

DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4A

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Dear Dolores District Voter:

The Dolores School District leadership would like your input. In the past year, the district has participated in a safety audit that included aging reports to all of the buildings on the school campus. The results of this report brought significant concerns regarding the safety of our students as well as the longevity of some of the older buildings on the campus. The buildings of concern are integral components to the learning facilities.

You may have heard about some of the flooding issues that have occurred in classrooms and the main gymnasium last year and in the recent five years as well. The district's main campus resides within a FEMA designated flood plain.

The district is considering several options to improve the current facilities to ensure that our students are learning in a safe and productive learning space. All of these options exceed the district's current budget capabilities. There are grant opportunities through the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant program offered by the Colorado Department of Education. The district would like to take advantage of a grant that is currently being offered in 2020 that will allow the district to have a waiver for matching funds but would still require a passed bond. We have begun the process of applying for this grant but still need the support of the community. This is where you come in as a tax payer and voter within our district.

We are asking that you take just a couple of minutes to answer the attached questions and return them to us as soon as possible in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. It is our hope to have as many responses back to the district office before December 2, 2019.

We are considering three options:

1. Stay at our current site on Central Avenue and rebuild. *This is possible; however, the challenge is the disruption of education during construction and the fact that our campus rests in a FEMA designated flood plain that will require all ground to be raised a minimum of 3 ½ feet. Another challenge will be to relocate the football field.*
2. Purchase a property located close to town and build a new Pre-K – 12th campus with all sports fields at the same site. *All engineers working on the concept have advised to explore this option. The challenge with this option is the sentiment of the current site and potential impacts to business owners.*
3. Postpone the construction and plan the construction onsite or seek a site more suitable to the community within the Town limits. *The challenge with postponement is the Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) Grant Program currently has two funding sources for school construction. After 2020, one of the funding sources will be gone, making it much more competitive and difficult to obtain BEST Grant funds.*