

## AT A GLANCE: WHAT AND HOW MUCH

### Options

School board members will decide which, if any, of the following projects or parts of them to complete in the coming years:

- Build a 600-student elementary school for \$19.6 million. Options for the elementary school include demolishing it for about \$532,000 or refurbishing it for another building purpose for about \$5 million.
- Renovate and add on to the 63,373-square-foot elementary school for 490 students for about \$14 million
- Renovate and add on to the 67,000-square-foot intermediate school for about \$5.5 million
- Renovate and add on to the middle school and high school, which are connected, for about \$42.6 million
- Construct a new transportation center for about \$4.3 million and renovate and add on to the administration building for about \$1 million

### Explanation

Based on demographic studies, officials expect the district's enrollment to increase from about 1,898 students to 2,350 in 10 years, which would create need for more classrooms.

About \$7.5 million worth of new classrooms and computer labs are planned for the elementary, intermediate, middle and high schools under the plan.

The intermediate and middle schools need four to six more classrooms to handle growth, Superintendent John Reed said.

More classrooms will be needed at the elementary school if full-day kindergarten is implemented, Reed said. The school also has infrastructure, such as pipes and wiring, that will be renovated or replaced under the project, he said.

Each building was planned to meet enrollment projections in the 2017-18 school year. Most growth was predicted in the intermediate school level with 140 more third-, fourth- and fifth-graders enrolling in 10 years than the current enrollment of 420 students.

Community members have been involved in three community forums, where they voted on what they want to spend on the projects and which ones they think are most important.

Since November, administrators, teachers, staff and community members have talked about how to deal with aging facilities, a lack of space and growing enrollment in the district's four schools.

## WHAT THEY SAID

About 100 people attended a Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson school board meeting Tuesday night, and seven spoke or asked questions about proposals to build and renovate school buildings.

"There are a lot of people here in the community that's not against doing what needs to be done, but we don't need to build a Taj Mahal. We need to do something that's practical."

### Joe Sichtung

"Throughout my life I've been privileged to have 26 years of formal education, the first 12 of which were in a public school system. So I am a strong advocate for quality education.

"I was privileged and thrilled to see some of the expressions that were here this evening of the kind of quality teaching that is going on in our school system here.

"We've done a facilities study, but I think it's possibly been less than an inclusive study, unless there's been another study I don't know about, to begin to recognize the premier nature of our teachers. And that's that our teachers deserved to be paid at a premium salary.

"Other than the safety factors and the accommodation factors and that kind of thing, that needs to rank at the top of our priority, because it's our teachers that are quality education."

### Bill Weber

"I was at one of the community meetings, and I did not get the impression at all that anyone on the board or (Superintendent John) Reed wanted to build a Taj Mahal or keep up with Franklin or Center Grove or anyone else.

"Dr. Reed runs a very tight ship and is very, very careful with our money, and I know that working at a very large school district.

"I have two children in the high school. My daughter told me the other day at the beginning of the school day, there was a boy walking around the hallway and (Principal Andy) Cline approached him and said, 'What are you doing, you're expelled.' And he said, 'Oh, I just came to visit friends.'

"That made me uncomfortable as a parent to know that a child who was expelled from the school could just walk in and walk around the building. What if he was a disgruntled student or a disgruntled parent? Heaven forbid someone would bring a gun into the school and not be seen. These changes that they're talking about, I really feel desperately need to be made."

### Mary Lawrence

"I have worked with the board on the facilities committee, and it is not the board's intention to do anything that our community does not need. They do not want to compete with Franklin. They want to do what's in the best interest of our community that we can afford that will be a great advance for our students. We do need to look at our facilities, and they do need work; and it will benefit our children."

### Christina Carrico

"In doing your due diligence, I think it's important you take a real hard look at the enrollment forecast that was used to make these assessments. In looking in the past history of the school district, the school district has only grown like 11 percent total enrollment in the last 10 years. In the last five years, less than 4 percent.

"Yet the base forecast has almost a 9 percent increase in the first five years. So you're going from less than a 4 percent increase to a 9 percent increase and then to 22 percent over 10 years. So I think that's something you need to do your due diligence on.

"It seemed to me in every building there was added facilities or construction being added. I'm just saying if that's the start, it seems to me that you should be looking very carefully at the forecast. If you don't have a good enrollment forecast, I'm not sure what good any of it does."

### Leonard Stoeklein

"The property tax situation has gotten out of hand. We're all paying more than what our property is worth.

"I can't emphasize enough that we need to do what's necessary and not get carried away. I think you all know that. You all pay property taxes, and you all need to be mindful of this. There are a lot of angry people over property taxes.

"Try to be fair and try to be honest and try not to get carried away."

### Hal Bossingham

"I can think of no more important investment that we can make in our future than education. Obviously, the facilities and the improvements that are needed and proposed are a very important part of that educational process. You also have to balance that with what we can afford as a society.

"I come here to be educated, and I guess maybe the first step is finding out what's being proposed and why and how that's going to help out our students, teachers and community.

"But I do want to say that I can't think of any more important investment you can make than education."

### Gregg Bechtold

## WHAT PROPERTY TAXES YOU WILL OWE

The tax impact of Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson school projects will depend on how much money the school district borrows. Here are the projections of how much more various homeowners would pay each year for the different loan amounts:

Bond amount	If your property's worth ...			
	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$200,000
\$25 million	\$74	\$163	\$311	\$459
\$35 million	\$104	\$229	\$437	\$645
\$45 million	\$134	\$295	\$563	\$831
\$55 million	\$164	\$361	\$689	\$1,017
\$65 million	\$192	\$422	\$806	\$1,190

SOURCE: Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United School Corp.