



May 25, 2020

Dear Residents:

Weld County RE-5J School District's bond measure lost by a very small margin last fall, and its mill levy override (MLO) failed by just three votes. To help understand why these two funding proposals were not successful, and to vet new ones, Weld RE-5J formed a 40-member Citizen Task Force comprised of business, civic, faith-based and educational leaders.

According to the Citizen Task Force, last year's bond and MLO proposals were likely unsuccessful because:

- The bond had too many moving parts
- The mill levy override did not sunset (end)
- The tax impact was too big
- Some voters wanted a new high school as part of the bond proposal

With guidance from the Citizen Task Force, Weld RE-5J has developed new funding proposals for the community's consideration. This includes an updated MLO and two bond options.

Weld RE-5J's new MLO proposal includes a 10-year sunset, as requested by the community, and addresses the District's highest priority operating needs. MLO proceeds would fund Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming; school-based mental health professionals; school resource officers (police officers); attracting, training and retaining quality teachers, staff and teachers' aides; adding instructional coaches and technical, assessment and curriculum support; and the replacement of outdated buses.

On the bond side, Weld RE-5J has settled on two options for which it seeks the community's input. Option A is a new proposal that includes a new high school. Option B is a scaled-back version of the 2019 bond proposal. The District is awaiting final approval of a BEST grant to help reduce the total cost of either option.

There are many anticipated benefits tied to the funding proposals. The MLO would enhance safety and security districtwide, raise the bar of our CTE programming, and help ensure our teachers and teachers' aides are not recruited by neighboring districts. Furthermore, either bond option would extend the life of existing facilities districtwide, reduce costly emergency repairs, improve safety and security, enhance energy efficiency, improve Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility, address overcrowding and help protect property values.

Nothing is set in stone until we hear from you. We would greatly appreciate your participation in a public opinion survey that will be mailed to you in the next few weeks.

These are your schools. You always have the final say as to how we move forward in addressing our highest priority operating and facility needs. Enclosed is additional information regarding the new funding proposals.

Respectfully,

WELD COUNTY RE-5J SCHOOL DISTRICT

Michael Wailes
Board President

Leslie Arnold
Superintendent of Schools

Weld County RE-5J School District

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