

## Bond Referendum Passed – Now What?

*Independence, IA – September 20, 2011*

Build for the Future (BFTF), the committee of supporters for a new Jr./Sr. High School for the Independence Community School District (ICSD) is elated with the results of the September 13<sup>th</sup> bond referendum vote, which drew 69% approval from voters. Now their focus will shift to helping the ICSD communicate the design, planning and building process behind the construction of the new facility.

“The school district has approximately five to six months to finalize the design, construction drawings and specifications for bidding for the new facility”, commented project architect Brad Simonson of HSR Associates. ICSD Superintendent Jean Peterson will help Simonson solicit feedback from school district staff and community members before requesting bids from contractors early 2012. Groundbreaking is set to occur in the spring of 2012, with construction continuing to the fall of 2013. The new Jr./Sr. High School is estimated to be completed in time for the start of the 2013-2014 school year.

The bond referendum will help finance approximately 45 percent of the overall cost of the new 169,000 square foot Jr./Sr. High School and all related site work. SILO funds, grants, and donations will cover the remaining costs of the project. BFTF will be assisting the Mustang Foundation, a non-profit group, in the capital campaign to bridge the gap between bond and SILO funds and the overall cost of the project, to raise approximately \$6 million.

"Organized fundraising efforts have been underway for several months but priority was obviously placed on the passage of the bond issue over everything else. We will raise the intensity of the pledge campaign in the coming months with the ultimate goal of "Bridging the Gap" prior to groundbreaking," stated Rob Robinson of the Mustang Foundation.

The Mustang Foundation is currently accepting gifts in the form of in-kind contributions, cash, and other non-cash assets (securities, CDs, real property). Please contact Rob Robinson at 319-334-7181 or [rob.robinson@bankiowa.com](mailto:rob.robinson@bankiowa.com) if you are interested in making a donation.

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