

## 2019 West ISD Bond Election FAQ

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With Early Voting for the 2019 West ISD Bond just around corner, David Truitt, Superintendent, has encouraged the community to seek facts and information about the Called Bond for a new West Elementary School via submitted questions from the last Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at the West Community Center. The following questions were asked by various community members and researched and answered with the assistance of Mr. Charles Mikeska, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Mrs. Carrie Kazda, West Elementary School Principal, Mrs. Amanda Adams, Executive Director for Teaching and Learning, Mrs. Carla Sykora, Director for Special Education, and other members of the Maintenance and Operations Team. Here are the 2019 Bond questions submitted through Tuesday, September 3, 2019:

- When is the next Town Hall Meeting? The next Town Hall Meeting is set for Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 6:00 PM at the West Community Center.
- What is the new Bond figure? The 2019 Bond amount is \$21,485,000.
- Why can't a new school be built on old Trojan Field? The current campus design plan for the new West Elementary campus requires 17 acres. The old Trojan Field site is just over 3 acres. Three acres is not enough space for the campus footprint, parking lots, drop-off and pick-up lanes, bus lanes, playground space, and service entrance for deliveries.
- Is the new land for the new West Elementary School going to be in the city of West? Currently, the land is not a part of the city of West. Mr. Truitt and Mr. Mikeska have met with Mayor Muska about the process of annexing the new site and his support of this request via the City Council at an upcoming meeting.
- Does the Bond include funds for utilities and other infrastructure? Yes, the Bond figure includes funds for utilities and other necessary infrastructure. Will this cost the city any additional money? No, it will not. What about the road to the school? All roads and parking areas on the new land will be funded by the Bond.
- What about the turn lanes on FM 2114? After talking with TxDOT, the District is responsible for constructing any turn, acceleration or deceleration lanes on 2114. Again, this work will be funded by the Bond.
- Will there be an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plan for the new school? The new school will be in full ADA compliance.
- Does the Bond include money for the purchase of the new land? The new land will be purchased from the District's Fund Balance. The Bond will not fund the purchase of the land. Will the land purchase cost the taxpayers any additional money? No new costs to the taxpayers will be accrued with the purchase of the land. How much will it cost and will it be completely purchased before Election Day? The cost of the land is public information, and the process to finalize the purchase of the land should be completed by Election Day.
- Can we get an idea of the current growth of the entire town population to help us understand the growth? West ISD encompasses 126.6 square miles. West ISD is not confined to just the city limits of West. The District is aware of several potential home projects in the works, including developers seeking information about all West ISD available land. Census data shows the city of West population has grown from 2,812 in

2010 to 2,966 in 2017. The website does not list figures for 2018. Just since school ended in May, 45 new students living within the West ISD attendance zone have enrolled at West Elementary School.

- What will be done with the old West Elementary School site and other West ISD sites not in use? This week, the West ISD Board of Trustees is set to approve a plan to remove the concrete work from some of the available land. All land will be placed on the market and sold for residential or commercial use. The combined land total (Intermediate Campus, old Track, old Baseball Field, old Trojan Field, and West Elementary Campus) is approximately 16 acres. The sale of these new lots would bring additional tax revenue for the City and the District; including possible new families to West ISD.
- Will the District be selective about who purchases the West ISD land you sell and/or put some restrictions on it? West ISD can list the property with restrictions on its use, but the property must go through the bidding process when placed on the market.
- When will WISD clean up the Intermediate School site and slab on Reagan Street? This work began last week.
- Is there asbestos in the current West Elementary School building? Per the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) report, there is minimal asbestos at the current campus.
- Why was the decision made to have a 2-story building for the new elementary school instead of a 1-story? This decision was based on several design plans the District reviewed with the new architect, Claycomb. The 2-story building will save money on both the design and construction costs, as it is more efficient to design and cheaper per square foot as opposed to a larger 1-story building. How will this work when the campus grows and classrooms need to be moved and reorganized? The design plan for the new West Elementary School campus has two locations on the plans to add additional classrooms and restrooms when needed. Will there ever be a situation when Prekindergarten students will be in upstairs classrooms? No, the Prekindergarten and other early childhood classrooms will remain downstairs.
- If the Bond doesn't pass, when would renovations of the old building take place and where would the kids go during that time? This is the challenge the District will face if the Bond does not pass. We could only work on renovations to the current campus based on the use and availability of surplus general funds. The students would have to be displaced to temporary buildings on the north playground while any work was being done on the campus.
- How many transfer students were added to the elementary campus this year? There are 20 new transfer students at West Elementary this year. Nine are the children of West ISD staff members, and 6 are awaiting their home arrangements within West ISD's attendance boundary to be finalized. The other 5 are siblings of other approved student transfers. Only three transfers were approved at the Prekindergarten level, and all three students were the children of West ISD staff members. At this time, West ISD is not accepting any new student transfers at West Elementary.
- How much will the Bond cost me and will the tax rate increase over time or stay the same? For a home value of \$100,000, the monthly tax impact would be \$11.42. For comparison purposes, this figure was \$19.16.
- Will the money from the sale of WISD properties go to pay down the Bond amount or will it be used to replenish the district account from the purchase of the new land? The first priority would be to pay back the District's Fund Balance for the purchase of the land. For the remaining funds, paying down the Bond is one way those funds could be utilized.

- Can you go over the existing Bond for the high school that was lost in the explosion and how much will be coming off and when? The 1998 and 2012 Bonds would be paid in full in August 2027, and at that point, the tax rate would adjust.
- When the Bond issue passes and the new school is under construction, when will it be completed? The new campus would be completed around January 2022. The students and staff would begin the 2022-2023 school year in August in the new building.
- What happens if the Bond doesn't pass? If the Bond does not pass, the District would look at adding temporary classroom buildings.
- Will the new school need an elevator for special education and disabled kids? Yes, the new school will be in full ADA compliance.
- Would the new campus help with parking at the current West Middle and High School events, such as football games? Yes, the new West Elementary School main parking lot would be around 200 feet from the new Trojan Field. Sidewalks would be added to connect the two campus complexes.

To submit additional questions, please email Mr. Truitt at [dtruitt@westisd.net](mailto:dtruitt@westisd.net) or call the West ISD Administration Building at (254) 981-2000. The next Town Hall Meeting is set for Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 6:00 PM at the West Community Center. All 2019 Bond Election FAQ information will be posted on the district website at [www.westisd.net](http://www.westisd.net). Please look for the information bar titled, "Strategic Planning and 2019 Bond."