

Q & A's about the new primary school

Q. What are the main reasons for needing a new school?

A. *We are overcrowded, as evidenced by the recent influx of mobile classrooms. We have serious safety issues on the campus concerning 3, 4, & 5 yr. olds crossing paths with school buses, delivery trucks, etc.*

Q. Wouldn't just adding onto the existing cafeteria fix the problem?

A. *It would help the cafeteria overcrowding, but would not help the safety issues at all. Furthermore, there is nowhere to add onto the cafeteria. We have already done this several years ago. There is simply no more space!*

Q. It has been said that eliminating pre-school would free up necessary space that would keep us from having to build a new school. Is this true?

A. *It is true, pre-school is not required. Neither is kindergarten. Neither is Band, Music, Art, Spanish, Football, Basketball Baseball, etc. However our goal is to educate **all** children in **all** areas. We feel very strongly that **all of the above** are important and educationally sound programs.*

Q. Is it true that because of the economy, student enrollment is dropping?

A. *Enrollment is up by 16% in the last 7 yrs. and is increasing again this year.*

Q. Will building a new school really cost \$15 million?

A. *Absolutely not! Our projections indicate in the 9-10 million dollar range. If for some reason, the costs are much more than that, we will NOT build the school.*

Q. How much property tax will be required to build the new school?

A. *Best case scenario would be an additional 1.85 cent increase. Worst case scenario would be an additional 2.95 cent increase*

Q. If the ¼ cent sales tax doesn't pass, will the school be built?

A. *The decision to build the school has already been made. The ¼ cent sales tax vote is just a way to give the taxpayers the option to use sales tax money to help pay for the new school and keep property taxes low.*

Q. What are the differences in sales tax and property tax?

A. *Sales tax is paid by everyone purchasing goods in Clay County. It doesn't matter whether you live here or just visiting here. Property taxes are paid by anyone owning land or vehicles in Clay County.*

Q. Would building a new Central Office and moving students into the old Vocational Building solve the problem?

A. *Right now our growth problems are in the early grades. It would not be feasible to put 4,5 & 6 yr. olds in this building. The lower level is already used for high school shop classes. This would not help our safety situation at all as we would be putting these small children right next to a major road through campus.*

Q. Doesn't the county already spend too much money on the schools?

A. *On a statewide average, most school systems get 25% - 30% of the county budget. Our neighbor to the west, Cherokee County, gives their schools 21% of the county budget. To the east, Macon County gives their schools 28% of their budget. Clay County receives 7.5% of our county budget. This is not a complaint. We just want the taxpayers to know that the Board of Education is very frugal with the dollar. With the payment for the new school added to this, we would be receiving approx. 12% of the county budget.*