

# ANSWERS FOR QUESTIONS

## from the June 24 public meeting at Bennet

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### **Question about Bennet school: Will the house to the south need to move?**

Only if needed to expand parking.

### **What will be done with the existing Pre-K building?**

The board has discussed using the building for after-school programs, or leasing it to a day care provider. The house also could be sold and moved. Many options are available, but no decision has been made.

### **Question about Bennet school: Does the cost range reflect the option of including mechanical (HVAC) improvements in this project vs. a separate contract?**

The cost range discussed includes several factors for consideration. The amount of deferred maintenance work, including HVAC improvements, on the facility that is undertaken as part of a potential bond issue is a factor.

### **Question about Option C: Can you access the new gym from the other gym?**

Yes, the new gym would be accessible from other existing gym

### **Question about Option C gym: Why is the seating on the north side, but the entrance is on the south side?**

Option C has exterior entry locations on the South and West. Access could be achieved from the East and North through the existing building. During layout, the stage and fly loft elements that are included with the gym seem to make more sense along an exterior wall rather than interior to the building.

### **What is the cost difference between each option for Palmyra?**

The design team has prepared more cost information. These cost options will be reviewed in further detail at Community Meeting #2, which will be held on July 16.

### **Can you give more information about the new stage area?**

More information and clearer graphics will be provided at the Community Meeting #2. However, please keep in mind that at this stage of planning, documents are schematic in nature. While these plans provide enough information for budgeting, they do not provide detail regarding all the elements of design. Detailed design will not begin until after a bond issue is passed.

### **Does the cost range for Palmyra, similar to the Bennet plan, include aspects of the building that need to be improved in either case, whether the bond passes or not?**

Yes. The cost range provided so far for each project includes systems upgrades that will need to be done, whether or not the school is renovated and expanded.

**What happens to school functions if you have to take the building down and complete renovations while school is in session?**

To the best of the design team's ability, construction will be phased so that it does not interfere with the busiest times of the school year. Some construction can take place over the summer, as well as during breaks in the academic calendar such as Spring Break. The design team has worked on numerous K-12 and collegiate renovation and expansion projects for buildings that remained open and operational during construction.

**Do we really need two gyms?**

Currently, some practices must be held very early in the morning or later after school because the gym is already occupied by another team or age group. In addition, some activities (such as wrestling) are held at Bennet Elementary due to lack of practice space. Having two gyms would provide more opportunity for more students to practice sports directly before or after school. The second gym also can be utilized by the fine arts department, other school group activities, and for community events.

**Are you basing your percentages on the pie charts on dollars spent as well as square footage?**

Yes. The estimates are based on a cost per square foot. We assigned the square footage associated with each specific type of use (Academics, Art, Athletics, Commons/Community, and Other) and analyzed the data to create the pie charts shown at Community Meeting #1.

**If you remove the gym, and if you remove the 3<sup>rd</sup> location (for athletic fields/track), what would be the percentage of total cost that would be reduced?**

Perhaps 15-18%, depending on the final total cost established by selection of the preferred option.

**What is the grade at the newly purchased site?**

Most of the site is fairly level. The north side has grade, but is amenable to creating a ballfield with berms.

**In the graphics you provided, how many parking spaces are shown on the new site?**

Approximately 225 spaces.

**What is the historic enrollment at Bennet?**

Since the addition of the Pre-School, Bennet enrollment has increased steadily. In 2007-08 it was 241, 2008-09 it was 225, in 2009-10 it was 238, in 2010-11 it was 242, in 2011-12 it was 253, in 2012-13 it was 253, in 2013-14 it was 274, and in 2014-15 it is projected to be 301.

**Can you explain funding/expenditures/state aid?**

District OR-1 utilizes several distinct funds to operate the school. They include

- the **GENERAL FUND**, which finances all facets of services rendered by the school district, is maintained by all operating school districts in the state. General Fund expenditures are limited by statute and the tax levy for this fund is restricted;
- the **DEPRECIATION FUND**, which is used to spread replacement costs over a period of years in order to avoid a disproportionate tax effort in a single year to meet such an expense. This fund is restricted by statute as part of the Allowable Reserve limitation. The Depreciation Fund is not specifically provided for in law; therefore, this fund shall be considered a component of the General Fund

- the **ACTIVITIES FUND**, which is required to account for the financial operations of quasi-independent student organizations, inter-school athletics, and other self-supporting or partially self-supporting school activities;
- the **LUNCH FUND**, which is required to accommodate the financial activities of all Nutrition Programs operated by the school district;
- the **BOND FUND**, which is used to record tax receipts, investment interest, and the payment of bond principal, interest, and other related costs (i.e. trustee fees). Proceeds from a bond issue shall be deposited into the Special Building Fund to be expended on the actual building project;
- the **BUILDING FUND**, which is utilized when a school board decides to acquire or improve sites and/or to erect, alter or improve buildings. The tax levy for this fund is restricted to \$0.14;
- the **STUDENT FEE FUND**, which is a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue into which all money collected from students pursuant to the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.
- the **EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND**, which may be established in order to specifically reserve General Fund money for the benefit of school district employees (unemployment compensation, early retirement, health insurance deductibles, etc.);
- the **QUALIFIED CAPITAL PUPRPOSE FUND**, which may be established for the removal of environmental hazards, the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers in school district buildings, the repayment of a qualified zone academy bond issued for a qualified capital purpose, modifications for life safety code violations, indoor air quality projects, and mold abatement and prevention projects. General Fund expenditures for the purpose of this fund are not allowable. Qualified Zone Academy Bonds, Qualified School Construction Bonds, and Build America Bonds are included in the Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund. *(Note this is not currently in use at District OR-1.)*
- **STATE AID**, which is based on a “needs vs. resources” formula that determines a District’s level of aid. District OR-1’s state aid appropriation has decreased significantly in recent years. Examples of needs include adjustments for poverty, limited English proficiency, student growth, distance education, transportation, etc. Examples of resources include allocated income tax funds, teacher education aid, instruction time aid, yield from local effort rate, net option funding, etc.

Historically, receipt of state aid has been as follows: 2007-08 received \$603,756; 2008-09 received \$585,425; 2009-10 received \$715,921; 2010-11 received \$628,107; 2011-12 received \$766,936; 2012-13 received \$803,939; 2013-14 received \$595,939; 2014-15 received \$437,447.

#### **What is the status of the property at 190<sup>th</sup> Street? What will happen to the proceeds if it is sold?**

The property has been offered for sale for several months. Some buyers expressed interested, but no acceptable offers have been received as of this date, July 2014. The sale proceeds will be returned to the general fund

### **More detail is needed about state aid and levy**

The Bond Fund shall be used to record tax receipts, investment interest, and the payment of bond principal, interest, and other related costs (i.e. trustee fees). Proceeds from a bond issue shall be deposited into the Special Building Fund to be expended on the actual building project. The bond is repaid entirely through property tax receipts.

State Aid is available for two years based on this formula: 1st year - District Basic Funding per formula student X (.20 X Estimated Student Capacity); 2<sup>nd</sup> year - District Basic Funding per formula student X (.10 X Estimated Student Capacity).

### **If we tear down the 1930s building (17,000 SF ) how is the lost space replaced? Do we end up with less academic space?**

The existing 1930's building houses approximately 5,960 square feet of educational space and 1,516 square feet of office / staff space. Of the 17,000 square feet 9,524 square feet is circulation and storage space (located on the upper floor level that is not handicap accessible). The Option C plan currently identifies that the majority of the 1930's educational space (SPED and Foreign Language) being relocated into existing classrooms spaces (Music, FCS, Math, AG) New space is being constructed for these functions located between the Gym spaces and along the East side of the existing IT area is 6,826 square feet, a net gain of approximately 900 SF.

### **Could classroom/academic space be built instead of a gym, where the 1930s building is now?**

Yes. Academic space could be built instead of a gym. However, scheduling difficulties indicate that a second gym would be beneficial to the district and allow more favorable practice times for all teams, and additional improved spaces for activities such as Fine Arts, such as a stage and backstage area.

### **With the additions, will the high school be large enough to accommodate today's first grade/adjacent grades?**

Yes, based on today's enrollment. Option C also is designed to accommodate a future addition if needed.

### **What will happen to District OR1 enrollment when they open new schools (i.e. Catholic school, LPS school)?**

We cannot accurately predict how Lincoln's growth to the east will affect our enrollment. We are aware of the pressure to make sure our facilities and our learning opportunities are similar in quality to those of our peer schools.

### **What neighboring school district and in the conference and surrounding areas have passed bond issues? What have they done to improve their school facilities? These include Malcolm, Norris, Syracuse, Freeman, etc.**

Freeman recently built a new gym and commons addition. We will continue to do research on the level of facilities, and impact on the tax levy, at neighboring districts. We feel this is important information to share at future Community Meetings.

# ANSWERS FOR QUESTIONS

## Asked at the June 25 public meeting at Palmyra

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**Comment: August 11 date needs to change –**

The August meeting has been changed to 7 p.m. August 6

**Comment: Bus lane needs to be on south side of gym. South option involves water main/fire dept issues as well as fiber optics**

We are aware of limitations of additions to the south which could add cost. This is one reason why many patrons seem to prefer Option C.

**Question on Option C: What would happen to the storage space that is now in the 3rd floor of 1930s bldg for the stage floor, props, lights, sound, equipment, etc.?**

This is a valid consideration. The design team will analyze this as they plan the theater room and backstage area

**Do the bleachers on the side next to the stage slide in?**

Yes, all bleachers are assumed to be telescoping.

**What will be done with the existing Pre-K building?**

The board has discussed using the building for after-school programs, or leasing it to a day care provider. The house also could be sold and moved. Many options are available, but no decision has been made on which will be pursued.

**With state aid being cut and other things being reduced, what percent of a new bond would be financed with real estate tax? Where is the money coming from?**

The Bond Fund shall be used to record tax receipts, investment interest, and the payment of bond principal, interest, and other related costs (i.e. trustee fees). Proceeds from a bond issue shall be deposited into the Special Building Fund to be expended on the actual building project. The bond is repaid entirely through property tax receipts.

State Aid is available for two years based on this formula: 1st year - District Basic Funding per formula student X (.20 X Estimated Student Capacity); 2<sup>nd</sup> year - District Basic Funding per formula student X (.10 X Estimated Student Capacity).

**Option C: Was there any thought of extending upward the new area for ag, career center, to add more space without spending more money? Could we build that facility to be expandable to go upward in the future?**

Adding on top of the existing IT area was not considered, as additional investigation of the structural capacity of the existing structure will be required. The new classrooms could certainly be designed for the addition of classrooms above if this is a direction that is desired by the community.

**Are there still going to be schools in each community? Is the option for a central site now off the table?**

Based on what appears to be the wishes of the community, the current options developed would maintain the elementary school in Bennet, and the secondary school in Palmyra. No plans for a central site are currently under discussion. There was a perceived lack of support for centralization by the community, so the board has explored the possibilities for expanding and improving the current locations instead.

**If the football field stays where it is, what would you do about the poor condition of the concessions and restrooms at the field?**

This would depend on whether, and how soon, a new field would be built. If the community does not approve the development of the new site, the school district could possibly look at options for improving the existing concessions and restrooms. However, due to their size and location, few options are available for improving the track and field. The track cannot be expanded or surfaced for competition; improving drainage of the field is also very expensive. Any support by the community for improving these amenities would likely lead to the creation of a new field and track elsewhere.

**Comment: From a concessions standpoint: At Friend, concessions are separate from the gym. At Neb City Lourdes, the concessions area has a window where you can see into the gym. For those working, it's a nice benefit**

This is a great idea, and something the design team will take under consideration.

**Comment: Restrooms at the new football field: Sewer would have to run a long distance**

The design team will look into the availability of utilities and report costs.

**In regard to the front circle at Palmyra – what happens to busing and handicapped, etc.? We need more than one handicapped stall.**

Changes to the building would require compliance with the American Disabilities Act. We will need to supply adequate stalls and resolve the busing situation to provide safe travel for all students.

**If we need more classrooms, is there space for that at both Bennet and Palmyra?**

All of the options provided at this time offer opportunities for future additions beyond this immediate projects. At Bennet, the school could be further expanded at a later date with four additional classrooms. At Palmyra, the current 1950s building could be replaced with a multi-story classroom structure.

**What is the student capacity of Option C? What is the square foot per student?**

A general guideline used in planning new schools is 108 GSF per student for Elementary, 156 GSF per student for Middle, and 175 GSF per student for High School students. (The actual ratio will vary depending on the specific curriculum, class sizes, and plan efficiency of an individual school.) Based on these guidelines, Option C at 93,200 GSF could have a capacity of about 530 students and Options A and B at 100,000 GSF could have a capacity of about 570 students.

**Regarding the overall process, after you gather feedback, how do the pieces and parts come together, and how does this result in the board's recommendation?**

The board is inviting community input and evaluating options over the summer. In response, the design team will continue to evaluate costs and make refinements during this time. In August, the board will decide which option is preferred and whether they are ready to recommend a bond election in November. If so, the resolution will be voted up or down at a board meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup> for a November 4 election.

**Comment: I think MindMixer is great but may not meet everyone's needs. What other mechanisms will gather that feedback?**

Five community meetings are planned for June, July, August, September, and October. At each meeting, participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and express their opinions. We will have comment cards at each meeting for those who wish to provide their comments in writing. In addition, people may contact Superintendent Hanger or any of the school board members to express their support or their concerns. (Email contact information is provided at the end of this document.)

**Comment: I think it would be good to synthesize what you gather from MindMixer and present those results through the newspaper or through the web site**

A Mindmixer summary overview will be provided at each community meeting as part of the project team's presentation. All the presentation materials will be posted on the District's website.

**There are a lot of absentee landowners who own property in the district but can't vote; however, this still impacts their taxes. How will you contact and involve those stakeholders?**

Due to the breadth of absentee landowner locations, we may not be able to reach all of those taxpayers who live outside the district or out of state. We will send press releases regarding our intentions to the local newspapers, the Hickman Voice and the Lincoln Journal Star. However, we cannot require the media to cover stories.

**Comment: Mail was a good way to contact people. Might be a good idea to have it on the web page, MindMixer, etc. to reach more people**

We notified patrons of the July 16 meeting via the web page and with posters throughout town. For the August meeting, we plan to hang posters around the towns and post meeting information on our web site. We also plan to send email invitations to those who have provided email addresses. In addition, we will provide updates through the newsletter.

**Comment: Boards would be good to display in the banks, grocery stores, and the vestibule of this building**

Another good idea. The plans are available on the District OR-1 web site, as well as on the MindMixer web site. The boards prepared for Community Meeting #1 are available for viewing at the school. As the project continues, we will ask various locations in the area if they would like to display boards, to help ensure the public is as informed as possible.

**What do you do if the MindMixer site becomes contentious?**

MindMixer is serving as an online town hall meeting that encourages civil discourse and allows people to share their opinion. We are interested in hearing our patrons' honest feedback and we want to hear from as many people as possible including those who have differing views. We want to understand issues of concern and we welcome suggestions that can lead to better decisions. We invite people to ask questions of the board and each other to create a productive conversation. This will allow people to explain their ideas in more depth and shed more light on issues that we may not have fully considered.

Along the way, we will attempt to clarify any misconceptions and correct any misstatements of facts as necessary. The website does allow us to intervene if personal attacks, off-topic criticisms of contributors, inappropriate language or threats are posted.

**Board Contact information**

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**Topic Name: District Competitiveness**

**Idea Title: I think that we need to attempt to keep up.**

Idea Detail: I feel that it is important for our school district to offer facilities comparable to other districts.

In going to other events at other schools in our conference you do not have to look to hard to notice that our facilities are behind and need updated.

I believe that we need to encourage our students to finish their High School careers in our district. Some are being drawn away to area schools that offer programs or facilities that we do not have.

If we are not willing to support future generations than we are in a sad state in my opinion.

Idea Author: James W

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 34

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: We need to have adequate facilities.**

Idea Detail: Currently our district cannot host several activities due to lack of facilities. These include sporting events (primarily track meets, but also events where the schedule conflicts with existing games/activities) as well as fine arts (district and MUDECAS competitions) and possibly even academic events.

The inability to host events means our kids never have the home advantage, groups lose out on revenue from concessions, and we always have to travel to participate which means higher transportation costs. If you can't show off your school, how do you gain any sense of school pride?

Idea Author: Susan H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 31

Number of Comments 1



Comment 1: I absolutely agree with this. I think that we should have the facilities similar to other schools our size and be able to provide adequate facilities for things like track and be able to host competitions like music contests, speech contests, One Act play contests, Quiz Bowls, etc. | By Diana P

**Idea Title: LPS is heading our way, time to move forward is now.**

Idea Detail: Front page of Lincoln Journal Star today, 7/8/2014.

LPS is going to buy land for middle school at 84th and Yankee hill. Also YMCA and possible other sports facilities on site.

I think that Bennet/Palmyra needs to move forward now with new facilities.

LPS plans on having a new middle school ready by 2017 that can handle 850 students. Also a 55,000 square foot YMCA. This will in my opinion drastically effect enrollment to our district.

The distance to this LPS school is not much further for most and for many closer than Palmyra. If our school district/community do not step up and provide a reason, such as expanded class rooms and athletic facilities I do believe we have a lot to lose.

We need to act now to maintain our school district.

Idea Author: James W

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 23

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Efficiencies, safety, and opportunities for generations.**

Idea Detail: My thoughts are in the link below. You will open a document from my Google profile. It seems brevity is paramount with Mind-Mixer. :-) You have to copy and past the link into you browser. :-(

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ta\\_p7vMd6NX7pZ94xHaFCinVb\\_DvtCh\\_lwyOFnU1sRk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ta_p7vMd6NX7pZ94xHaFCinVb_DvtCh_lwyOFnU1sRk/edit?usp=sharing)

Idea Author: Burke B

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 20



Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: We need a track and football field in this bond issue.**

Idea Detail: We need better facilities and that includes the track and football field. There has been a lot of talk regarding the football field and there is no doubt that we need a new one, but as Aaron H. pointed out we also have 38 kids out for track and we don't even have a track. What we call a track is dangerous and it is unrealistic to even call it a track. There are so many things we can't practice or can't practice well with what we have, so how do we expect the kids to be competitive. We are spending time and money busing our kids elsewhere to practice but this is limited in scope and they lose valuable practice time. As with all aspects of the bond, if we want our kids to compete, we must give them the tools necessary to do so. The track and football field need to be included in this bond issue.

Idea Author: Cory C

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 12

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: We need to focus on our peer institutions**

Idea Detail: In my opinion we shouldn't be worrying about Syracuse or Norris or Waverly. We need to keep up with the "joneses" of ecnc and mudecas. If we are losing to the bigger districts then good riddance to those who leave. You should be here because you like the school, communities, and rural atmosphere.

Idea Author: Dan C

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 1

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I do not think this is trying to keep up with the "joneses" at all. If that is the case that race was lost 20 to 30 years ago. It is a opportunity to give the kids in the community a fair shot and equal facilities. And maybe even the potential of drawing in some students to our



school system. And keeping some of the AWESOME staff that we have that may be tempted to leave because of other opportunities. | By James W



**Topic Name: Community Input**

**Idea Title: YES, it's time to move forward**

Idea Detail: It's time to let the families of District OR 1 know we are looking to the future for our kids! I fear a delay in this process will only cause more doubt in the parents as they look at where our schools are headed. If we don't want parents to look at opting out of our schools system we need to look ahead and move forward before we lose them!

Idea Author: Janel C

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 23

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Better options this time**

Idea Detail: From what I have seen thus far, the new architecture firm and the board have proposed some better options this time and I think it could be ready by November to go to the voters.

Idea Author: Susan H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 21

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I agree. I was on the fence about the first bond issue. Having a football field and free standing gymnasium in the middle of a field didn't strike me as a good use of resources. I'm excited by the new vision and hope other people are also. | By Kenneth V

**Idea Title: Time to move forward!**

Idea Detail: There is sufficient time! We need to move forward and make changes for our kids now. We are a growing school and feeling cramped. We also need to be thinking about the future of our kids and our district.



Idea Author: Lisa P

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 18

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: I think that is sufficient time.**

Idea Detail: In my opinion the people that want to be involved or informed will seek out the information and inform themselves. For the ones that do not want to be informed, you can have all the meetings and information sessions you want and they still will not attend. I think we need to act soon/how to get the system going in the correct direction. Lincoln schools are heading our way.

Idea Author: James W

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 16

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Yes**

Idea Detail: I think it is enough time.

Idea Author: Laura K

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 16

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: No i don't think it is sufficient time. | By Cookie L

**Idea Title: No. There is not sufficient time before the deadline.**



Idea Detail: There needs to be more information available for dissemination to the public regarding definitive costs of all options for all 3 sites. There also needs more discussion regarding possible necessary infrastructure changes that cannot be controlled by this bond issue. These ideas look to be a good start but are not nearly well enough fleshed out to get my vote on any, much less all sites. Whenever they do go up for election they need to be individual elections for each site rather than lumped together.

Idea Author: Dan C

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 3

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: No, there needs to be extensive detail on all costs.**

Idea Detail: There needs to be extensive detail and discussion of the annual budget and how it is created and implemented and how it will interface with the potential bond. There must be better understanding of how the student population is changing; I would like to see the history of each class over time and how many started in OR-1 and how they dropped out along the way and when, and if known, why. More renovation options with fewer components need to be addressed. There is simply too much here to discuss before making another quick decision to hold a bond election. No way the Architect could make a good cost estimate if we cannot decide the proposed program without a lot of additional meetings.

Idea Author: Jim S

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I may be incorrect but I think many of these issues were discussed prior to the last bond attempt. Much of that information is available I believe, if you really want to see it. I think our superintendent could provide it to you.

Why do we have a board of Education if the community needs to discuss the annual budget?? I thought that is why we elect people to be on the board that we can trust.

And I believe most qualified Architects are pretty accurate at cost estimates. I think they tend to try to provide a worst case estimate to help prevent shortfalls. | By James W



**Idea Title: No.**

Idea Detail: n The Board needs to come up with a proposal that will satisfy the needs and concerns of both communities. The proposal needs to consider all aspects of the bond issue in a clear and concise manner and a timetable for completion. In the previous attempt, questions went unanswered which led to a lot of animosity between the two communities. This was unfortunate and in the end, the bond issue failed.

Idea Author: Sandy P

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: What 2 communities?? I thought this was a district?? Seems like alot of people are drawing lines and making it a personal issue? Should be the kids we are thinking of not so much the communities in my opinion. Also I think that a lot of the unanswered questions where never asked, or the answers that where given not heard. | By James W





**Topic Name: Bennet Elementary Ideas**

**Idea Title: Like the flex rooms**

Idea Detail: I like the idea of combining the facilities into one and building in the flex rooms so that the school can adjust as classes increase/decrease. With the limited space around the property the plans seemed well thought through.

Idea Author: Susan H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 19

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I like the idea of the floor plan to Bennet Elementary. What would happen to the pre-k building once the additions have been to the school. could that be made for more parking? | By Cookie L



## **Topic Name: Outdoor Athletic/Activity Space**

### **Idea Title: The Football Field is Past it's Prime**

Idea Detail: Now! After the last school bond failed the most common theme heard from the public seemed to be that people wanted to 'keep the schools in the towns'. I admire the school board and Mr. Hanger for looking at options within the towns to meet these wishes. As Aaron H. shared in the above comments there is a REAL need for outdoor facilities. Unfortunately, the field can no longer keep up with the activities of today's school activities: Football (Varsity, JV, Junior High) daily practice and games, midget football games, Marching Band, PE classes, Track and Field (High School and Junior High), etc. It's time to tell our kids we believe in them and want them to have safe facilities they can be proud to call their own.

Idea Author: Janel C

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 18

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I agree. There are many people, I am one of them, who feel a new facility may be necessary - whether it is in one of the towns or not. But, if we can't come to a consensus on that, then I think at the very least we need major updates. The track and football fields being one of them. I attended a school of similar size in the mid 90's. And the facilities at that school back then were more updated and adequate than at our district now?? I don't see the need to debate - we are outdated in a major way. Our kids shouldn't be having to travel to other schools to have adequate practice facilities. Let's help them shine close to home. | By Kirsten M

### **Idea Title: The board was thinking out of the box**

Idea Detail: I most like when all facilities are together, however, in light of space at existing and opposition to a new site for the school, I congratulate the board and whomever else contributed to the idea of the land north of the Park for athletic fields. Its not far from school, has adequate space for track, football, parking, restrooms/concessions, and expansion for ball field/playground.

I think if this comes to be, we need to pursue a light on highway at that intersection to handle traffic. Currently, traffic seems to split between the east and west entrances to Hwy. 2 and I think this would force alot to the west one (by Caseys) - and it is a dangerous intersection to



begin with.

Idea Author: Susan H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 8

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Yes and now**

Idea Detail: I think that the new site is better than the 190th site location. They severely need a new football field and track. My concern here is if this is where they will play games don't you think we need locker rooms there too? Does the building that houses the concessions have restrooms. That is something that should be on site. I personally think that a new high school with new facilities would be the better option here but for some reason that hasn't even been put in the options to pick from.

Idea Author: Laura K

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I agree that the board was thinking out of the box when they bought the 15 acres north of the park. I was all for keeping it in one of the towns. On the other hand I also agree with not having the option to choose for it having the high school with new facilities out there also. In my opinion if new facilities, new school would be the way to go. The locker rooms would be within walking distance of the facilities they would play their sports at just like now. Then turn the old school into administrative stuff for the board and Mr. Hanger etc. That is what bigger districts have done. | By Cookie L

**Idea Title: No, the football field is adequate for this size school**

Idea Detail: The number of students out for track is small; it won't increase with a new track. This is a huge investment that cannot be justified for a few students.

Idea Author: Jim S

Number of Seconds 0



Number of Comments 4

Comment 1: I went to a C-1 school that I think now is a C-2 school. We had a proper track that we could have major track meets at and we also had a practice football field. That was in the late 80's and early 90's. Why hasn't this school upgraded their facilities to what everybody else in the state of Nebraska has and has had for years? This town and school will die if you don't provide the facilities that they have needed for decades. The school will not expand and will lose students without the changes being done. | By Laura K

Comment 2: The 2014 track team saw its highest numbers this year with 38 participants. For a C-2 school this is good and with the increase over the last couple of years it looks promising for those numbers to maintain or increase. The school also qualified 8 individuals for the State Track meet. With participation like this the Board would be well within their boundaries to support a new track facility. This year the team on at least 3 occasions traveled to Adams and Tecumseh to use their track facilities so that they could work on a surface that contained marked lanes, exchange zones and to establish times. Not to mention running on a surface that they see at every meet. On these occasions the team had to factor in travel time which cut into their practice time. It wasn't the best situation, but one that was needed given the state of the current track and the caliber of athletes that were competing. This could not be done accurately with the crushed rock surface that exists at the school currently. The school/team also misses out on hosting events like ECNC Track and having at least one home meet in which to compete. It's tough being on the road all the time.

| By Aaron H

Comment 3: The past 2 years some much needed work has been put into fixing the current football field. Every year by the middle of the high school football season the field has been reduced to a bare hard surface of dirt down the middle. Much of this is due to the extreme wear the field receives prior to the start of any contest in the fall. High school football practices start around the first part of August in which they get to enjoy the full grassy surface. By the third week of August the junior high football teams start practice which puts additional athletes and practice time on the field. At this time the first home football game is ready to be hosted and the field has seen extensive wear. Around the first of September the band is beginning their practices for contests and use the field in the morning and during class periods throughout the day. During the month of September the local Midget football team begins their season and games on Sunday, continued..... At the beginning of school through October the PE classes also use the field as a means to escape the warm conditions of the lack of air conditioning in the gym to have their classes. Not to mention there are also roughly 4 home JV football games and 3-4 home Junior High football games. This current field takes on a ton of traffic and can't survive the wear and tear on a weekly basis and still maintain a grassy surface in which to play. The current maintenance that took place this last spring and summer will help, but will struggle to keep pace with the foot traffic it receives.



| By Aaron H

Comment 4: How many students will justify this investment? Now we have to take the students to other school districts just to time and qualify for track events. This is a added cost and possible SAFETY issue busing them. Invest in the FUTURE of the KIDS. | By James W

**Idea Title: Track and Football Field**

Idea Detail: The past 2 years some much needed work has been put into fixing the currently football field. Every year by the middle of the high school football season the field has been reduced to a bare hard surface of dirt down the middle of the field. Much of this is due to the extreme wear the field receives prior to the start of any contest in the fall. High school football practices start around the first part of August in which they get to enjoy the full grassy surface. By the third week of August the junior high football teams start practice which puts additional athletes and practice time on the field. At this time the first home football game is ready to be hosted and the field has seen extensive wear. Around the first of September the band is beginning their practices for contests and use the field in the morning and during class periods throughout the day. During the month of September the local Midget football team begins their season and games on Sunday, continued.....

Idea Author: Aaron H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Track and Football Field continued**

Idea Detail: At the beginning of school through October the PE classes also use the field as a means to escape the warm conditions of the lack of air conditioning in the gym to have their classes. Not to mention there are also roughly 4 home JV football games and 3-4 home Junior High football games. This current field takes on a ton of traffic and can't survive the wear and tear on a weekly basis and still maintain a grassy surface in which to play. The current maintenance that took place this last spring and summer will help, but will struggle to keep pace with the foot traffic it receives.

The 2014 track team saw its highest numbers this year with 38 participants. For a C-2 school this is good and with the increase over the last couple of years it looks promising for those numbers to maintain or increase. The school also qualified 8 individuals for the State Track meet, continued...

Idea Author: Aaron H



Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Track Facility**

Idea Detail: The number of track athletes participating in 2014 was 38. That is up 8 from the previous year. With participation like this the Board would be well within their boundaries to support a new track facility. This year the team on at least 3 occasions traveled to Adams and Tecumseh to use their track facilities so that they could work on a surface that contained marked lanes, exchange zones and to establish times. Not to mention running on a surface that they see at every meet. On these occasions the team had to factor in travel time which cut into their practice time. It wasn't the best situation, but one that was needed given the state of the current track and the caliber of athletes that were competing. This could not be done accurately with the crushed rock surface that exists at the school currently. The school/team also misses out on hosting events like ECNC Track and having at least one home meet in which to compete. It's tough being on the road all the time.

Idea Author: Aaron H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Football Field**

Idea Detail: The idea of a new football field is a great addition to the bond on the land north of the Palmyra Park. The traffic the current field receives during a school year exceeds what it can handle. As the school year begins the Varsity and JV football teams begin practice roughly the first week of August. With the updates to the field this spring and summer the field is in great shape as the teams take the field to practice. Just after school starts the junior high team takes the field for practice along with the JV and Varsity. This is the start of the field destruction. Around the first of September the band takes the field in the morning and during class periods of school to practice their marching routine. This adds foot traffic is specific areas on a daily basis that wears paths in the grass. As school begins until roughly October the PE classes use the field for activities and to get relief from the lack of air conditioning in the current gym. Continued.....

Idea Author: Aaron H



Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Football Field continued**

Idea Detail: Continued.....The last week of August sees the varsity team take the field for contests. With 3 weeks of practice and other activities on the field it is showing signs of wear. The JV and JH teams also play once a week at this point. On Sunday's the Midget football team starts up games in September and October. This puts 4 contests on the field in a 7 day week not including the practice of 3 teams, band and PE classes. If we are to do it right the first time, supporting a track and football field is the right step to take.

Idea Author: Aaron H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: Track Facility continued**

Idea Detail: With participation like this the Board would be well within their boundaries to support a new track facility. This year the team on at least 3 occasions traveled to Adams and Tecumseh to use their track facilities so that they could work on a surface that contained marked lanes, exchange zones and to establish times. Not to mention running on a surface that they see at every meet. On these occasions the team had to factor in travel time which cut into their practice time. It wasn't the best situation, but one that was needed given the state of the current track and the caliber of athletes that were competing. This could not be done accurately with the crushed rock surface that exists at the school currently. The school/team also misses out on hosting events like ECNC Track and having at least one home meet in which to compete. It's tough being on the road all the time.

Idea Author: Aaron H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0



## Topic Name: Palmyra High School Ideas

### Idea Title: Plan C gets my vote

Idea Detail: Plan C gets rid of the problematic 1930's building, doesn't interfere with streets or have as much impact on existing parking/drainage on east side of building. I like the additional parking on south for events and the entrance on west for activities.

Idea Author: Susan H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Points 17

Number of Comments 2

Comment 1: Plan C gets my vote also. It is the most common ground out of all them. I think everyone is getting something they wanted with the new school with plan c. | By Cookie L

Comment 2: I would agree. Plan C gets my vote also. It makes no sense in trying to get a 1930's building up to modern codes. It would be a waste of time and money and still would be a 1930's structure that is way outdated. | By James W

### Idea Title: You need to develop a plan without a second gymnasium.

Idea Detail: As a minimum you need to show the chart developed to "prove" the need for the second gym. So far, I'm not buying. I think it will be a waste of money since the high school numbers are not growing. It doesn't look like you need much classroom space, since not much is added on any of the options. A simple expansion at the entry to pump up security and maybe add a couple rooms appears all that is really needed.

Idea Author: Jim S

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 7

Comment 1: I think that anyone who believes we don't need more gym space should take over the scheduling of the gym. We have Varsity, JV and Jr. High of multiple sports going on all at the same time. Kids are practicing late at night or early in the morning. We also have rec teams for basketball, volleyball and wrestling for our 1st through 6th graders that are fighting





for the space. If we don't have kids in these rec leagues getting practice and playing time then when it comes time for them to compete in Jr. High they will be way behind the other schools and won't be competitive. We will lose those kids if we can't get them gym time. | By Cory C

Comment 2: I think the architect did a more than adequate job of showing us the huge need for a second gym. I myself would rather not see my child, when they do get to high school, practicing at 9:00 pm at night when they should be studying. Also, I am all for getting the events that we do not get because we do not have the proper facilities. So it is a waste of time to develop a plan without the second gymnasium in my opinion. | By Laura K

Comment 3: I agree a new gym is greatly needed! Having a student going to practices at 6:00am is tough. It would be nice to be able to spread practices out in the afternoon if possible. | By Lisa P

Comment 4: I think the addition of a second gymnasium is crucial in the planning of this new bond. The amount of activities that the district has the opportunity to host (ECNC, MUDECAS, NSAA Districts) and loses out on due to inadequate seating and space is unfair to the students, sponsors and school in general. Not to mention the reduced practice time each activity has had to endure due to the sharing of one gym. The current gym has seen its better days and is visually an eye sore with peeling/falling paint from the ceiling, old wood bleachers with limited seating/handicap accessibility and the lack of air conditioning for PE classes, practices, home contests, graduation, school and alumni banquets to name a few. The good thing about a new gym is that it would benefit many school organizations and not just athletics. | By Aaron H

Comment 5: My first reaction was the same as yours. We are told teenagers need sleep but yet we get them up at 6 AM for early morning practices. A second gym is definitely needed. | By Robin M

Comment 6: ffgggg | By Cory W

Comment 7: Have you had to get your 7th grade students to school by 6:00 am for practices. They have to go in early because not enough gym space for all of the grades to practice. If you look at the entry level class numbers, K-6th. They have been growing and will continue to do so. Are we going to sit by idle and wait for them to get to high school and go OH! We need more space and then do a knee jerk reaction?? Why not plan ahead and give the KIDS and community a fair chance at nice facilities and education. | By James W

**Idea Title: Second Gymnasium**

Idea Detail: I think the addition of a second gymnasium is crucial in the planning of this new bond. The amount of activities that the district has the opportunity to host (ECNC, MUDECAS,



NSAA Districts) and loses out on due to inadequate seating and space is unfair to the students, sponsors and school in general. Not to mention the reduced practice time each activity has had to endure due to the sharing of one gym. The current gym has seen its better days and is visually an eye sore with peeling/falling paint from the ceiling, old wood bleachers with limited seating and handicap accessibility and the lack of air conditioning for PE classes, practices, home contests, graduation, school and alumni banquets to name a few. The good thing about a new gym is that it would benefit many school organizations and not just athletics.

Idea Author: Aaron H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0

**Idea Title: A Second Gymnasium**

Idea Detail: The condition of the current gymnasium is less to be desired. The falling paint from the ceiling, old wood bleachers, lack of air conditioning, and lack of space to host practices, ECNC, MUDECAS and NSAA District events is unfair to our students and athletes. The addition of a new competition gym brings all these back into play and allows our student athletes to participate at home rather than being the away team for many of these events. Currently 5 teams/activities fight over practice time during the winter basketball, wrestling and play production season. The Bennet gym alleviates some of these issues, but sometimes adds conflicts to the activities that the Bennet gym already has scheduled. Some teams have been forced to practice at 6am in the morning during the week to get their share of practice time. A remodel of the current of the current gym doesn't solve any issues. A serious look at a new competition gym is warranted.

Idea Author: Aaron H

Number of Seconds 0

Number of Comments 0



## **Survey: 2013 Bond Issue "Dislikes"**

**Question: Please select the 5 aspects that you think were LEAST attractive and/or acceptable to voters??**

**The overall cost and tax impact : 16**

**The idea of moving 5th and 6th grades from Bennet to Palmyra : 10**

**The idea of a phased plan toward a single, "central site" and future new K-12 school : 12**

**The idea of a phased plan that would necessitate a future bond issue : 9**

**The idea of school closings if a K-12 school is built in the future : 18**

**The selected location of 190th & Highway 2 as the "central site" : 23**

**The idea of a multi-purpose gym/performing arts facility : 4**

**The idea of new outdoor athletics/activity facilities : 6**

**The idea of a new career center at the High School : 0**

**The idea of using bond funds for maintenance and code deficiencies : 8**

**The idea of expanding the pre-school : 1**

**The idea of enrollment growth at the Elementary School : 2**

**The idea of spending more on athletics than academics or arts : 17**

**The idea of adding a second High School gym : 4**

**Other - Add your comments below : 5**

### **Comments**

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: test | By JoAnne K



### **Survey: 2013 Bond Issue "Likes"**

**Question: Please select the 5 aspects that you think were MOST attractive and/or acceptable to voters.**

**The overall cost and tax impact : 0**

**The idea of moving 5th and 6th grades from Bennet to Palmyra : 2**

**The idea of a phased plan toward a single, "central site" and future new K-12 school : 5**

**The idea of a phased plan that would necessitate a future bond issue : 0**

**The idea of school closings if a K-12 school is built in the future : 0**

**The selected location of 190th & Highway 2 as the "central site" : 1**

**The idea of a multi-purpose gym/performing arts facility : 13**

**The idea of new outdoor athletics/activity facilities : 17**

**The idea of a new career center at the High School : 14**

**The idea of using bond funds for maintenance and code deficiencies : 4**

**The idea of expanding the pre-school : 16**

**The idea of enrollment growth at the Elementary School : 17**

**The idea of spending more on athletics than academics or arts : 1**

**The idea of adding a second High School gym : 12**

**Other - Add your comments below : 1**

#### **Comments**

Number of Comments 0