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The following pages include answers to the questions you may have about a proposed capital facilities bond that will go before voters in February 2016.

White River **Pride**
Runs Deep
White River Pride Runs Deep

HOW WOULD EACH SCHOOL BENEFIT?

Every school will receive improvements to its intercom, communication and phone systems and key access control systems linked to technology, which will increase safety and security across the district. All elementary schools will receive playground equipment and playfield upgrades. In addition, technology improvements are on the list for all schools. Most of our schools are in need of roofing, HVAC, and other interior and exterior renovations and these items will be addressed with this bond.

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We also want to honor the history of Sheets Field. There will be upgrades to the field, track surface and stands. There will also be work to resolve the drainage issues.

Why not open Wickersham Elementary and White River Middle School?

Wickersham and White River Middle School were closed in 2009. The district has saved $1.3 million in operating costs annually by closing the two schools. Today, reopening Wickersham and White River Middle School would require almost $2 million in additional annual operation costs, which the district cannot support financially. That number reflects staffing with teachers, aides, administrator, custodial, food service, bus routes as well as the costs of heating, water, etc. It is more financially viable at this time to expand existing small elementary schools to approximately 500 student capacity than to reopen Wickersham or White River Middle School. Under the bond plan, we will use both buildings as temporary classroom space during the Elk Ridge and GMS construction phase.

Why renovate Elk Ridge Elementary?

Elk Ridge Elementary School was originally built in 1969 and is in need of full renovation. The Elk Ridge site also has room to expand its building to allow for 200 more students. Doing both at the same time saves money and accommodates future growth. Proposed housing developments within the City of Buckley will impact Elk Ridge Elementary capacity in the near future. Elk Ridge houses our elementary special education programs for students with significant disabilities, a growing population with specific learning and classroom space requirements.

Why put money into the old White River Middle School?

We will put some money into White River Middle School because, although limited, we still use it. The district plans to house Glacier Middle School students there during construction and the campus still serves the community in a number of ways including its gymnasium and athletic fields. Built in 1969, decades of wind and rain, and thousands of students, have not been kind to the wood structure. Some of the pods have failing water pipes, roofing surfaces, ceilings and exterior beams. The heating system is also antiquated. By demolishing some of these older, unsafe pods on the property, the District will qualify for additional State funding assistance which will be used for projects at Wilkeson Elementary.

What is proposed for Wilkeson?

Wilkeson is a wonderful building and we appreciate its historical significance in our community. As a historical site, construction at Wilkeson Elementary School requires us to follow different rules, especially when dealing with the main, sandstone structure that was erected in 1960. The “other” buildings were built in 1980. The proposal is to renovate the interior of the main building, replace the multipurpose room and kitchen, convert portable classroom space into a permanent space and repair parts of the historical structure for continued use as an elementary school.

Why is constructing a high school stadium included?

In 2003, we didn’t have the funding to finish the stadium at White River High School. However, we did have the foresight to put some of the infrastructure in place for future construction of a stadium. Now is the time to complete the work that was started. The project includes covering the seating area, paving the remainder of the parking area past the tennis courts, adding restrooms, locker rooms and athletic storage.

What about another entrance to the high school?

As part of the safety and security assessment, we will consider emergency access and all other options and make the best decision based on the assessment information.

Will improving safety and security be part of this bond?

Yes. The bond will provide a comprehensive assessment of physical safety and security in our schools. This could include improvements to building access controls and communication systems so all buildings can communicate efficiently and effectively, which is critical to response time in an emergency.
HOW WOULD OUR STUDENTS BENEFIT?

What extra-curricular offerings will the bond support?

• Field improvements related to the Community Activities Program (CAP), a program of the WRSD. User fees keep the program running, but the fields are in need of improvements to keep them safe and easier to maintain. These fields are the school district’s responsibility and we take great pride in providing recreational opportunities for youth and adults in our community.

• Improvements to the Glacier Middle School campus auditorium will renovate the space so it continues to serve as a beautiful venue for showcasing student and community performances.

• Addition of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classrooms at Glacier Middle School will create space for afterschool programs like robotics.

How will this work improve learning?

Student success shows us what a powerful difference was made at the high school thanks to a well-designed educational building matched with an intentional educational plan. We strongly believe we can make changes at the middle school level that will bring even more student success. We also know that greater learning and engagement is realized in facilities that allow for extra-curricular activities like music and PE.

THE SUCCESS STORY OF THE 2001 BOND: WHITE RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

With the 2001 bond money, we built a beautiful facility, but more importantly it allowed us to put together the powerful teaching structure we envisioned. And we have seen tremendous benefits for our students. Since WRHS was built:

1. WRHS has the highest graduation rate in the county.
2. Improved test scores.
3. Awarded two School of Distinction awards.
4. We have more students going on to attend vocational and two- and four-year colleges than in our history.
5. Added 6 Advanced Placement Classes - student enrollment in these classes has increased from 59 in 2005 to 387 in 2015.
6. WRHS is one of only 11 NATEF (National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation) certified high schools in the state.
7. Learning in all subjects has increased and WRHS has become a place where teachers want to teach and students want to learn.
8. Student college scholarships awarded have doubled.

What is proposed for each school?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Scope of Work</th>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
<th>Local Share</th>
<th>State Share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glacier Middle School</td>
<td>Selective renovation and replacement</td>
<td>$54,621,000</td>
<td>$47,946,000</td>
<td>$6,675,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elk Ridge Elementary</td>
<td>Fully renovate existing building, add 30,000 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$24,910,000</td>
<td>$19,315,000</td>
<td>$5,595,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Service Center (former White River Middle School)</td>
<td>Minor renovation to library wing; demo 18,000 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$1,572,000</td>
<td>$1,571,785</td>
<td>$0.215</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilkeson Elementary</td>
<td>Fully renovate building (maintaining historical status), admin, play shed, multipurpose room; add 9,000 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$12,706,000</td>
<td>$9,072,000</td>
<td>$3,634,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Meadow</td>
<td>Major maintenance, primarily roof and siding</td>
<td>$4,701,000</td>
<td>$4,701,000</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White River High School</td>
<td>New stadium, re-surface track, pave gravel lot, relocate daycare center and convert existing space to special education classroom</td>
<td>$4,259,000</td>
<td>$4,259,000</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Schools</td>
<td>Safety and security improvements and upgrades</td>
<td>$4,100,000</td>
<td>$4,100,000</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foothills Elementary + Other Facilities</td>
<td>Roofing, painting, door replacement, fire systems</td>
<td>$4,710,000</td>
<td>$4,710,000</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Schools</td>
<td>Technology improvements and equipment</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>District-Wide</td>
<td>Community Activity Fields Improvements</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chart above provides all of the projects recommended for inclusion in the bond, as well as the estimated cost of each, rounded to the nearest dollar.
Continued maintenance of inadequate and obsolete facilities is a poor investment of tax dollars. While we work hard every day to be good stewards of our resources, some of our buildings and systems have simply outlived their functional life. The schools are experiencing seismic, heating, plumbing, electrical, fire and safety code issues due to the age of the buildings. We know the community’s generosity is the key to quality school facilities where our students can learn and thrive. To be fiscally prudent, we chose to wait to ask the community to support this work until after the current bond was paid off, which occurs in 2016.

What is the difference between a bond and levy?
Levies fund the day-to-day operations of schools and essential student programs that the state doesn’t cover. Levies cannot be used for any capital needs. Bonds are used for buildings. Funds from bonds can only be used for construction or renovation of buildings, land purchases, and for improvements like energy efficiency and necessary building upgrades. Bonds are generally issued for a 15- to 20-year period (similar to a mortgage).

How much is the bond?
The District’s goal is to keep the tax rate level and equal to the current tax rate. Passage of the $98.8 million bond would cost property owners approximately $2.80 per $1,000 of assessed value over the next 20 years. We can get all of these projects completed at approximately what we are currently paying in taxes.

Does the state contribute any money for these projects?
Yes. The district can maximize the local contribution by receiving $16 million in funding assistance from the state! It’s a complicated formula, but basically, the state gives school districts money toward construction if they meet certain eligibility requirements based on age of buildings, condition for renovation and need for more space. In the required State of Washington Study and Survey, several White River School District buildings scored very low and are in need of improvements. To receive state money, school districts must secure local funding for construction projects (pass a bond).

What are other school districts doing around us?
Many of our neighboring districts are experiencing similar issues with outdated facilities. Enumclaw recently passed an $86.6 million bond to renovate its high school and rebuild an elementary school. Auburn recently approved a bond for $110 million, which includes rebuilding Auburn High School. Tahoma School District passed a $195 million bond to build a new high school. In 2005, Sumner voters passed the bond that built Bonney Lake High School and refurbished Sunset Stadium. The Sumner School Board plans to ask voters to approve an estimated $145.6 million bond in Spring 2016.

Why do we have higher tax rates than surrounding areas?
It’s complicated. Our school district is the same size as our neighbors, but the number of homes and businesses in our district is much smaller than our neighbors which lowers our district’s valuation and spreads the cost of school facilities over fewer taxpayers. For example, the Sumner School District includes residential neighborhoods in Lake Tapps and businesses like REI. The White River School District is the largest employer within the school district boundaries. We also are an affordable, family-friendly community, which is reflected in our home values and student population.

What’s the timeline on the project?
If our community approves the bond in February, 2016, all projects should be completed early 2020. Glacier Middle School, the largest bond project, will kick off in late 2016. As the Middle School project nears completion, the Elk Ridge Elementary project will get underway.

Where will students attend school during construction?
We have a proactive transition plan in place that has been well-thought out. Students from Glacier Middle School will be housed at Wickersham Elementary, the old White River Middle School and a portion of the Glacier Middle School site. As the Glacier Middle School renovation nears completion and the project at Elk Ridge Elementary gets underway, students at Elk Ridge will be housed at Wickersham and the old White River Middle School.

WHAT IS THE COST?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessed Property Value</th>
<th>EXISTING RETIRING BOND (2016) Annual Tax ($2.80 per $1,000)</th>
<th>NEW BOND Projected Annual Tax ($2.80 per $1,000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$560.00</td>
<td>$560.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As shown in the table above, the goal is to have a stable tax rate over the life of the bond.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?
Email questions to: Bond2016@whiteriver.wednet.edu
Or contact: Janel Keating, Superintendent
360-829-3814
www.whiteriver.wednet.edu

The amount of the bond is designed to keep your tax rate and bill about the same as it has been.
Dear White River Community,

It’s hard to believe it’s been 15 years since our community said “yes” to a bond that built White River High School. In 2016, we’ll be paying off the bond!

Since the new high school was built, we’ve seen tremendous results at White River High School. It’s no coincidence; it’s intentional, methodic, purposeful planning. The community has watched the transformation of White River High School and we couldn’t be more proud of the many impressive accomplishments that have helped WRHS become a statewide model of success. THANK YOU to our community for supporting us every step of the way!

We continue to work hard to ensure our students have the best possible environment in which to learn and thrive. About a year ago, the White River School District convened a group of community residents and staff to engage in a long-range facilities plan that would address the short and long-term needs of the White River School District. Through a collaborative process, the group reviewed the safety and security of our buildings, enrollment and capacity numbers, the physical condition of our schools and assessed how our facilities served today’s student learning needs.

The White River School District #416 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extra-curricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX Officer and/or Section 504 Coordinator, and compliance coordinator for state civil rights laws, Scott Harrison, White River School District, P. O. Box 2050, Buckley, WA 98321, (360) 829-3822. This material is available in alternative format upon request.

Please take a moment to review this detailed information. My door is always open and I welcome the opportunity to talk with you more about the bond. I appreciate the many conversations that provide input and direction as we make important decisions for our kids.

Sincerely,

Janel Keating, Superintendent
White River School District

FACTS ABOUT THE PROPOSED 2016 BOND