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Emmetsburg CSD School Board Approves Bond Measure for November 5 Ballot

EMMETSBURG, IOWA — The Emmetsburg Community School District School Board has approved a \$29.75 million bond referendum that will appear on the ballot Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Petitions asking the board to place the bond issue on the ballot circulated within the district and were signed by eligible voters in recent weeks. Once a required number of signatures was obtained and verified, the petition was filed with the board for consideration on August 21.

If approved in November, the bond would finance the construction of an elementary school at a new site that would house students ranging from preschool to fourth grade. Under the proposal, West Elementary School would become an early childhood center for daycare services that are a critical need locally.

The transition at West Elementary would include the oldest portion of the building constructed in 1952 being torn down and the remaining areas repurposed to meet the room needs for daycare services. The gymnasium, office, and commons area constructed in 2013 would continue to be utilized by the district for athletics and other programming.

“The board’s action today will allow our community’s voters to consider a bond referendum that has the potential to reshape the way our youngest students learn for generations to come,” said Superintendent Cory Jenness. “A significant amount of planning and discussion has been invested in this process, and we look forward to engaging more with residents about this exciting project.”

The November 5 bond vote is the second part in a two-step process. On September 10, district voters will consider a request to increase Emmetsburg CSD’s debt service levy limit to \$4.05 per \$1,000 of taxable property value. Officially, this measure would not increase property taxes, but would instead provide the district with the option to raise its debt levy in the future if voters approve a project.

Should the September and November ballot measures both receive the necessary voter approval of at least 60%, the estimated tax impact for Emmetsburg CSD property owners would be \$2.83 per \$1,000 of taxable property value.

For a home with an assessed value of \$150,000, this would result in an increase of \$15.29 per month. Based on the Palo Alto County average assessed value of \$1,749 per acre, the annual impact for agricultural property would be \$3.56 per acre.

For more information on the district’s facility needs, project details, and answers to frequently asked questions, visit www.emmetsburgbond.org.

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