



# 2023 SCHOOL ELECTION






## CASCADE SCHOOLS BUILDING RESERVE LEVY

In an effort to comply with the District's Strategic Plan in enhancing our facilities to be welcoming, inviting and a conducive learning environment for not only the students and staff, but the community as well, the Board of Trustees is proposing a plan for a Facility Upgrade Project.

### BUILDING SPECS

*Cascade Public Schools encompasses one elementary school, one middle school, one high school, a bus barn, and a football stadium. The facilities total 125,400 ft<sup>2</sup> and range in age with the original construction of the school dating back to 1956. The facilities are well maintained, and several have been renovated in the years since their original construction, yet some infrastructure improvements would help improve building comfort, reliability and efficiency, per a facility audit conducted by AMERESCO in fall of 2022.*

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### PROJECT SCOPE

- HVAC/Chilled Water System
- Boiler Plant Upgrade
- LED Lighting Upgrade
- Test, Adjust & Balance Systems
- Temperature Control System Upgrade
- Cabinet Heater Replacement

### PROJECT FUNDING

*The total facility upgrade project is estimated to cost between \$1.79M-\$2.275M. The District would use \$474K of federal grant money towards the project. To fund the remainder, the District is asking the voters to approve a 10-year Building Reserve Levy for both the Elementary and High School Districts in the amount of \$125K each. The annual taxpayer impact is estimated at:*

	Property Tax Requirement	Mills	\$100K House	\$200K House
EL	\$125,000	14.64	\$ 19.76	\$ 39.52
HS	\$125,000	12.34	\$ 16.66	\$ 33.32

# PROJECT DETAILS

## Chilled Water System Addition

This facility improvement provides mechanical cooling for the middle school, high school, gymnasium, and cafeteria/commons. The anticipated scope of work would include:

- Provide and install an air-cooled chiller, chilled water pumps, and distribution piping
- Provide and install chilled water cooling coils in existing air handlers or supply ductwork for the following units:
  - AHU-1 Middle School and High School
  - AHU-2 Gymnasium
  - AHU-3 Cafeteria/Commons
- Provide glycol/water treatment

Estimated Price: \$775,000-\$975,000

## Boiler Plant Upgrade

This facility improvement addresses existing deficiencies with the boiler system and will provide additional capacity during extreme cold and redundancy for enhanced reliability. The anticipated scope of work would include:

- Remove old non-functional boilers and associated hot water piping in plant
- Flush hot water piping and clean strainers to remove sediment
- Refresh glycol/water treatment
- Provide and install a third Aerco Benchmark 1.5 MBH condensing boiler with pump
- Provide and install new magnetic air/dirt separator

Estimated Price: \$100,000-\$150,000

## LED Lighting Upgrade

This facility improvement improves light quality with new LED lighting that is also energy efficient and long lasting when compared to existing fluorescent lighting. The anticipated scope of work would include:

- Provide and install new LED lamps and retrofit kits for interior lighting
- Provide and install new LED fixtures for exterior lighting
- Existing lamps and ballasts will be properly disposed
- Utility incentives available for lighting and Ameresco will administer rebate applications

Estimated Price: \$225,000-\$275,000

## Test, Adjust, and Balance

This facility improvement ensures proper air and water flow rates to ensure the HVAC system is operating properly. The anticipated scope of work would include:

- Test, adjust, and balance water flows for hot water and chilled water systems
- Test, adjust, and balance airflows to ensure proper ventilation and comfort

Estimated Price: \$15,000-\$25,000

## Temperature Controls System Upgrade

This facility improvement would replace antiquated temperature controls that are failing and/or no longer supported with a new direct digital controls (DDC) system with web supervisor. In addition to improving reliability, comfort, and efficiency, the controls upgrade would also provide enhanced system visibility, control, and alarming capabilities even offsite over the web or mobile device. The anticipated scope of work would include:

- Provide and install new direct digital controls (DDC) system, including:
  - Programmable DDC controllers with web enabled supervisor and graphics
  - End devices including 2-way control valves, damper actuators, and sensors
  - Variable frequency drives for pumps to support variable speed pumping
- Optimize controls sequences of operation, including:
  - Sequencing equipment lead/lag, rotation, and fail over
  - Optimizing heating and cooling lockout/change over for comfort and efficiency
  - Optimizing hot water pumping to improve domestic hot water production
  - Programming occupancy controls to save energy after school hours, on weekends, on holidays, and over summer break
  - Provide an event mode sequence to optimize ventilation and temperature in the gymnasium for large occupancy events

Estimated Price: \$625,000-\$775,000

## Cabinet Heater Replacement

This facility improvement would replace existing cabinet heaters throughout the schools, many of which have failed in recent years.

Estimated Price: \$50,000-\$75,000

# FUNDING DETAILS

## FUNDING SOURCE I:

### Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding (ESSER III):

Over the course of the 2020-2021, Congress passed the CARES Act, CRRSA law, and the ARP Act, which allocated a total of \$189.5 billion to use in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Cascade Schools received \$920,715.00 of the nation's total allocation. The funds were broken down into three separate grants, ESSER I, II & III. Each grant had it's own set of stipulations for spending, but all were to be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Since receiving ESSER funds in 2020, the District has been able to complete several large facility upgrades such as HVAC in the Elementary building and the replacement of windows in portions of the building.

Under the ESSER III guidelines, the DOE lists the following as allowable expenses for the grant:

- School facility repairs and improvements to enable operation of schools to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure to environmental health hazards, and to support student health needs.
- Inspection, testing maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrade projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including mechanical and non-mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, filtering, purification and other air clearing fans, control systems, and window and door repair replacement.

Current ESSER III allocation: \$474,686

**Earmarked for:** FACILITIES: HVAC Installation - JH/High School Building. Repairing, replacing, and upgrading projects to improve the indoor air quality in school facilities, including HVAC systems, filtering, purification and other air cleaning, fans, control systems. To help circulate air while expectations of social distancing are still in effect.

**Expiration Date:** September 2024

## FUNDING SOURCE II:

### Montana Board of Investments INTERCAP Loan Program:

Since 1987, INTERCAP has been a valuable, low interest loan resource for eligible Montana government units as defined under 17-5-1604, MCA. The INTERCAP program is a variable rate loan program, where interest rates are adjusted on February 16th of each year. Eligible projects have wide flexibility, e.g. new and used equipment and vehicles, real property improvements, cash flow, preliminary engineering costs, and grant writing. INTERCAP Interest Rate: 5.75% - February 2023 through February 2024

### Building Reserve Voted Levy:

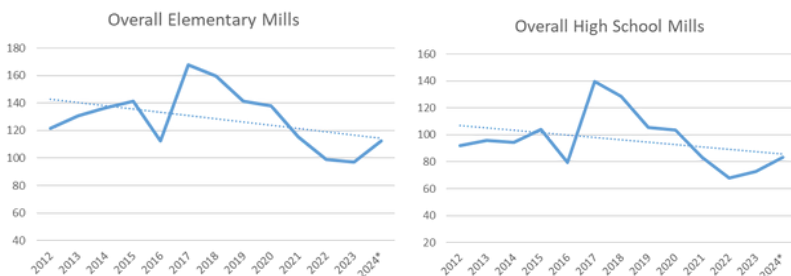
The proposed funding source for the loan payments would be a building reserve voted levy.

A building reserve voted levy election authorizes the school district to levy and accumulate money for a building project or capital improvements. The proposition specifies a certain sum of money to be levied in equal annual amounts over a specific number of years, up to 20 years. A building reserve levy may be used to finance future construction, equipping, or enlarging of school buildings. The District will be going to the voters to ask for the passage of a building reserve levy in both the Elementary & High School Districts in the annual amount of \$125K each (annual total \$250K) for a 10 year period. The estimated taxpayer impact of the passage of the levy is shown on page 1.

## CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET/LEVY HISTORY

### Cascade School District Budget History:

Over the past several years, the District has been diligent in their effort to reduce the impact on taxpayers to fund the budget. Since 2018, the District has had a relatively steady decline in mills. The below charts show the trend data of mills over the course of the years, and the projected increase of FY2024, with the building reserve levies calculated in, should they pass.



### Cascade School District Voted Levy History:

Below is the recent history of the District's voted levies. In 2014, the District asked the voters to pass a technology levy in both the elementary and high school in the total amount of \$150,000. The levy passed.

In 2016, the District asked the voters to pass a building reserve levy in both the elementary and high school in the total amount of \$213,374. The levy failed.

