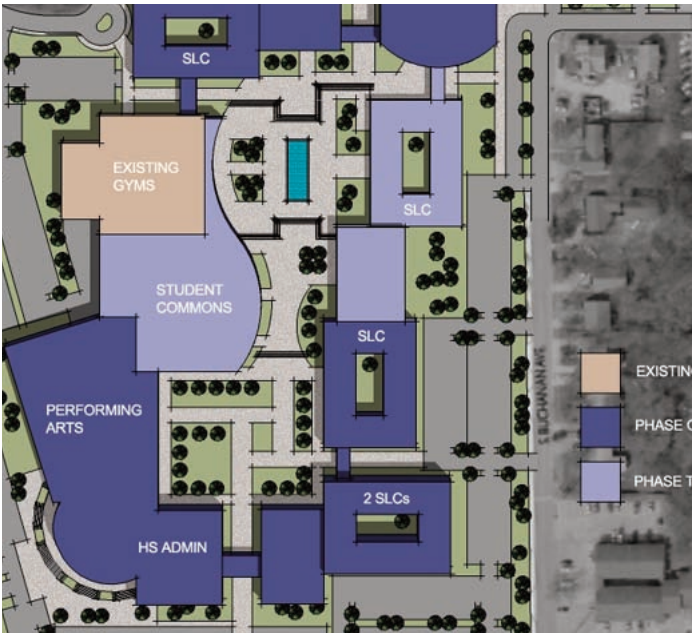


*4 Years in the Making*

# THE NEW FHS



*On September 15, Fayetteville voters will determine the future for Fayetteville High School when they vote on the proposed 4.9 mil increase to build a new FHS. This vote has been four years in the making, has involved hundreds of patrons, and will provide a facility equal to the quality of the students and staff. We hope the information provided here will answer any questions you might have.*

## The People's Plan

- The planning process for the new Fayetteville High School began early in 2009 with a series of focus groups that met with facilitators from Concordia, LLC to envision the masterplan for the new FHS. The process took place February 17-26, culminating with a community congress on February 26, where 14 plans were created by patron groups.
- The participants then voted on which of the campus plans they favored, and the three most popular plans were taken by Concordia and refined into master plans that were then presented to the Fayetteville Board of Education.
- The School Board voted 6-0 on June 25 to place a 4.9 mil increase on the September 15 school election ballot for the construction of the new FHS, based on master plan #2, which was recommended by the administration.

## Cost Considerations

- The cost to the average taxpayer per year is \$162.75 or \$13.56 per month, basically the cost of a pizza per month or a postage stamp per day. This is based on the average home value in Fayetteville, which is \$166,000.
- Comparing apples to apples, there is very little variance in the costs adjusted for 2010 inflation to the costs of other high schools built recently in the area. Also, our costs per square foot are in line with national standards.

- Here are the projected costs for the new FHS:

Item	Cost
Construction .....	\$82,039,790
Demolition, stadium upgrades, tennis court relocation, indoor soccer .....	\$6,826,358
Design fees, surveying, Govt. approvals, and LEED certification (\$350K) .....	\$5,002,000
Furnishings .....	\$6,000,000
Operational Cost, technology, and staffing .....	<u>\$10,200,000</u>
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$110,068,148</b>

- A 4.9 mil increase will generate \$113,000,000 for the project, which is projected to cost \$110,068,148. The additional \$3,000,000 will be used as a contingency fund, since the construction will involve challenging terrain, as well as students present during construction. FYI: the ballot title will read "up to \$115,825,000" to insure maximum flexibility in the structure of the bonds (this would be similar to closing costs on a home mortgage). The proposed millage rate increase will remain at 4.9.
- The new FHS will be the first and only LEED certified high school in NW Arkansas. LEED certification does add to the cost of construction (\$350K), but the benefits to the environment and the long-term energy savings make it worthwhile.

(over)



- ❑ Construction on the new FHS will begin in 2010 and will be subject to new building standards of the Arkansas Department of Education, which requires an addition 5-10% more square footage. None of the other high schools built since 2000 were subject to the new 2008 standards.
- ❑ The Fayetteville school millage rate is actually less today (42.8) than it was in 1995 (44.0) due to state rollbacks.

### Sale of FHS to the UA

- ★ The Fayetteville School District would not have realized the full \$50,000,000 of the sale price, and a millage increase would still be required. The current project cost is estimated at approximately \$110 million. Even if proceeds from the sale of the current FHS could offset some of the expenses, a new site would require an estimated \$30 million to replace facilities on the existing site that would need to be built elsewhere but will be retained on the existing site.
- ★ The University of Arkansas withdrew its offer to purchase the property, and Chancellor Gearhart was recently quoted as saying, "I think somebody was really smiling on our decision not to buy the high school. We would have been scraping to afford it as the economy made it harder to sell bonds, and now we've got money available to take on some critical deferred projects."
- ★ The only property the district owns that is large enough for a new high school is on Deane Solomon Road. However, that site was determined to be not politically viable, since not enough voters would support building the new high school on that site to pass a millage election. The community made it clear that the only acceptable site for a majority of voters would be the current site.

### Impact on Students & Staff

The new FHS will feature:

- ✦ Small Learning Communities that will provide more personalized instruction and collaboration opportunities, as

well as a greater sense of belonging,

- ✦ A true campus setting with a myriad of indoor and outdoor locations where learning can and will occur,
- ✦ A food court that will serve the needs of 2,400 students, instead of the current cafeteria that can only seat 350 students,
- ✦ State of the art technology, including Internet 2,
- ✦ A 1,200 seat performing arts center that fully meets the needs of all fine arts programs,
- ✦ Enhanced building security, instead of the current 56 exterior doors, and
- ✦ A multi-purpose arena for sporting events and other activities.

### Impact on Community

- ✦ The new FHS will be an economic stimulus for Fayetteville, creating jobs and pumping millions into the local economy.
- ✦ The new FHS will be a great recruiting tool for business, industry, and the University of Arkansas when recruiting new staff members.
- ✦ The new FHS will provide an environment to better train tomorrow's workforce for the jobs that Fayetteville will need to sustain growth and prosperity.
- ✦ The new FHS will perfectly align with the vision developed in the Fayetteville Forward summit by helping to raise the average income and living standards of all our community's families.
- ✦ The LEED certification for the new FHS will further validate the city's reputation for sustainable development, including the recent recognition by the National Resources Defense Council as the 6th best small city in the U.S.

*For more information,*  
[www.fayar.net](http://www.fayar.net)