

Schools: Bond projects include athletic facility upgrades

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To ensure safe rooms at each school site, the bond included \$8.4 million for school safety projects, including safe rooms at Virginia Smith and Clara Reynolds and inclusion of safe rooms in additions to both the middle school and high school.

A total of \$1,833,948 is dedicated to capital improvements in addition to the construction of 10 new classrooms at the middle school and another eight additional classrooms for the high school. Russell Babb Elementary already has a safe room in place.

CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Construction is already underway on the roof and HVAC repairs and replacement and construction of the safe rooms at both Virginia Smith and Clara Reynolds can begin immediately since both are located adjacent to the existing school building.

The safe room at Clara Reynolds Elementary will be 2,150 square feet and house 400 people with two restrooms. The safe room is located south of the existing gym. The room could be used as an assembly room but would not be used for storage. Cost is projected at \$612,909.

The safe room at Virginia Smith Elementary will be 2,750 square



feet and house 500 people with two restrooms. The room could be used a multi-purpose room for PE. Cost of this facility would be \$697,524.

Another item on the tab for safety improvements would be a \$325,000 for security cameras for the district and \$150,000 is included in bond funds for improvements of the Vocational Agriculture facilities at the high school site. Both projects can be completed while school is in session.

The original site of what was originally the location of the entire Harrah School System and housed the Middle School was shuttered at the conclusion of the 2014-15 school year and the sixth and seventh grade students were moved to

the former junior high.

There the 6-7th graders were joined by the eighth graders to form a true Middle School. The high school now houses grades 9-12, thus creating the need for additional classrooms at each site.

HARRAH HIGH SCHOOL

The proposed eight new classrooms at the high school will provide 13,563 square feet of additional space, including a work room and two rest rooms. The added space will attach to the west side of the existing building and include dedicated safe room space to accommodate 633 students.

Cost is projected at will cost \$2,930,652.

HARRAH MIDDLE SCHOOL

The 10 rooms at the middle school, which includes safe room space, will provide 16,226 square space of additional space at a cost of \$3,868,977.

The designated space for safe rooms will be three classrooms on the southeast corner of the new addition, plus a wide corridor and two rest rooms. This space would accommodate 631 persons, again well in excess of the current enrollment.

NEW ATHLETIC FACILITIES

When Harrah Panthers football coach Phil Webb and his club finish the current football sea-

son, work will begin immediately to completely transform the Evans Field complex and have the improvements completed in time for the 2107-18 football season.

A total of \$5,898,990 was included in the bond issue to completely rearrange the football stadium. Seating for the home team and a new press box will be constructed on the West side of the stadium, while the crumbling stadium on the East wide will be demolished and bleachers for the visiting teams erected.

New artificial turf will be installed for the football field.

The bulk of the athletic budget (\$3,396,124) will be dedicated to a new multi-sport building to be constructed in the southeast portion of the complex. Included would be dressing rooms for soccer, track and softball, workout rooms for cheer and pom squads, concession stands and restrooms.

Baseball and wrestling locker rooms and workout space have already been relocated to the "I" Building at the former Middle School complex.

TRANSPORTATION

Part of the \$600,000 transportation bond has already been utilized with the purchase of four new route busses and one new bus for transporting special education students.

Purchase of school vans could also be made with bond funds.

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