

Newman Grove Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the Newman Grove School Board calling another election to address the current facility needs?

The Newman Grove School Board must still address the many needs that exist in the current facilities to address aging buildings, student safety, educational impact, and long term stability. Following the failed bond election in November 2017 the board worked with their design team to incorporate community feedback to alter the plan in order to put forward a solution that meets most of the District at a significantly reduced project cost of \$9.5 million compared to \$12.5 million. These ideas were shared at a public meeting held on January 28, 2018 to get public feedback to help make decisions going forward.

2. How is this proposed solution different from the previous one?

The main differences in the 2 solutions and the estimated reduction in cost is as follows:

\$12.5 million solution

- Free standing preschool/daycare building (with storm shelter)- \$1 million
- Free standing Vo/Agriculture building and Animal Science (with storm shelter)-\$1.5 million
- Renovation of Current 7-12/Demo Existing Elementary-\$2.0 Million
- Update mechanical systems
- Update building envelope (roofing, etc.)
- Remodel office areas into Music/Art rooms
- Two Story Elementary Addition including – \$8.0 million:
- Kindergarten Classroom from 690 sq. ft. to 1300 sq. ft.
- 1st-6th grade classrooms increased in square footage from about 690 sq. ft. per room to 860 sq. ft. per room
- New administrative offices as part of secure entrance on west drop off (new space needed as current space remodeled for music/art)
- Fitness/weight room area
- Renovation of Current 7-12/Demo Existing Elementary

\$9.5 million solution

- No daycare in design/preschool now part of new addition – (-\$1 million)
- Free standing Vocational/Agriculture building (storm shelter) Reduced size - \$1.2 million
- No Animal Science Classroom (-\$300,000)
- Renovation of Current 7-12/Demo Existing Elementary -\$2.0 million
- Update mechanical systems
- Update building envelope (roofing, etc.)
- Remodel office areas into Music/Art rooms
- ONE Story Elementary Addition-\$6.3 million
- PreK/Kindergarten Classrooms from 690 sq. ft. each to 1200 sq. ft. each
- 1st-4th Grade Classrooms from 690 sq. ft. each to 800 sq. ft. each
- No new 5th-6th grade classroom space/remain in current location in 7-12 building
- Elimination of 2nd story due to changes (-\$1.7 million)
- Eliminates 3 classrooms
- Eliminates stairwells
- Eliminates mechanical systems
- Eliminates restrooms

3. Does this new proposed solution address all the needs of the District?

The new proposed solution still addresses almost all of the needs of the District. This solution does not address the community daycare needs. By slightly pairing down some of the class sizes and other useable space this solution still adequately addresses all safety and educational needs in a more minimal way than the previous solution.

4. What is the cost breakdown of the \$9.5 million dollar project?

Renovation & Remodeling Cost-\$2,313,500

(Includes renovation/remodeling of the existing high school building, demolition of the existing elementary school & existing Vo Ag building, professional fees, and general & jurisdictional expenses):

New Vo. Ag. Building-\$1,210,500

(Includes the Vo. Ag. Building, sitework, technology equipment, storm shelter premium, professional fees, and general & jurisdictional expenses):

New Addition-\$4,864,000

(Includes the new addition, sitework, technology equipment, storm shelter premium, professional fees, and general & jurisdictional expenses):

Other Expenses-\$1,112,000

(Design & construction contingency (9.0%), project escalation factor (3.0%), and fiscal consultant fees(1.3%))

That all totals up to **\$9,500,000**

5. What is the tax levy impact of this project?

The **NET LEVY IMPACT** on the tax payer would be about 4 cents per \$100 of valuation. The net levy is determined this way:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Bond Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Newman Grove Current 2017-18 Tax Levy	0.3233	0.0700	0.0000	0.3933
Projected Levy with \$9.5 million bond issue	0.3233	0.0110	0.9900	0.4333

**The bond issue would address all current building needs so all but about 1 cent in the Building Fund would be moved to the Bond Fund to pay back the \$9.5 million.*

6. Was just remodeling everything we have considered?

It was considered to an extent. The design team determined it would be approximately \$2.3 million to renovate the Jr/Sr High building and approximately \$3.5million to renovate the nearly 100 year old elementary building. However, it is nearly impossible to provide everything the elementary needs such as an elevator, storm shelter, and required toilet fixtures without further reducing the space which is already limited. This required the potential for renovation and additional expansion which quickly became cost prohibitive and was rule out. Additionally, a recent visit by the fire marshal to the elementary schools has indicated a list of improvements that must be made, including the installation of a sprinkler system which may be cost prohibitive due to wall thickness and other structural obstacles.

7. We have heard air quality discussed at public meetings as a need in both buildings. Can you explain this?

A need for improved air quality was identified in the facility audit completed in the Summer of 2016 by Ayers and Ayers. Almost all buildings that are nearly 100 years old have reduced air quality compared to today's standards. The main reason for this is that older HVAC systems may not have the introduction of certain amounts of outside air (fresh air) built into their systems. This coupled with deterioration and moisture issues create air quality that is not on level with what we would want for today's school buildings. While no 'test' of air quality has been conducted it is understood that upgraded HVAC systems and ventilation systems for the shop will bring the air quality in the school buildings up to current safety standards for our students, staff, and visitors.

8. Why is lost instructional time due to crossing the street and other concerns such a big issue? Aren't we still meeting minimum required number of instructional hours? Haven't we been doing this for years?

While the time spent crossing the street (up to 4 times per day) of our elementary students is not required to be subtracted from instructional time for state reporting purposes, those educators who are directly impacted by this issue feel strongly that it takes away time from each day when they can be teaching students. While to date our staff has been able to get students across the street safely several times a day, many feel strongly that this is a safety concern that must be addressed. While it is up to each individual to decide how they feel about these issues and whether or not it is important to address, a large majority of educators, parents, and community members feel this is an extremely important issue.

9. I heard the new \$9.5 million proposal reduces classroom space to get it down to one story. I thought our current elementary classrooms were said to be too small.

The reduced square footage being discussed is a reduction from the classroom size in the previous \$12.5 million dollar ballot issue. Making each room not quite as big, but still a great improvement over current classrooms allowed for changes to the design and significant savings. These comparisons are included below:

Current Elementary	November 14, 2017 Bond Issue	New Proposed Solution (2018)
PreK/Kind	690 Sq. Ft. (each)	1200 Sq. Ft. (each)
1 st - 4 th Grade	690 Sq. Ft.	800 Sq. Ft.

The slightly reduced square footage of the Preschool, Kindergarten, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade classrooms, plus keeping the 5th-6th graders in their current location in the 7-12 building reduces the square footage enough to eliminate a second story on the elementary addition. All PreK-6th classroom sizes are still a much needed improvement over the 1920's elementary building and are adequate for today's learning styles.

The elimination of the second story in square footage, stairwell construction, mechanical systems, etc. greatly reduce the overall cost of the project.

10. We have heard a lot about fire safety issues in both buildings, especially the elementary school. How have these been identified and by whom?

Several fire safety issues were identified through the facility audit completed in the Summer of 2016. Recently the State Fire Marshal inspected both sites and identified several safety issues that must be addressed and a time frame for doing so. The fire marshal's office will release a written report, as soon as this report is given to us we will make it available to the public.

11. What happens if the Board decides to run the \$9.5 million bond issue and it fails again?

The Board is confident that by eliminating the preschool/daycare facility and reducing some classroom space to enable the elementary addition to be one story instead of two, they are putting forth the best solution that still meets the majority of the urgent needs and provides the most economical way to do so by issuing 20 year bonds at still historically low interest rates.

Other options that will have to be considered if the voters don't support this issue will more than likely fall short of meeting needs and/or may cost the District and potentially the taxpayer more money in the long run.