

Haworth Public Schools

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# JANUARY, 2010

## Haworth Schools' Newsletter

### A message from Superintendent Ted Brewer

This newsletter is dedicated to informing our community about the Haworth School District's bond issue: ***Building the Future That Our Children Deserve***. Unfortunately, 2010 is promising to be challenging for our school district as we face continuing State Aid cuts, State mandates and existing challenges that have been with our district for several years. During the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years, the Haworth Board of Education consulted with Jim Newcomb, school architect, along with several staff and community members, about the school buildings and the need for repairs and/or replacement. On May 10, 2009, the Haworth Junior High building flooded because of heavy rains. This caused classrooms to be flooded and floor/sewer drains to back up into the building. As part of the review process of the buildings, the architect prepared a feasibility study which determined which buildings could be renovated at the least possible cost to bring our buildings up to current building codes, to meet instructional needs and technology implementation, and to address safety concerns. The Haworth High School and Haworth Elementary School buildings are both structurally sound buildings, with sufficient drainage ability, and can therefore be renovated. It was determined that the Haworth Junior High building was itself structurally sound, but the low ground elevation would continue to cause flooding of the classrooms. The Board of Education was advised by the school architect that spending money to renovate the Junior High building was not a prudent use of public funds. It was estimated that renovation of the Junior High School could exceed \$600,000 dollars and still would not fix the drainage or flooding problems, due to the low elevation and proximity to the creek east of the school property.

Last fall, Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB), in the amount of one million dollars, became available from a federal program which allows schools to borrow funds at low interest rates for renovation of existing school buildings. However, the QZAB funds may only be used for renovation, not for construction of new buildings. The Haworth School District applied for and was awarded the QZAB funding, which will be used to renovate both the High School and Elementary School buildings. To address the problems with the Junior High School building, it was decided at the November 2009 School Board meeting to place on the election ballot a bond issue in the amount of \$1.26 million dollars. The bond issue will be used to construct a new Junior High School building, and at the same time replace the current secondary library. The election is scheduled for February 9, 2010, along with the regular school election. We realize the cost is a significant amount, but the need to provide a safe and efficient building that will meet the needs of today's students, as well as our future students for years to come, is also vital. There will be two public meetings, scheduled for January 25 and February 2, for patrons to walk through the Junior High School building, and to view a presentation, and ask questions.

There is never a good time to ask for a bond issue but the assessment was conducted by the Haworth Board of Education, with consultation from an architect, concerning the building needs of the Haworth School District. Building costs are 20% to 30% lower today because of current economic times. The Haworth School Board wants to give the Haworth community the opportunity to choose: ***Building The Future That Our Children Deserve***.

Please give me a call at 245-1406 or email [tbrewer@haworth.k12.ok.us](mailto:tbrewer@haworth.k12.ok.us) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Ted Brewer

