

Education

Choctaw-Nicoma Park moving forward with bond projects

By Ryan Horton
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Choctaw-Nicoma Park Schools has spent the last year planning in preparation of the disbursement of funding from the voter-approved bond. “The bond issue provides two different kinds of budgets,” said CNP Superintendent David Reid. “One is the lease revenue portion that is upfront money, and the other is general obligation which is money collected each year of the bond, and

can only be allocated after it is collected.” In February the district received the upfront portion of funding, and now visible construction is expected to be underway this spring. “Feb. 19, we received the upfront money,” said Reid. Officials say there doesn’t appear to have been much progress in the last year, but they assure residents plenty has been happening behind the scenes. “We have been extremely busy the

last year working with architects, construction managers and city officials getting our proper permits,” said Director of Bond Oversight Todd Dilbeck. Officials say a turbulent market for construction materials the past year have complicated the process, but things are moving forward as planned. Bids are going out and construction is expected to begin this spring starting with work at Choctaw High School. The main front building will kick-

start the CHS projects, but other upgrades to begin in the near future include significant improvements of athletic facilities, the Air Force Junior ROTC room, band room, little theatre, and VoAg barn. Indian Meridian/James Griffith Intermediate safe room and office expansions, Westfall Elementary parent pickup lanes, Choctaw Elementary safe room and cafeteria renovations and the construction of a new west side elementary are also at the forefront of bond priorities.



Two new elementary schools planned

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Two new elementary schools are among major improvements planned for the Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District. In February of 2022, district voters overwhelmingly supported two new bond proposals. In total 75.21 percent of voters approved \$273,595,000 of new indebtedness to be used for districtwide improvements, while 73.36 percent of the voted in support of another \$9 million which will be used for a new bus fleet. Safety was the primary focus of the bonds, and expected district growth was the other major concern in planning the bond pack-

age. The CNP School District is much larger than municipal boundaries of the City of Choctaw and Nicoma Park, and also include residents within Midwest City, Harrah and Oklahoma City. New housing developments currently being constructed or planned within the CNP School District include new home estimates of at least 1,400 within Choctaw, 1,100 in Midwest City, 600 in Harrah and 500 units in Oklahoma City limits. Officials say that totals around 3,700 currently planned houses, duplexes and apartments that could potentially be sending new students to CNP schools in coming years.

Construction is set to begin this spring on a new main building at Choctaw High School. RENDERINGS PROVIDED

