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De Soto School District #73

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*Superintendent's Office
Ensuring learning, growth, and success for all.*

December 4, 2018

Dear Fellow Dragons,

The purpose of this communication is to inform you of the Proposition Safe Schools ballot measure and invite you to the Proposition Safe Schools Committee meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018 at our Central Office location on Vineland School Road at 6 p.m.

What is Proposition Safe Schools?

Proposition Safe Schools is a no tax increase ballot measure that will allow us to use our money for safety and security initiatives without increasing the total tax levy. When we collect taxes, we have to indicate where the money will go. We currently have \$3.4235 per 100 dollars of assessed valuation that goes toward operating our district and \$0.9397 per 100 dollars of assessed valuation that goes to paying long-term debt for the 2018-2019 school year. This results in a total combined levy of \$4.3632 per 100 dollars of assessed valuation. The district has saved money through strategic refinancing, enabling us with the opportunity to move 15 cents from our long-term debt to assist in operating costs associated with safety and security.

Why does the district need community support to achieve these measures?

Due to the cost associated with the safety and security initiatives, including recurring costs associated with items such as school resource officers, we are asking our community for their help. We are asking for our community's help in completing safety and security initiatives within school facilities, while also meeting the associated operating expenses of the district, by allowing us to shift how we use our money.

Is this a tax increase? Does the tax does become permanent?

No. Proposition Safe Schools is a no net increase to the total tax levy. The total levy will remain the same. The district intends to reduce the debt service levy by 15 cents and shift this 15 cents to the operating levy in tax year 2019 and each year thereafter. Therefore, the measure would not require a tax increase. A debt service levy is temporary and expires when the debt is paid off. Shifting 15 cents to the operating levy would result in a permanent funding source for safety and security initiatives within school facilities, and meet the associated operating expenses of the district.

Safe Students. Safe Schools. Safe Community.

What method was used to determine safety and security needs?

A large number of safety and security initiatives have been identified by our students, staff, community, and the Department of Homeland Security as needed safety improvements. Three main focus areas were identified and include training, resource officers, and building access. Many of the measures identified through our strategic planning process are costly and recurring.

How does De Soto’s tax levy compare to other Jefferson County Schools?

De Soto School District has the 2nd lowest tax rate out of the 11 Jefferson County Schools. The average total levy for Jefferson County Schools is \$4.5219. Listed below is the De Soto #73 Historical Total Levy:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Total Levy</u>
2018-2019	4.3632
2017-2018	4.3547
2016-2017	4.3364
2015-2016	4.3258
2014-2015	4.3688

What is the average cost per household?

As the intent is to maintain the same overall levy listed above, there is no increased cost because of this ballot measure. The ballot measure is requesting approval to shift 15 cents permanently. This shift would generate approx. \$292,000 a year for safety and security items without increasing the overall levy. As the median value of a house in De Soto is \$96,100, the permanent shift would equate to approx. \$27.38 a year or 7 cents a day for safer students, safer schools, and a safer community.

What will our school gain from Proposition Safe Schools?

If supported by our community, the measure will allow us to use approximately \$292,000 each year for safety and security improvements, while maintaining the current tax levy. Included is a multiyear budget draft of prioritized safety and security improvements to be accomplished if the community says yes to Proposition Safe Schools. The progression of items listed are an *example* of what could be done each year and would still need to be finalized by the Board with feedback from all stakeholders. If passed, the district will be able to complete many of the items identified over the next 5-7 years with little impact on our general operating fund and no tax increase for our patrons.

Why is there a need for a ballot measure?

In order to make these transfers, a simple majority of voters needs to agree. Our Board of Education approved a resolution for a special school election to be held on April 2, 2019 for the purpose of asking our community to pass Proposition Safe Schools.

What is the official ballot language?

Proposition Safe Schools

Shall the Board of Education of the De Soto #73 School District, Missouri be authorized to increase the operating tax levy by \$0.1500 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation in order to provide additional funds to address safety and security initiatives within school facilities, and meet the associated operating expenses of the District?

(The District intends to reduce the debt service levy by \$0.1500 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation in order to offset the estimated \$0.1500 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation increase to the operating levy and will result in no net increase to the total tax levy if this Proposition is approved by the voters. Approval of this proposition is estimated to increase the District’s adjusted operating tax levy to \$3.5735 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation and will be applied to the assessed valuation in tax year 2019 and each year thereafter.)

YES

NO

How can I get more information or get involved?

You can assist by sharing the information above with others in our community, by informing others of the safety and security needs within our school, and by joining the proposition committee by contacting our Central Office. We will be having our first meeting for Proposition Safe Schools on December 10 at our Central Office location (610 Vineland School Road) at 6 p.m. Please mark your home calendar for this date as we hope to see you there.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the success of our students in our community. Please feel free to call or stop by as my door is always open. You can always reach me via email at isaacson.josh@desoto.k12.mo.us, at Central Office (636) 586-1000, or on my cell (573) 590-1878. Safety and security continue to be our top priority. Preschool teachers should not have to be thinking about how to protect four and five year olds from an active shooter, but it is our current reality. We appreciate your continued support.

Go Dragons!

With Dragon Pride,



Joshua J. Isaacson, Ed.D.

De Soto #73 School District
Multi Year Budget Draft Safety & Security Improvements
 (Numbers do not account for increases due to normal increases in operation costs)

FY 2018-2019

Budget \$150,000

Training, Communication, and Visibility

Training	\$5,000
Update safety/security protocols	No cost

Resource Officer(s)

City of De Soto	Approximate annual cost \$16,336
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Building Access

Barriers

Gates at Elementary Buildings	Approximate cost \$6,000
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Exterior doors

Adding proximity locks	Approximate cost \$21,053
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Interior doors

Replacement of classroom doors	Approximate cost \$26,000
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Replacement of side lights	Approximate cost \$6,825
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Extra locking mechanisms	Approximate cost \$25,785
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Fire hose segments for doors	Local Fire Department donations
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Total Cost to date \$106,999

FY 2019-2020

Budget \$292,740

Training, Communication, and Visibility

Signs	Approximate cost \$5,000
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Tip Line	Varying-recurring cost
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Cameras (All buildings)	Approximate cost \$160,000
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Resource Officer(s)

City of De Soto	Approximate annual cost \$22,462
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Jefferson County Sheriff	Approximate annual cost \$77,780
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Building Access

Interior Doors

Replacement of classroom doors	Approximate cost \$27,498
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Total Cost \$292,740

De Soto #73 School District
Multi Year Budget Draft Safety & Security Improvements

FY 2020-2021

Budget \$292,740

Training, Communication, and Visibility

Training	\$5,000
Cameras	Approximate ongoing software cost \$2,500
Exterior lighting	Approximate cost \$65,000

Resource Officer(s)

City of De Soto	Approximate annual cost \$22,462
Jefferson County Sheriff	Approximate annual cost \$77,780

Building Access

Barriers

Fencing (Elementary Buildings)	Approximate cost \$45,000
Fencing (Other Campuses)	Approximate cost \$10,796
Concrete barriers/bollards	Approximate cost \$30,000

Interior Doors

Replacement of classroom doors	Approximate cost \$14,202
Replacement of classroom locks	Approximate cost \$20,000

Total Cost \$292,740

FY 2021-2022

Budget \$292,740

Training, Communication, and Visibility

Training	\$5,000
Cameras	Approximate ongoing software cost \$2,500

Resource Officer(s)

City of De Soto	Approximate annual cost \$22,462
Jefferson County Sheriff	Approximate annual cost \$77,780

Building Access

Main Entry

Approximate architectural cost \$10,000

Additional Vestibule

\$174,998 Fund 4 Transfer

Total Cost \$292,740

De Soto #73 School District
Multi Year Budget Draft Safety & Security Improvements

FY 2023-2024

Budget \$292,740

Training, Communication, and Visibility

Training

\$5,000

Cameras

Approximate ongoing software cost \$2,500

Resource Officer(s)

City of De Soto

Approximate annual cost \$22,462

Jefferson County Sheriff

Approximate annual cost \$77,780

Building Access

Main Entry

Additional vestibule

\$184,998 Fund 4 Transfer

Total Cost \$292,740

FY 2024-2025

Budget \$292,740

Training, Communication, and Visibility

Training

\$5,000

Cameras

Approximate ongoing software cost \$2,500

Resource Officer(s)

City of De Soto

Approximate annual cost \$22,462

Jefferson County Sheriff

Approximate annual cost \$77,780

Building Access

Main Entry

Additional vestibule

\$184,998 Fund 4 Transfer*

Total Cost \$292,740

*Total saved in Fund 4 after three years would be approximately \$544,994. Additional years of transfer may be required to ensure adequate funding for construction of main entryways in each building.

Additional Safety and Security Items for Future Consideration

Mental health supports

Building radio replacement

Paying for training staff and continued ALICE training

Replacing safety buckets and bags in all classrooms

Replacing AEDs throughout district

Bus camera replacements and replacement of cameras after 6-8 years

Continued ongoing cost of resource officers

Playground safety costs of equipment

Ongoing upkeep and repair of all items listed above

Draft amounts do not include extra unanticipated costs