

For Immediate Release

September 11, 2008

Board of Trustees Calls For November 4 Bond Election

The Allen ISD Board of Trustees is presenting a \$219 million bond referendum to voters on November 4, 2008 to build, renovate and expand schools.

The Board decision followed a series of recommendations from the 2008 Project Kids community group that studied current and future school district facility needs. Project Kids listed 56 projects that were then labeled as critical needs, high needs or desired needs. All but three of the critical needs items identified by Project Kids are included in the November bond election. The remaining three will be included in a separate bond election in May 2009.

The projects which would be funded by the November 4 bond referendum include:

- Two new elementary schools
- A career and technology center addition to Allen High School
- Expansion of Curtis and Ereckson Middle Schools
- Renovations to Curtis Middle School, Ford Middle School and six elementary campuses
- The addition of music rehearsal rooms to Allen High School, Curtis Middle School and Ford Middle School
- A classroom addition to Boyd Elementary School
- The purchase of land for a new service center (transportation, maintenance and student nutrition departments)
- The installation or upgrade of security camera systems at all campuses
- Roof and heating/air conditioning replacements or improvements
- The addition of new restrooms and concessions to the existing Allen Eagle Stadium
- The purchase of 45 school buses
- The upgrade or replacement of obsolete classroom and network technology

If approved by voters, the bond projects would be completed over a period of five years starting in the spring of 2009.

The three major projects that will be part of a separate election in May include a new athletic stadium, a high school auditorium and a school district service center.

Bond Election Continued –

The Board of Trustees will contract with an architectural firm(s) this fall to further study the cost and scope of the three major projects before a bond proposal is presented to voters next spring.

“Our decision to split the critical projects into two separate elections was based on our need to get several of these projects such as elementary schools moving forward right away,” according to Victoria Sublette, school board president. “The Board wanted to devote extra time to studying the stadium, auditorium and service center projects so that we have a clearer vision of the scope and costs of these projects before we seek the approval of the voters.”

The timing of projects such as the stadium and auditorium would not be delayed if they are approved in May since the highest priority will be the new school construction and urgent renovation / expansion projects.

“The overall bond proposal will help us accommodate growth and maintain the facilities we already have,” added Sublette. “Approximately 30% of the \$219 million proposal will be invested in renovations and upgrades to our existing schools. The Board respects Allen's commitment to providing quality and parity for all students and that value system is reflected in this bond.”

Allen ISD’s most recent school bond election was held in 2004 when voters approved a \$69 million in bond sales. That proposition included construction of Evans and Olson Elementary Schools, expansion of Allen High School, renovation of the south wings of the Lowery Freshman Center and construction of the Administration Center.

The November 4 election will be held in conjunction with the national, state and local elections. Early voting in Collin County will begin Monday, October 20. Poll hours will be 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on October 20 – 24; 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on October 25; 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. on Sunday October 26; and 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on October 27 – 31. Early voting for Allen residents is available at Allen City Hall at 305 Century Parkway. Election day hours will be 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Tuesday November 4. Voters on election day must vote at their assigned precincts.

Due to the large number of voters anticipated for the national November 4 election, early voting is encouraged.

For more information about the 2008 bond proposition visit the Allen ISD website at www.allenisd.org or contact Tim Carroll, public information director, at 972-727-0510.