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(Neb.) - School bond issue defeated

By: John Thayer Posted at: 03/13/2012 05:23 PM

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CHADRON – The Chadron Public Schools bond issue has been defeated 1,556 to 654. Voters turned in ballots leading up to the 5:00 p.m. deadline Tuesday evening, including 50 last minute ballots.

A tally of the votes proved overwhelmingly against (70.41%) the bond.

A total of 4,619 ballots were sent out, of which 850 were returned undeliverable. In total, 2,212 ballots were counted of the 3,769 eligible.

Those in support of the bond got behind the campaign tabbed as "Safe, Warm & Dry."

Opponents of the bond argued tax increases would be too great and that other options are available for the board to consider.

With the failed bond issue, the Board of Education will have to look at other possibilities for improving the four existing school buildings.

School superintendent Caroline Winchester said the School District would like to thank County Clerk Cheryl Feist and her office for their extra time and patience during the process. Winchester also said she was grateful to everyone for voting. "Our patrons were given the opportunity to make this decision, and the people decided," said Winchester. "The Board of Education and administration will now act and move forward on the people's wishes."

Winchester also mentioned an article entitled "A History of the Chadron Public Schools" that stated, "What has made the Chadron City [Public] Schools a leader among the public schools of northwest Nebraska?I believe it is all of these: the very spirit of cooperation so prevalent and the keen desire that our children shall have the best that the good life can offer. All this has gone into the building of the institution know as the ChadronCity [Public] Schools."

Winchester added, "In this same spirit of cooperation we will move forward **TOGETHER** acting on the desire of the public and continuing to offer the best educational opportunities for the children of the ChadronPublicSchool District."

Winchester said the general public is invited to join with the School Board and Administrative Team on March 26th at 5:30 p.m. in the Central Office Board Room for their next steps in Strategic Planning.

(Questions, Comments or Concerns with this story? Email john@chadrad.com)

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