



For more information:
Margaret Wimborne
Director of Communications
Idaho Falls School District 91
(208) 525-7504

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D91 Board Moves Forward With HS ReDesign Project, Election In November, No Tax Rate Increase

After more than 18 months of careful deliberation, the Idaho Falls Board of Trustees will ask D91 patrons in November to consider a \$110 million bond to pay for the modernization of Idaho Falls and Skyline high schools. Because of growth and rising property values in the district, the bond would NOT require a tax rate increase.

The focus of the HS ReDesign Project is to create learning spaces that are modern and flexible with easy access to technology. The plans include:

- **A top-to-bottom renovation and redesign of Skyline High School** including remodeled, modern classrooms, a learning commons where students can convene and collaborate, an auditorium, some new athletic facilities and room to accommodate future growth. *(See floor plans.)*
- **A rebuild of Idaho Falls High School on a 58-acre site on 49th South between Holmes and St. Clair near Taylorview Middle School.** The new school would include modern classrooms, a learning commons where students can convene and collaborate, an auditorium, indoor athletic facilities, space for the future development of outdoor athletic facilities and room to accommodate future growth. *(See floor plans.)*
- Enhanced safety and security for students and staff including access control to the buildings, clear sight lines and improved visibility and separate pick-up/drop-off areas for students, staff, parents and busses.

“As a board member, I feel my most important responsibility is to ensure our children have all they need to succeed including 21st century learning facilities,” said board member Larry Wilson. “I know these schools, my children have attended IFHS and currently attend SHS, and I can safely say, we do not have 21st century high schools right now. With some investment, we can transform them into 21st century schools.”

If the bond is successful, work would begin in 2018 and the schools would be finished by the start of school in 2021. **The existing Idaho Falls High School building would be repurposed to serve other district and community needs.** Preliminary plans call for it to house all the district’s Career Technical Programs, which are currently in schools scattered around the district. It would also become home to the district’s administrative offices. The current administrative building would become a technology center. In addition, the district is working with other community organizations to identify other uses for the building.

“Throughout this process, we have listened to our parents, our teachers and our students. We have taken their comments and created plans that not only meet D91’s needs today, but also anticipate our future needs,” said Board Vice Chair Larry Haws. “I’m happy we are able to do this with no tax rate increase, which is only possible because of the board’s careful planning and conservative financial practices.”

All eligible voters living within Idaho Falls School District 91’s boundaries can vote in the Nov. 7 election. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. More information about polling places is available from the Bonneville Elections Office at <http://www.co.bonneville.id.us/index.php/elections> or by calling 529-1350.