

Oakwood Independent School District
631 NORTH HOLLY STREET * OAKWOOD, TEXAS * 75855

Dear Parents and Community,

Over the last several years, the Oakwood ISD Board of Trustees has been taking a look at our current facility needs. Just as our homes need upgrades, improvements, additions or often replacements, schools need the same upgrades and improvements. Already stretched educational budgets do not allow funding for these types of projects from the district's operating budget. Therefore, a bond issue is the best and cheapest method to build/renovate facilities or meet other needs. In reviewing our facility needs, we identified the need for the addition of three new buses to be integrated into our aging bus fleet. The last purchase of a school bus was in 2009. All our current buses are 9 years old or older and as a result our annual repair costs are increasing. Purchasing new buses would allow Oakwood ISD students to be transported in dependable buses with the latest safety equipment, warranty in case of repairs and confidence in taking trips.

Of course, other facility improvements are needed as well. Our Junior High /High School was rebuilt after a fire in 1984. It is hard to believe that was over 30 years ago. Even though the building is holding up well there are several areas that need attention. The classroom lighting is not efficient and needs to be upgraded. The auditorium needs updating, especially the curtains and stage area. The floors and the windows in the lunchroom need to be replaced. Over at the football field, the concession stand and bathrooms are in need of upgrades. We need a new scoreboard, there is no longer any replacement parts available for the current scoreboard. These are a few of the facility issues that need to be addressed.

Our board is proposing a bond in the amount of \$550,000. This will not be enough to solve all our facility needs but it will be a good start in getting needed projects completed. This amount was chosen because based on our estimated calculations of our property value increase the district would not have to raise the tax rate to generate this amount of financing. The bond would have an amortization of 9 years that mirrors our existing bond funded for the building of the elementary school. This has proven to be a wise investment as Oakwood Elementary is nominated by the Texas Education Agency for the designation as a "National Blue Ribbon School" for 2017.

There will be two hall meetings held for the community regarding the bond election that will be held on May 6, 2017. The town hall meetings will be on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 and Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 6:00pm in the Oakwood JH/HS Auditorium.

Early voting begins on April 24 through May 2, 2017 from 8:00am until 4:00 pm at the Oakwood ISD Administrative Office located at 631 N. Holly Street, Oakwood, Texas 75855. Election Day will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 7 am until 7 pm in the Oakwood ISD School Cafeteria.

"Dedicated To Excellence!!!"

PHONE: 903-545-2600 * FAX: 903-545-2310

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*Let us know if you have any questions regarding the bond election or the town hall meetings. You can contact the Oakwood ISD Business Office at (903)545-2600.
Thanks for support.*

Go Panthers!



*J. Thomason
Interim Supt.*

“Dedicated To Excellence!!!”

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