for installation of an Advanced Treatment System.

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### **WHEN WOULD CONSTRUCTION BEGIN?**

If the bond were to pass construction on the new wing would begin in spring of 2020. The completion of the new instructional spaces would be spring of 2021. Demolition of the old building would soon follow and then the improvements to the outside/entry and parking lot would be completed. Students enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year would be starting the year in a new building!

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### **IS THE DISTRICT CONSIDERING LEED BUILDING CERTIFICATION AND / OR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY? ARE THOSE SOLAR PANELS ON THE ROOF OF THE SCHOOL?**

The facility committee has discussed numerous options to improve the energy efficiency and cost effective long term maintenance. Due to additional cost of LEED certification (estimated \$20,000), the district does not currently plan to seek certification through this process, but we do plan to engineer and build using the latest energy efficient practices. Yes, those are solar panels on the roof of the existing school. Unfortunately, engineering assessments have deemed them to be inoperable at this time. Should budget permit, we'll be looking at ways to put those panels back into operation. Beyond improving the environmental conditions within the school, however, alternative energy and LEED certification are not key objectives of this project.

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