

**Dunklin Proposition Blackcat Pride Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Q: **What is “Proposition Blackcat Pride?”**

A: In August, the Dunklin R-5 Board of Education voted unanimously to place “Proposition Blackcat Pride” on the August ballot. The proposition is a 62 cent tax levy increase for the School District that will appear on the November 8th ballot. Because the levy will fund a “lease purchase,” it will only require a simple majority for passage.

Q: **What will Proposition Blackcat Pride pay for?**

A: The levy will generate an estimated $13 million that will be used to fund six major projects:

1. **Expand Pevely Elementary School**

Pevely Elementary was designed to house 725 students and is already overcrowded with a current enrollment of 830 students. There are four modular classrooms in two trailers onsite to help handle the growing enrollment. The recent demographic study estimates that by 2018 enrollment at Pevely will increase to more than 900 students. Passage of Proposition Blackcat Pride would allow the District to add 14 new classrooms and rebuild the school entrance to improve student and staff safety. Construction would also allow for a possible second story for future expansion. These changes would also require moving the current bus garage. Estimated cost - $6,615,400

1. **Renovate the Herculaneum High School Gymnasium**

The current Robinson Gymnasium was built in 1964 and is in need of major renovations. Passage of the proposition would pay for renovated restrooms, renovated locker rooms and storage facilities, and a new concession stand. Also air conditioning would be added for the first time. Estimated cost - $2,670,000

1. **New Transportation Facility**

In order to expand Pevely Elementary, the District must move the bus garage to another location. This would also help improve the traffic flow at Pevely and result in increased safety and convenience. The District will purchase the property with funds from the current operating budget. Levy funds would be used to construct the new transportation facility. Estimated cost - $1,500,000

1. **New Entrance at Senn-Thomas Middle School**

Passage of the levy would allow the District to renovate and relocate the main entrance for improved security and visibility. The construction would include new offices and an update for the nurse’s clinic. Estimated cost - $906,750

1. **Connecting the Taylor Early Childhood Center with the Butterfly Wing**

Connecting the two buildings and adding office space at the early childhood center would improve safety and decrease travel time during inclement weather or for students with mobility issues. Estimated cost - $675,500

1. **Herculaneum High School Science Room Renovations**

The science rooms at HHS have not been updated since the early 80’s. Passage of the levy would allow the district to renovate three classrooms/science labs. Estimated cost - $536,800

Q: **How did the District decide which projects should be a priority?**

A: As part of the Master Facility Plan Process, the Dunklin R-5 School District has conducted an extensive staff and community engagement effort to solicit the input of district residents. Phase 1 was completed in the spring of 2015 and included surveys completed by the staff of each building, brainstorming sessions with those staff members and parents, as well as “walk-throughs” of our schools.

Phase 2 was conducted in the fall of 2015 and included six different community meetings to discuss the current state of our facilities, the needs of our students and how to move forward to best meet those needs. Dunklin R-5 parents Amanda Bartosch and Jim Vaughn served as co-chairs for this process. The first four meetings were each held at a different school and focused on that particular location and included a tour of that campus as well as enrollment projections, financial data, and stakeholder phone survey data. The final two meetings were used to process the community feedback and draft a plan that was presented to the Board of Education at a special meeting on December 2, 2015.

Q: **What was the District phone survey and what did it tell us?**

A: The District commissioned Patron Insight to conduct an in-depth survey of our community and their perceptions of the Dunklin R-5 School District. The survey consisted of 361 phone interviews with District residents. The overall performance of the District was rated “A” or “B” by 73% of those surveyed. A majority of those in the survey also indicated they would “favor” or “strongly favor” a 62 cent tax levy increase.

Q: **What were the results of the recent demographic study?**

A: Demographer Dr. Charles Kofron used current enrollment data and live birth records that were geocoded for address locations. The results were cross-tabulated by cohort year which generated the counts for the projection model. Since 2004, the District enrollment has increased by 353 students or about 29% to our current enrollment of 1,583. The projections indicate the District’s total enrollment could be as high as 2,186 students by 2020. In 2015 the number of students enrolled in grades K-5 reached an all-time high with 814 students, but projections show that number could climb as high as 1,111 by the year 2020.

Q: **How much would Proposition Blackcat Pride cost a homeowner in the District?**

A: If passed, the $.62 levy would cost the owner of a $100,000 home $9.82 per month, or $117.84 annually.

Q: **How can I register to vote?**

If you are not currently registered or you have moved since the last time you voted or your name has changed (i.e., marriage or divorce), please request a voter registration card. Registration cards can be obtained from any public school, library, city hall, state offices, or the Election Authority. The deadline to register for the November 8th election is Wednesday, October 12th.

For more information or downloadable forms, visit the Jefferson County website at <https://www.jeffcomo.org/Register.aspx?nodeID=Services> or the Missouri Secretary of State website at <http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register>. You may also contact the Jefferson County Clerk at 636-797-5486.

