

February 4, 2022

On February 2, the USD 448 Board of Education voted 7-0 to put the following bond project before the voters of this school district:

Shall Unified School District No. 448, McPherson County, Kansas (Inman), issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000, to pay the costs to: (a) construct, furnish and equip athletic improvements in the District, including facilities for football/track and field, baseball, softball, improve site drainage, improvements to address handicap access (Americans with Disabilities Act) and other code compliance challenges, and necessary demolition; and (b) make all other necessary improvements related thereto; all pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 10-101 *et seq.*, K.S.A. 25-2018(f), and K.S.A. 72-5457

The success of our district has always been built on the support of and input from our community. This bond project is no different, and the Board has very much appreciated the input we've received over the last several years. It was because of the input from stakeholders that the Board approved the scope and dollar figure on the ballot. The Board feels it is in the best interest of students, families and the community – now and in the future – to include all field sports facilities and not to exceed \$5 million. This plan addresses site drainage issues while providing our excellent football, track & field, baseball and softball athletes with facilities where they can be proud to play and host visiting teams.

The \$5 million bond will be paid over 15 years, which will overlap with an existing bond for USD 448. We feel it's vitally important for the community to understand that, after three years (2023-2025) when the current bond expires, the mill levy will return to a level that's *similar to* what it is now. So *for only three years*, the property tax increase on a \$150,000 home (median McPherson County home value) will be \$57.08/year, \$4.76/month and the property tax increase on a 160-acre piece of irrigated land will be \$74.81/year, \$6.23/month. These projections pertain only to the current debt service and the new debt service associated with the proposed \$5million school bond.

A special election has been called for May 3, 2022, to vote on this measure. Residents must be registered by April 12 to vote in this election; anyone already registered does not need to register again.

The Board will continue to invite public input throughout the next three months, and to seek guidance from all stakeholders throughout the design and pre-construction phases, should voters pass the bond. Watch the USD 448 website and Facebook page for information including dates, times and locations for public meetings.

Jodi Burge
Janell Harman
Jessica Schierling
Darren Schmidt
Lisa Thimmesch
Josiah Wuerffel