



## USD 497 NEWS

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### ***USD 497 Celebrates Successful \$87 Million Bond Election***

The Douglas County Clerk's Office has notified Lawrence Public Schools that the Lawrence School Bond Mail-Ballot Election passed by a margin of 74.5% on a vote of 14,300 to 4,898. (Vote counts are unofficial until ballots are canvassed on May 11, 2017.)

The \$87 million bond election will fund improvements to Lawrence and Free State High Schools, Liberty Memorial Central, South, Southwest and West Middle Schools and the Lawrence College and Career Center.

"The positive outcome of this election is a testimony to this community's priority of putting students first," said Superintendent of Schools Kyle Hayden. "I appreciate the Lawrence community supporting public schools and demonstrating a willingness to make the kind of investments necessary to maintain and transform the secondary schools into learning environments that support the hard work of teachers and serve students in the best way possible.

"I feel fortunate to have been in Lawrence at a time when I could work alongside so many wonderful school and community leaders who contributed to making significant improvements to our 14 elementary schools and who also have played a role in getting us to this point with upgrading our seven secondary schools. I look forward to continuing to build upon the accomplishments made with our elementary school improvements by transforming Lawrence High School into the kind of facility in which this community can be proud.

"This will also be a real shot in the arm for Free State High School. It is an opportunity to add classroom space that will accommodate student growth and create flexible, collaborative spaces to advance district initiatives around project-based learning and build 21st-century skills in our students. We'll also be able to modernize all of our middle schools, creating environments conducive to technology-rich and personalized student-centered learning.

"During the upcoming weeks and months, we will be hiring architects and construction managers and working closely with our middle and high school communities on the design and development of detailed project plans to meet the programmatic and building needs of each school.

"I want to thank the board of education, our staff and school families, and the community members – especially the "Yes for Lawrence" volunteers, who worked to get the word out about the importance of this election. And, of course, thank you, USD 497 voters!" Hayden said.