

Argument in Favor of the Nebo School District Bond

The Nebo School District Board of Education recognizes the opportunity and obligation to provide each student with a quality educational experience. Indeed, the success of any community is directly linked to its children's education including appropriate facilities, modern technology, current security features, outstanding teaching, and exceptional learning environments.

Nebo School District is the sixth largest district in the state with over 33,000 students and is steadily growing. Student enrollment has grown by more than 6,000 students during the past 10 years and enrollment growth is anticipated to continue into the future. Through surveys, Nebo School District received community and parent priorities, which include the replacement of older high school buildings and the implementation of a straight alignment pattern in the secondary schools.

Community and parent priorities were addressed by the Nebo School Board when it passed a resolution on August 8, 2018, asking the voters to approve the issuance of a \$298 million bond on November 6, 2018, to address student enrollment growth and replace aging high school facilities.

To minimize the impact to tax payers, the Nebo School Board structured the proposed bond with no tax rate increase. This is possible because outstanding bonds are being consistently paid off to leave capacity for new bond commitments, which will be issued gradually over time. Also, commercial and residential growth throughout the district and increased assessed valuation allow this bond to be financed with no tax rate increase.

In order to address student enrollment growth and to implement a straight alignment pattern, three new middle schools will be built within the Salem Hills, Maple Mountain, and Springville High School boundaries. Also, Mt. Nebo Junior and Diamond Fork Junior will be converted to middle schools.

Elementary student growth will be accommodated by moving the sixth-grade students to the middle schools, which will serve students in sixth and seventh grade. The junior high schools will serve students in eighth and ninth grades. The new middle schools will allow Nebo District to have five middle schools, five junior high schools, and five high schools. The passing of the bond allows the district to implement a straight alignment pattern, where all students from one middle school attend the same junior high, and then all students from one junior high attend the same high school.

Nebo District received significant parent feedback to replace the three older high schools. This bond provides for the rebuild of Payson, Spanish Fork, and Springville High Schools.

The Nebo School District Board of Education appreciates devoted community members and district staff who have worked tirelessly to analyze needs and to assist in setting priorities for the proposed bond. November 6, 2018, will be your opportunity to support students now and for years to come by voting "YES" to support the Nebo School District Bond.

There was an opportunity for others to write an opposing argument, but no one took that opportunity during the legal allotted time frame.

The Nebo School Board of Education will discuss the pros and cons of the upcoming bond election during the board meeting on October 10, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.