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>> Sports, 3A

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KRUM ISD



Courtesy art/Krum ISD

A rendering shows plans to renovate Krum High School, rather than building a new one, according to the latest decisions from district officials.

Krum ISD pivots to renovate high school, instead of building anew

By Lucinda Breeding-Gonzales
Staff Writer

Krum ISD officials announced cost-saving measures to stretch 2022 bond funds, while still meeting the needs of students in a fast-growth district.

The biggest adjustment? Instead of building a new high school as proposed in the bond proposal, the district will renovate the existing school on Bobcat Boulevard and build more than 100,000 additional square feet.

Superintendent Jason Cochran said the school board convened community meetings in June and September of 2023 to discuss the need to revise spending because of soaring construction costs that whipsawed growing school districts across the state.

What the original bond proposed

Krum ISD voters approved one of two bond proposals in the 2022 election. They didn't pass a \$30 million proposal to build a new stadium. But they approved a \$244.7 million package, Proposition A.

Proposition A originally intended to build an addition to the Krum Early Education Center, which would increase capacity by 225 students for a total capacity of 850.

It proposed a new elementary school to serve 850 students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

It also included renovations to Hattie Dyer Elementary School, repurposing it to serve prekindergarten, creating space for technology and district employee child care.

Proposition A was also drawn up to build a new high school to serve 1,800 students in ninth to 12th grades.

What revised plans will do

Cochran said the board discussed the anticipated needs for local families, and shifted priorities to "stretch those taxpayer dollars."

In addition to renovating and adding to the existing high school, Proposition A funds will now build an addition to Dixie Hansel Elementary School, formerly the Krum Early Education Center.



In addition to adding about 140,000 square feet of space to Krum High School, renovations are planned for 70% of the building.

Courtesy art/Krum ISD

The bond funded the district's new career and technology education center to offer focused vocational training to students pursuing trade and certification schooling.

The district will rebuild the Krum Alternative Learning Center to fit the district's alternative education and technology department, and it's building a new middle school that can eventually be used as a high school.

The new middle school will open this summer.

The plan for high school Bobcats

Cochran said the district and the school board "tackled the challenges" posed by renovating and expanding Krum High School. Board members and district leaders spent a year studying and discussing the best way to increase the capacity for a growing high school.

"We came out with a square-foot addition of what that needs to look like," Cochran said. "We're currently at about 141,000 square feet, and the addition is going to add about 143,000 square feet."

Cochran said plans are to renovate 70% of the high school building, too.

The plans are to add space by building into about half of the existing high school parking lot and adding a second story to part of the building. The proposal includes building new athletic and fine arts wings, as well as a new field house on the field east of the football field. The revision includes

a new basketball gym that will be able to accommodate 1,800 to 2,000 students.

Schools can't build without including parking, and Cochran said the field that is currently outside of the front office will be paved for 600 parking spaces. The band practice pad could be converted into faculty parking, he said, "and then the land to the east of the football field we acquired, that's also going to be a parking lot."

Plans are to add a kitchen and expand capacity in the high school cafeteria.

"We're going to need a cafeteria that can hold three lunches of approximately 600 kids apiece," Cochran said.

Cochran said existing gyms will be repurposed, too.

"The old basketball gym, which is our current varsity gym, will turn into our auxiliary JV gym," he said. "And then the current auxiliary area will be split for indoor sports. They'll be areas for added programs. You know — dance, cheer, wrestling — having indoor turf area for indoor practice."

The second-story addition will add classroom space to Krum High. Cochran said the next step in the high school project will be the construction of a new parking lot, and the district expects crews to start within the next 60 days.

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