

The Dunklin R-5 School Board has made an important decision for our district. For several years the Board has been trying to address space needs especially at Pevely Elementary. One option to help address these needs was the submittal of interest in a FEMA Safe Room Grant. A safe room is a tornado shelter and has to meet certain building requirements. During the school year the district was informed that the district could submit an application for a safe room at Pevely. That application was submitted on March 1st. The grant will cover 75% of allowable costs, which equates to an estimated \$1.4 million dollars the district would receive.

The enrollment of the building and staff size determines the allowable space for a safe room grant. Based on Pevely enrollment and staffing the estimate is for a 7500 square foot facility. This is really not large enough to address the space needs at Pevely. The expansion requires moving the bus garage. The board has been working on this issue for several months meeting with the district architect.

Last night the board decided to place a \$6 million bond issue on the August 7th ballot. It is anticipated to be an 18-cent levy increase for debt service (Fund 3). The board decided on a general obligation bond measure because it would cost the taxpayers less than doing a tax increase for a lease purchase. The funds generated will be used to build additions onto Pevely to include a larger cafeteria and additional classrooms. Money will also be used to build a new bus garage at a different location.

The Board has spent many hours looking at possible options before taking this action. Yes, this does only take care of the space needs at Pevely but that is the most pressing facility issue for the district. With this addition the educational cottages would not be needed. Traffic and safety issues of having the bus garage on that campus will be addressed. It will allow the district to move forward in the future to address other facility needs. It is a lot smaller than the ballot issues in 2016, which asked for 62-cents.

Since this is a general obligation bond measure it requires 57.14% for passage. The last time the district had a tax increase passed by voters was in 1990, and it was for 15-cents.

Thank you,

Stan Stratton
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