Why is the new elementary school being built in the current location versus across from the high school?

The prior bond committee researched this issue. The committee found safety factors, traffic congestion, and the cost to bring in utilities to the area across from the high school were the primary reasons to build on the current location.

What if the bond doesn’t pass? Can the district build it anyway using other financial means?

The district does not have the financial resources to build it on our own, without the state bond equalization. The state bond equalization is a program the state put in place to help meet their constitutional responsibility to provide adequate school facilities throughout Idaho. The state bond equalization will pay between 35% to 40% of the cost of the new elementary. In order to qualify for the state bond equalization, the district must run a bond for the new elementary. The district currently has the funds to pay for the part of the elementary not covered by the state bond equalization.

Will the new elementary school have an auditorium or gym?

The new elementary school will have a regular sized gym. The new elementary school will not have an auditorium.

Will the new elementary school have outside doors in each of the classrooms?

The new elementary school classrooms will not have outside doors.

Will the new elementary school be two stories?

No, the new elementary school will be one story. Please see the Design Link.

Will the new elementary school have dedicated “specials” rooms?

Yes, the new elementary school will have dedicated specials rooms including but not limited to computer lab, music room, gym for P.E., etc.
Will the lunchroom and the gym/activity room be the same room?

The lunchroom and gym/activity room will not be the same room. The lunchroom will be separate from the gym. This will allow for the gym to be used throughout the entire school day.

How many bathrooms will there be in the new elementary school?

The design for the new elementary school will meet current standards and guidelines. (New Elementary School Design)

Where will the playground be located at the new elementary school?

The playground at the new elementary school will be located behind the school. (New Elementary School Design)

Will the new elementary school have a bigger parking lot for teachers and visitors?

Yes, there will be more parking for teachers and visitors to the new elementary school. (New Elementary School Design)

Will the new elementary school have a computer lab?

Yes, the new elementary school will have a computer lab.

Will the new elementary school have all new furnishings or will the district use furnishings from the existing elementary school?

Furnishings from the current elementary school that are adequate will be used in the new elementary school. There will also be a line item on the new elementary school budget for FF&E (Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment).

What kind of security/safety measures will be in place in the new elementary school?

The new elementary school will be built to take advantage of current recommended safety features. These features will include but are not limited to locking doors, one main entrance requiring visitors and parents to check-in, and security cameras.
Will there be security cameras in the new elementary school?
Yes, there will be security cameras along with other safety measures in the new elementary school.

Will the new elementary school have a bell system?
Yes, the new elementary school will have a modern bell system.

Will the new elementary school have carpet in the classrooms?
The elementary classrooms are being designed by a group of teachers. Floor coverings as well as all other aspects of the design of the classroom will be created by this team of teachers.

Can the new elementary school be added onto easily for future growth?
The district is building the new elementary school to address future growth. The new elementary school is also designed in a manner to allow for expansion in the future.

How is the district going to finance the new elementary school?
The district will use current savings, combined with the state equalization program, to pay the school off in 3 years.

What is the bond equalization program?
The state bond equalization program was passed by the Idaho Legislature in 2002. The state bond equalization program is available to districts to help supplement the cost of school facilities. The current state bond equalization rate for our district is 38.92%. This means that when we make a bond payment, the state will pay 38.92% and the district is responsible for 61.08%. If the district does not run a bond, they cannot participate in this program and would have to pay the full cost of the new elementary school.

Is the state bond equalization percent the same every year?
No, the state bond equalization percent varies dependent on student enrollment numbers. Our district’s percentage has been between 35% and 41% during the past 5 years with a five year average of 36.30%.
Will the state bond equalization go away?

In visiting with our local legislators and the state department of education, they indicate there is no reason that the state bond equalization program will go away. The state bond equalization program was put in place to meet constitutional requirements the state has to help provide school facilities throughout Idaho.

Will the bond include an auditorium and field house?

Our district bonding capacity is just under 30 Million. The district cannot bond for the auditorium and field house in addition to the new elementary school at this time. Our plan is to address an auditorium and other additional projects when the current bond is paid off. We are going to include the baseball fields and softball fields in this bond, in order to take advantage of the bond equalization.

Where would you build an auditorium and field house?

If future bonds are approved, the district’s plan is to build the auditorium and field house on the property surrounding the high school.

Do you think the district should spend all our savings right now on the new elementary school?

The district is not spending all of their reserves to build the new elementary school. The district will continue to adhere to the guidelines of maintaining reserved amounts suggested by auditors. The district feels the new elementary school is the greatest need at this time.

Is the district going to provide an actual breakdown on how the money is being spent?

A bid package will include a detailed breakdown of what the project is going to cost. The bid package will be made available for the public.

Is there a timeline in place for the completion of the new elementary school?

The district plans to start building the new elementary school in April 2023 and move into the school in August 2024. (New Elementary School Timeline.)
Why is the district going to bid the project before the bond is voted on.

Biding the project ahead of time will allow the district to began the project immediately when the weather breaks next spring 2023. If the bond does not pass, all bids will be rejected. If the bond passes, this would allow the district to start building in a more timely schedule allowing the students to start the 2024/2025 school year in the new building.

Does the district have to spend all the money they bond for? What happens to the excess money? Can the excess money be spent on other projects?

The district can only spend the money on the specific projects that are bonded for. The district does not have to spend all the money they bond for. The excess bond funds can not be spent on other projects.

Who gets to design the new elementary school? What will the new elementary school look like?

The new elementary school is being designed by the architect the district used previously with input from all stakeholder groups, ie teachers, board members, and community members. (New Elementary School Design)