TSD #401 School Bond 2017 FAQs

TSD #401 School Board is developing solutions to address two critical issues facing the elementary schools in the district: aging facilities and overcrowding. The board wants opinions from the community regarding these issues and the potential solutions. You are encouraged to read these FAQs and are invited to complete a **TSD #401 School Bond Survey** (http://tinyurl.com/TSD401survey) in order to help guide the School Board in decision-making.

1. What are the building conditions of the four elementary schools in the district?
The youngest school is the Rendezvous Upper Elementary School (RUES) in Driggs at 58 years. The oldest is Victor at 75 years old.

Tetonia, for its age, is in good condition. About $35K is spent annually on maintenance. Design issues include staff and students sharing bathrooms, and the stage converted to a cafeteria.

RUES is currently utilizing 2 modular classrooms with the most recent being added for the 2016-2017 school year. These rooms do not have bathrooms, and in the main building, there is only one bathroom block for all students. Approximately $40K is spent annually maintaining the building. The roof is a major source of repair costs.

Driggs was originally used as a high school and as such has a "challenging" layout, which is not conducive or optimal for use as a K-3 elementary school. It has gone through numerous renovations over the decades with the most recent being the enclosure of the stage to form a new classroom. This classroom has no windows. The back of the auditorium landing is now the library that is also a passageway to the classroom on the stage. Due to this school originally being a high school, the classrooms are too small and crowded for an elementary school. Lunchroom capacity and gym capacity are an issue. In addition to housing the Driggs Elementary School, this building also hosts the Basin High School. The number and size of bathrooms in this school is also an ongoing issue. Approximately $30K is spent annually on maintenance.

Victor's main issue is capacity. The age of the school building and the size of lot that this building sits on severely limit the school district's ability to modify or add to the structure. In this building the stage has been modified to serve as the lunchroom and occupational therapy space. Often you will see students utilizing the hall as additional classroom space. There is only one set of bathrooms. Approximately $40K is spent annually on facility maintenance.

2. What is the status with overcrowding at the schools?
Tetonia is overcrowded, based on designed capacity. Should it be necessary in the future, there is room for building expansion. Current enrollment is at 83, capacity is 76 students.

RUES has two portable structures. There is room for building expansion. Current enrollment is at 287, and capacity is 218 students without the modular classrooms, 256 with. A third modular will be required within 3 years due to younger grades having higher enrollment.

Driggs is currently overcrowded in the lunchroom, the playground, and classrooms. The building is a poor choice for another renovation, and there is not room for building expansion due to the size of the lot. Adding a modular would impinge on the already too small playground. Current enrollment is at 313, and classroom capacity is 195 students. Even if renovated further, the building itself cannot handle more students moving through the halls or using the lunchroom, playground, bathrooms, etc.

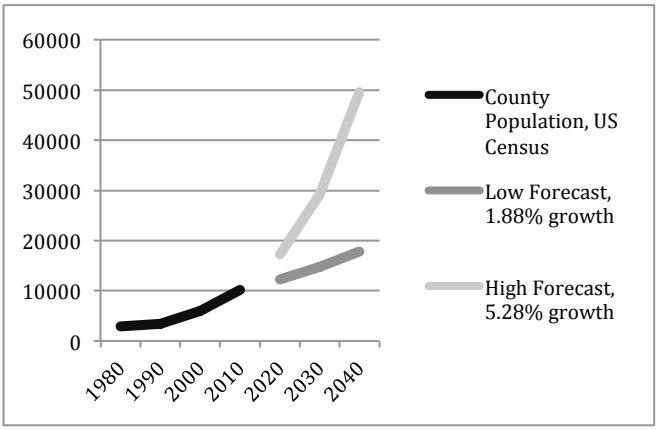
Victor is currently overcrowded such that students that live nearby cannot attend due to space limitations. There is not room for building expansion, and even adding a modular would impinge on the already too small playground. Current enrollment is at 172, and capacity is 133 students.

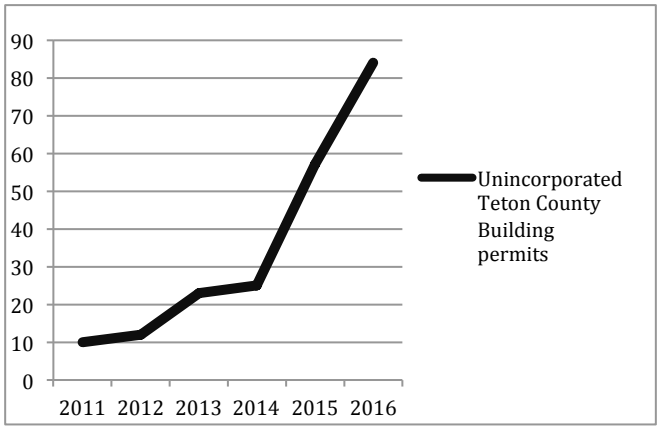
3. What is the forecast for overcrowding?
The forecast is not good for three separate reasons:

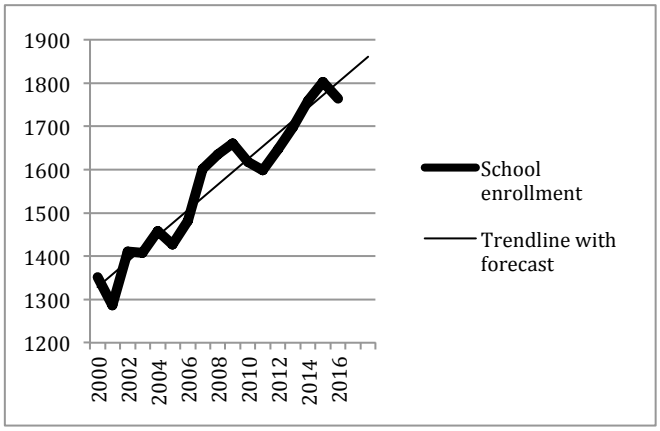
1. Currently, there are two "bulges" of student populations. Small increases in enrollment in any given grade would easily push classroom sizes above capacity.

2. It is estimated that approximately 16% of all elementary aged school children do not attend public school in TSD #401. If even a small percentage of these children stopped being home schooled, or stopped attending local private schools, there would be a serious impact on the capacity of facilities.

3. Population growth in the valley has been strong for three decades. The following charts look at population trends from three angles: 35 years of census data, 5 years of residential building permits, and 16 years of school enrollment. All three charts imply enough growth within the near future to overwhelm the elementary schools' capacity.







4. What solutions are available?

To meet the issues of aging facilities and overcrowding, there is an urgent need to rebuild, renovate, &/or expand the elementary schools. Choosing which mix of solutions is very complicated and challenging, which is one reason that community input is being sought. Your participation in the TSD #401 School Bond Survey will help guide the choice of solutions.

5. What are the costs of solutions?

Regardless of the solutions that are finally selected, there is an immediate need to raise sufficient capital for improving facilities. Estimates state that the costs range from a minimum of $10M (for maintenance/renovations only) to $28M (for two new schools).

Purely for illustration purposes, if we assume a $25M bond is approved in 2017, we can compare school related tax rates in the following charts. The results, while hypothetical, are clearly reasonable.

Impact of $25M Bond on School Portion of Property Taxes

	Taxable Value [1]	Tax Paid in Fiscal Year 16 (2015 Tax Year)	Tax Paid in Fiscal Year 17 (2016 Tax Year)	Tax Paid in Fiscal Year 18 [2] (2017 Tax year)	**Estimated Tax Increase from FY16 to FY18**
Residential Property	$75,000	$268.41	$229.50	$275.25	**$6.84**
Residential Property	$100,000	$357.88	$306.01	$367.01	**$9.12**
Residential Property	$300,000	$1,073.65	$918.02	$1,101.02	**$27.36**
Residential Property	$500,000	$1,789.42	$1,530.03	$1,835.03	**$45.61**
Residential Property	$600,000	$2,147.30	$1,836.03	$2,202.03	**$54.73**
	Taxable Value/Acre [3]	Tax Paid on 1,000 Acres in FY16	Tax Paid on 1,000 Acres in FY17	Tax Paid on 1,000 Acres in FY18	**Estimated Tax Increase on 1000 acres from FY16 to FY18**
Irrigated ag. land	581	2079.31	1777.89	2132.30	**$52.99**
Dry ag. land	239	855.34	731.35	877.14	**$21.80**
Meadow ag. land	303	1084.39	927.20	1112.03	**$27.64**
Dry grazing ag. land	80	286.31	244.80	293.60	**$7.30**

Teton County's School Related Tax Rates		Fiscal Year 16 (2015 Tax Year) *Actual Rates*	Fiscal Year 17 (2016 Tax Year) *Actual Rates*	Fiscal Year 18 (2017 Tax year) *Estimated Rates* [2]
Tort	*(Insurance)*	0	0.000000806	0.000000806
Plant Facilities	*(For capital outlays. Up for renewal in 2021.)*	0.000279662	0.000259431	0.000259431
Supplemental	*(Covers school costs as Idaho underfunds.)*	0.002167383	0.001914847	0.001914847
Emergency	*(Charged annually if enrollments climb.)*	0.00015	0	0
2012 Refi UR-Y	*(Refinance of '96 & '06 Bonds. Expires 2025.)*		0.000884969	0.000884969
1996 Bond	*(Middle School. Refinanced.)*	0.000380698		
2006 Bond	*(High School. Refinanced.)*	0.000601097		
Proposed $25M 2017 School Bond [4]				0.00061
	Total of School Related Property Tax Rates	**0.00357884**	**0.003060053**	**0.003670053**

[1] *Residential taxable value is less than the market (full) value of a property. In FY18, for a property under $100,000, taxable value is 50%. For more expensive properties, it is market value minus $100,000.*

[2] *FY18 taxes estimated, using FY17 rates*

[3] *Using Teton County's highest values for various agricultural property types*

[4] *Primarily for elementary school facilities. Using bond interest rates estimated in October, 2016.*

Sources of data: Teton County Almanac, 2014; US Census, 2010, 2016; Teton County, ID Government, 2016; Teton County, ID Comprehensive Plan, 2012; Teton County, ID Housing Needs Assessment, 2007; TSD #401, 2016; Plan1 TSD #401 Facilities Report, 2014.