BOND ELECTION

APRIL 22, 2025

Explanatory Statement

External and internal assessments show that Orchard Prairie School’s buildings are functionally obsolete and do not meet Washington safety, security, and program standards. . The estimated cost to renovate the old 1894 school is $1.02 million, and $5.4 million to renovate the building constructed in 1971. These estimates don’t address the need for additional classrooms. The estimate for building a new school which does address these needs is $8.7 million which includes $2.5 million from the state and $6.2 million raised locally.

The district has winnowed the size and scope of a new school from an initial $12.3 million to the current $8.7 million. The proposal represents the base level of facility deemed necessary to meet needs, expectations, and growth. The new school is intended to balance facility needs with keeping the tax rate comparable to or below adjacent districts. If Orchard Prairie School District were absorbed by an adjacent school district, not only would the taxes be even higher, but local control of the school would be significantly reduced.