

Grandview, Dunklin put tax issues on Aug. 7 ballot

By Kevin Carbery
For the Leader

Both the Dunklin R-5 and Grandview R-2 school districts will ask voters on Aug. 7 to approve money measures.

Dunklin has placed a \$6 million bond issue on the ballot, and that measure would result in an 18-cent increase to the school district's tax levy, Superintendent Stan Stratton said.

The Dunklin bond issue is called Proposition S and requires a four-sevenths majority (57.14 percent) vote for

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approval.

Grandview has a measure on the ballot that would shift 50 cents from the district's debt service levy to its operating levy. While the measure doesn't require a tax increase, a debt levy is temporary and expires when the debt is paid off. By shifting the 50 cents to the operating levy, on the other hand, it becomes a permanent tax.

The Grandview measure is called Proposition Safe Schools and requires a simple majority vote to pass.

Dunklin

The Dunklin district would use revenue from the \$6 million bond issue to construct a 12-classroom addition on the west side of Pevely Elementary School, which has an enrollment of about 715 students, Stratton said.

"We have two modular buildings with four classrooms (two in each) in them. So, this addition would allow us to get rid of the modular buildings," he said.

Stratton said some small group classes, like speech pathology, meet in rooms that once were closets, so by add-

ing the 12 classrooms, not only would the district be able to remove the modular buildings but also would be able to move students out of those tight spaces. He said the project also would include expansion of the elementary school cafeteria.

In addition, Stratton said, the bond issue would provide money for the district to relocate its bus garage, which is now housed at the elementary school.

He said the district is looking for property to acquire so it could relocate the garage there. "By doing that, it improves the safety of not having the bus garage and buses on that campus," Stratton said. "It will also help with the morning drop-off and afternoon pickup, with the congestion from that."

Stratton said the Dunklin district has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a \$1.4 million grant, and if the district wins that grant, the money would be used to build a storm shelter in the new addition.

"We're hoping to hear about that grant anytime now," he said Tuesday. "That would help cut down on what the district has to spend to do the addition."

The district's current tax levy is \$4.69 per \$100 assessed valuation, with 67 cents of that for the district's debt

service fund, he said.

The district asked voters to approve a 62-cent tax increase in August and November 2016, but both measures failed.

"So, we listened to taxpayers, who said come back with something smaller, and this is considerably smaller," he said.

The Dunklin Board of Education voted 6-0 May 22 to place the bond issue on the ballot. Board member Jim Kasten was absent.

Grandview

The Grandview district would use revenue shifted from the debt service levy to the operating levy to hire a school resource officer; retain qualified staff through increased salaries; maintain its facilities and meet operating expenses.

The shift would generate approximately \$275,000 more per year in operating funds, Superintendent Matt Zoph said. "We're looking to use a large portion of it to bring a school resource officer to the district," Zoph said. "We haven't had one in 10 years."

Zoph said the passage of previous bond issues, such as the one district voters approved in 2016, called for building projects, but this measure is for upkeep