

## **Frequently Asked Questions About the New High School**

### **1. Is there a final design plan drawn up for the new High School?**

**Answer:** *No, there are conceptual renderings and ideas to help everyone visualize what our new high school may look like. We know the square footage we are bonding for and how much space we have to work with. Preliminary designs based on conversations with high school staff and community members will help the actual design process beginning December 17, 2008.*

### **2. Will the new school have a larger gymnasium so that we can host events?**

**Answer:** *Yes, the new school will have a larger, regulation-size gymnasium qualifying our district to host some tournaments and other district events not previously possible.*

### **3. Will the new high school building be located by the Middle School?**

**Answer:** *Yes, the new high school will be located on the property located west and slightly south of the Middle School-West Elementary campus. This enables the district to share the athletic facilities and parking areas, which maximizes the overall efficiency and provides cost savings in the long run.*

### **4. I have heard that the building site the district has purchased for the new high school is a "swamp" and not stable.**

**Answer:** *No, the land is not classified as swamp or wetland. It is presently used for crop production. Terracon Consultants, Inc., from Cedar Falls conducted a preliminary geotechnical engineering report in May 2005. The subsurface explorations concluded that the "site soils are adequate to support the anticipated structure on spread footings."*

### **5. I've heard there are traffic issues around the new site. How are those issues being addressed?**

**Answer:** *The new building site will have adequate parking and bus/car drop off areas for students. The People 4 Progress New High School sub-committee has been working with the Board of Education and architect firms to resolve this issue.*

### **6. Will there be more opportunities for my child in this new high school building if the bond passes?**

**Answer:** *Programming will most likely remain the same for your child. However, with the logically placed and suitably-sized classrooms, teachers and students will have the opportunity for more projects involving teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills. The circulation of fresh air and the ability to control the classroom environment will ensure students are able to keep their attention focused.*

### **7. If the bond issue passes, what would the first priority be?**

**Answer:** *The first priority would be to confirm the high school's final design with our communities. People 4 Progress also plans to immediately begin fundraising once our communities pass the bond so we can include an auditorium and possibly a 3<sup>rd</sup> gymnasium in the plans.*

**8. When would a new high school be available for classes if the bond issue passes?**

**Answer:** *The schedule for the project is as follows:*

*Referendum date – December 16, 2008*

*Design, construction drawings and specifications complete – May 2009*

*Bid letting – June 2009*

*Ground breaking – July 2009*

*Completion – August 2010*

*Classes begin in new high school – Fall 2010!*

**9. Is the cost of an auditorium included in the financing of the new school?**

**Answer:** *No, the bond referendum does not include the cost of an auditorium. However, People 4 Progress will begin fundraising for the auditorium immediately following the bond passing. The site design will accommodate an auditorium to ensure efficient planning.*

**10. What happens if we're forced to consolidate with another area school? Is there room for expansion? Will Independence be guaranteed to be the site?**

**Answer:** *Consolidating or sharing a regional high school is a possibility in the future. Independence is not guaranteed to be the site, however, the condition and expansion opportunities of the high school would certainly play a large role in determining the location of a suitable regional high school. The new high school will be designed with long-term planning in mind to meet the needs of future expansion.*

**11. Why did the school board purchase 92 acres of land?**

**Answer:** *Over a period of 11 months, the Board of Education discussed the possible land purchase at eight different meetings. At the time, the district was either facing or contemplating another high school referendum. The Board of Education felt purchasing the land outright would solve the question (and possible argument) of where a new high school should be located. Other sites were considered, but board members selected this particular location because of its vicinity to the Middle School, West Elementary, and the Administration Office. The campus concept allows the district to share parking, athletic facilities, and possibly teachers and/or administrators. In addition, administrators, teachers, and parents could save time and money with several district buildings located in the same area. Other factors included its easy accessibility off of Highway 20, safer traffic location, and availability to city services. The Board was familiar with the space limitations at other building sites – East with its limited parking area and traffic congestion during drop off and pick up times and the current high school with the need for more parking space and limited ability to expand without condemning family homes. The Board members felt that this was a purchase that would satisfy the District's needs well into the future.*

**13. What does my YES vote say to the children who live in our communities?**

**Answer:** *Among other things, your "YES" vote says that our communities took financial advantage of building a new high school today. It says that you want the children of our district to have the competitive edge in an ever-changing world. And, it says that you believe in preserving our traditions and want to build for the future.*