

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am sure each of you has noticed the tremendous growth in retail establishments and residential construction throughout the China Spring area. Economic growth translates into increases in student enrollment for the school district. From the end of the 2005-06 school year until now, over 150 additional children have enrolled in the public schools. Based on recommendations from a focus group of parents, staff members, students, and community member in November of 2005, the school district commissioned the completion of a facility and demographic study to assist with planning for the next 10 years.

The study completed by Texas School Planning, Inc. concluded that China Spring should average between 250 and 300 new homes a year. In addition, these new homes are expected to bring in a range of 500 and 1,500 students by 2016. Therefore, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously on February 19th to call for a \$22 million bond election after a 40-member citizens committee studied the district's facility and educational needs. The committee recommended a prioritized proposal that will attempt to meet the demands of additional students for the next decade.

New Facilities & Renovations

This \$22 million bond will fund a new intermediate school for approximate 750 children. It will also fund additional classrooms (including science labs) at the high school and additional classrooms at the middle school. At the elementary school, plans are to remodel restrooms in the gym, build additional student restrooms in the first grade wing, and construct a new multi-purpose, recreational facility.

John Stephens is co-chairman of the facilities committee which is now charged with getting information out into the community about the bond proposal. "We've spent five months studying the needs and solutions for the growth and for the best use of the existing facilities. We now have the opportunity to initiate a proactive plan that will serve the community," Stephens said.

Taxes to Pay for Facilities

The tax rate this year was \$1.46 per \$100 of value. With the passage of these bonds and anticipated state debt assistance, next year's tax rate will be 5 cents less than this year's rate due to tax compression required by House Bill 1. The average China Spring ISD homeowner is currently paying \$1,716 per year. This amount would decrease by about \$58 next year with the passage of this bond. For residents who are 65 or older and have received the "Over—65 Homestead Exemption," there is a limit on the amount of school taxes to be paid. School taxes may be below, but cannot be above that tax limit. "This is a unique time in history. Taking advantage of the provisions of HB 1, we can upgrade our facilities and still have an overall tax payment reduction," Stephens said.

The long range plan is to open the new intermediate school in August of 2009. The high school classroom additions will be phased in to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum. Other renovations will occur with the least disruption to the learning environment. The new building and classroom additions will be designed with teacher and community input and will best suit the needs of China Spring and its educational programs. Plans are to convert the existing intermediate school into administrative offices and a community center for non-profit groups.

Thank you for your support and involvement in public education in China Spring. Please call me at 836-1115 if you have any questions or email at gkazan@chinaspringisd.net.

Sincerely,

George Kazanas

Election Information

- April 12** - Last day to register to vote
- April 30** - Early Voting April 30 - May 8, 2007, permanent site at China Spring ISD Administration Building, 6301 Sylvania, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., M-F. Two temporary early voting events are scheduled: May 1st at CSMS, 7201 N. River Crossing, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m., 1st Grade Music Program; & May 3rd at CSES, 200 Bob Johnson Rd., 5:00 until 8:00 p.m., PK & Kindergarten Roundup.
- May 1** - Temporary Early Voting Site, CSMS, 7201 N. River Crossing, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- May 3** - Temporary Early Voting Site, CSES, 200 Bob Johnson Rd., 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- May 4** - Last day to apply for ballot by mail, (MUST be received, not postmarked).
- May 8** - Last day of Early Voting
- May 12** - **Election Day** Polling Location: CS High School Library, 7301 N. River Crossing., 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Don't forget to register to vote! Form can be picked up at the China Spring Administration Building located at 6301 Sylvania Street, at the Bosque or McLennan County Elections Offices or online at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections

To be eligible to register to vote, you must:

- be a U.S. citizen;
- be a resident of the county;
- be 18 years old (you may register at 17 years and 10 months);
- not a convicted felon (unless a person's sentence is completed, including any probation or parole);
- not declared mentally incapacitated by a court of law.

CSISD Bond Proposal \$22 Million To:

- Build an intermediate school for grades 4, 5, & 6;
- Add science labs and additional classrooms to the high school;
- Add classrooms and supporting infrastructure to the middle school;
- Remodel restrooms in the elementary school
- school gym, build additional restrooms, and construct a new multi-purpose recreational facility.

Also,

If funds are available, proceeds from the sell of the bonds may be used to purchase the following:

- land for future school sites,
- security and surveillance equipment at all campuses,
- upgrade technology infrastructure.