

Week of December 11 - 15, 2017 Newspaper Article

Tri-City United Building Strong Futures (Part 2)

This week's article continues a series of information focused on Tri-City United's bond referendum scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2018 with early voting beginning on December 29, 2017 continuing through February 12, 2018.

Driving needs identified by the TCU Community Task Force on Facilities and evident in the thorough facilities study are:

- 1) School Facility space to meet the growing student enrollment;
- 2) Structural Maintenance needs;
- 3) Safety/Security issues.

Part 2 of this series focuses on our structural maintenance needs. With every building, there comes a time when you have to invest in its infrastructure and that is the case with a large section of roof and heating/ventilation/air conditioning equipment at Tri-City United Le Center K-8 School.

Roof Replacement

The section of roof over the east gymnasium and adjacent classrooms is 31 years old and as it has aged, it has formed cracks and leaks water into the school. Multiple repairs have been made to address the issue yet the cracks are large with some being the same length as a car. I encourage everyone to go to our TCU bond referendum website (www.tcu2905.us and click on the Referendum button) to view pictures of this section of roof. Repairs are simply not enough any longer.

During a recent staff presentation, John Frederickson (Dude), TCU Le Center lead custodian, shared that when this section of roof was installed, it had an expected "life" of about 18 years. He and our staff at TCU Le Center can attest that when rains or snow thaws happen,

water comes through the roof, runs down walls, and drips through the ceilings onto our floors. The water can be cleaned up but over time, the roof leaks are causing deterioration of internal ceilings, walls, and floors; and affects air quality.

The square footage of this section of roof is 22,032; the equivalent of 4½ basketball courts. The cost to replace the roof and ensure sealed structures and a healthy learning environment for students and staff is \$521,000.

This is NOT the same section of roof that was replaced in the summer of 2013. That section of roof was to the north of this needed roof replacement and was less than half the square footage; thus a much lower cost.

HVAC (Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning) Installation

Functioning, efficient, and quality HVAC systems are necessary in any building, especially ones that have large numbers of people together working and yes, learning. The HVAC system serving two-thirds of the classrooms and learning areas at TCU Le Center was installed 56 years ago; the same year the voting age was lowered to 18 and the finale of the television series, “The Ed Sullivan Show”.

Some may say that schools don’t need air conditioning, but a functioning HVAC system is more than that. Ventilating or ventilation (the V in HVAC) is the process of exchanging or replacing air in any space to provide high indoor air quality which involves temperature control, oxygen replenishment, and removal of moisture, odors, dust, airborne bacteria, carbon dioxide, and other gases.

A TCU staff member shared an example of how hot it gets in the classrooms needing this HVAC replacement. She told of when a container of chapstick was left on the classroom counter and when the staff member returned the next day, the chapstick had completely melted.

The square footage of the learning areas that would be impacted by this HVAC installation is 65,000 and the cost for this replacement is \$1,275,000.

The combined cost of addressing these two critical needs is \$1,796,000, which is almost three times more than our long term facilities maintenance funding.

Building Strong Futures for our students, families, and communities means keeping our children in our district, meeting families' needs in educational options for their children, and addressing the structural needs of our buildings to keep them safe, healthy, and solid for the long term.

Where can you find more information? Several resources are available to inform our public about the February 13, 2018 bond referendum:

- Our website has up-to-date information: www.tcu2905.us Look for the Referendum button at the top of the main page.
- Most recently mailed Tri-City United Titan Times newsletter.
- Public Information Meetings
 - **Tuesday, January 2**
TCU Lonsdale Gym
7:00 p.m.
 - **Thursday, January 4**
TCU Montgomery Auditorium
7:00 p.m.
 - **Tuesday, January 9**
TCU Le Center Commons
7:00 p.m.
**Tours available after each session and upon request*
- We want to meet with you. Let us know if you would like us to talk with your group or organization. Please contact Brenda Rosier to schedule a presentation date and time: brosier@tcu2905.us or (507) 364-8100

Stay tuned for Part 3 in this series of articles.

Teri Preisler is Superintendent of Tri-City United School District and can be reached at
tpreisler@tcu2905.us or 507-364-8100