

PIPER USD 203

3130 N. 122nd St. | Kansas City, KS 66109

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Dear Pirate Nation,

Greetings! It has been an exciting week for Pirate Nation both in the classroom and through all of our extracurricular events at both Piper Middle School and Piper High School. I love seeing the students so happy, connected, engaged and enjoying school. It is an especially exciting week as this weekend marks Homecoming, and we are planning a great afternoon and evening for all of our current Piper Pirates along with our Alumni! A special thank you to Piper Education Foundation for hosting an open house for our Alumni at Piper High School prior to the home football game. One of our district core values is **Community**, and it is such a joy to see our community gathered and enjoying each other to celebrate Homecoming Weekend.

September 13, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

I would like to take the opportunity today to recap last night's September Board of Education Meeting. The Board adopted the budget for the 21-22 school year during its annual budget hearing. A huge thank you to our Director of Business, Mitch Nutterfield, for his careful and deliberate work in finalizing the budget with our Board of Education prior to submitting it to the Kansas State Department of Education.

Approval of Bond Resolution

As I have shared in previous *Tuesday Talks*, we have had a Piper FUTUREREADY 2030 Community Committee that has been researching and discussing options for what the school district needs in order to be prepared to manage our continued growth. The Piper School District is the third fastest growing school district in the state of Kansas and is projected to be the second fastest growing school district in the state within the next 5 years. The district has continued to grow at a rapid pace of 5% per year, and that growth is anticipated to continue for the next 10 years. As such, we need to ensure that our district assets and facilities are prepared to handle the growth while at the same time we are planning for the future and are cognizant of our future facility needs.

To that end, the committee has conducted four meetings where they have evaluated our projected enrollment numbers, reviewed district survey data, completed a district facility audit, and discussed our mil levy tax base. They have considered numerous options of how to manage our current facilities and deferred maintenance along with what is needed for the future. The comprehensive list of projects that need to be addressed carries a price tag of \$103 Million. The committee narrowed the options down to two: move forward with one large bond campaign for \$103 Million or two bond campaigns in 2022 and then again in approximately 2026.

Last night, the committee made the recommendation to the Board to have a two-part bond issue to try to address the current deferred maintenance needs of the district along with planning for the future.

**John Bakarich, III ~ Larry Beashore ~ Ashley Biondi ~ Kim Brown ~ Desiree' Fergus ~ Theresa Fisette ~ Jeb Vader
Dr. Jessica Dain, Superintendent of Schools**

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Bond Campaign Phase I: \$64 Million Bond Campaign January 25, 2022

Balancing the needs to address deferred maintenance, traffic flow, secondary capacity numbers, planning for future growth and **ensuring that all students benefit from improvements**, the following items were included in last night's Bond Resolution that was passed 7 to 0:

- Finish the new Piper High School (current Piper Creek Elementary)
 - 100,000 square foot addition +/-
 - Performing Arts Center
 - Career & Technology Education Building
 - Campus Athletics
 - Site Upgrades
- New Piper Creek Elementary (current middle school)
 - New Front Entrance & Exterior Enhancements
 - Safe Parent Pick up and Drop off Site improvements
 - Total Re-imagining to create a state of the art Elementary
 - Including Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Data upgrades
- Updated Middle School (current high school)
 - Site & Parking Improvements
 - Safe Parent Pick up and Drop off improvements
- Piper Prairie Elementary Upgrades
 - Safe Parent Pick up and Drop off
 - Site Development
- Land Acquisition
- Early Childhood (old East Elementary)
 - 3 Pod Classroom Upgrades
 - Site Upgrades
- District Technology Upgrades
- District wide technology infrastructure
- Deferred Maintenance

Bond Campaign Phase II: \$36 Million Bond Campaign January 2026

- Piper High School Expansion
 - 12,500 SF Classroom and CTE Expansion
- 3rd Elementary Building
- Middle School Upgrades

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- Educational Experience Upgrades
- Piper Prairie Deferred Maintenance
- District Technology Upgrades
- Piper Administration & Board Room
- Maintenance Building / Bus

We will continue to educate the community on this upcoming bond election as we prepare to ensure that both our students and our district facilities and assets are #FUTUREREADY

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Discussion

Lastly, the Board of Education revisited their monthly discussion of COVID-19 and the mitigation strategies currently in place. The Board heard from eight community patrons regarding the current masking requirement and then the Board voted 4 to 3 to continue to keep the mask requirement in place. As stated previously, the Board of Education is dedicated to monitoring our COVID-19 data and discussing district protocols on a monthly basis.

As we consider COVID protocols, please know that circumstances may change and, in turn, influence our decision-making and actions throughout the remainder of the summer, the start of school, and throughout the fall and winter. We will continue to keep our school families informed and updated. The safety of students, staff, and our community is, and will continue to be, our top priority. Please know that there may be instances during the upcoming school year where unpredicted or unexpected circumstances lead to us needing to make quick decisions. If this occurs, we will communicate with you as quickly as possible.

At the current time, we have created a spot on our district website with [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding the specific COVID protocols we are following at this time.

Please find below our weekly update on District COVID data:

	Students (Aug. 19- Sept. 10) *Running Total	New Student Cases (Week of Sept 7-10)	Staff (Aug 13-Sept 14) *Running Total	New Staff Cases (Week of Sept. 7-10)
Piper Early Childhood	0	0	0	0
Piper Prairie Elementary	3	1	1	0
Piper Creek Elementary	2	0	0	0

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Piper Middle School	7	3	0	0
Piper High School	2	1	3	0
TOTALS	14 (Running Total)	5	4 (Running Total)	0

RECYCLED INFORMATION

Lifetime Golden Agers Activity Pass

Do you know any community members ages 65+ years young? If so, please remind them that Piper High School offers a Lifetime Golden Agers Activity Pass that is good at All Frontier League Athletic Events (Excludes tournaments, KSHSAA events, plays and musicals). Passes can be picked up at Piper High School; please have them ask for Dr. Taylor Mapp or Mrs. Sarah Barnes.

Proud to be a Pirate,

Dr. Jessica Dain
Superintendent of Schools