

## Proposal Timeline

The school board will host a public hearing regarding the consolidation proposal on September 11th, 2023 in the Piute High School Auditorium at 6:00 PM. The school district will provide more information and explanation regarding the proposal and then provide time to hear public comment. Following public comments each school board member will explain their position on the proposal, but no formal action will be taken at the public hearing.

The consolidation proposal will be approved, dismissed, or postponed at the regular school board meeting on September 12th at 3:30 PM. The proposal will not be postponed beyond the regular October school board meeting.

If the proposal is approved, the school district would submit application for state grant funding prior to the deadline on November 1st. If state grant funding is denied, the proposal would be abandoned or redrafted for possible future grant opportunities.

If the state grants were obtained, the school district would hire an architect in the spring of 2024. In the summer of 2024 the school district would conduct a Truth-In-Taxation hearing and issue revenue bonds for the \$3,000,000 loan.

If the tax increase and revenue bonds are approved by the school board, the school district would hire a general contractor in the fall of 2024. Construction would begin late 2024 or early 2025. Building completion would be expected late 2025 or early 2026.

For more information about the consolidation proposal you may contact the school district Superintendent, Koby Willis, at (435) 577-1202 or the Business Administrator, Dallas Sylvester, at (435) 577-1201.



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## School Consolidation Proposal

*Resident Information Pamphlet*

*Circleville Elementary School - 1967*



## Public Hearing

**Monday September 11th, 2023**

**6:00 PM - PHS Auditorium**

**More detailed information at this link...**



**[www.piutek12.org](http://www.piutek12.org)**

**District Office Phone: (435) 577-2912**

Proposal

Piute County School District is seeking resident feedback regarding their proposal to consolidate Oscarson Elementary School (OES) and Circleville Elementary School (CES) into a new elementary school in Junction by the high school. This proposal also includes repurposing the old elementary schools for community use.

Background

Utah has historically required school buildings to be built with local property tax dollars. Tax increases for school buildings are more dramatic for school districts that build school buildings less often. School related property taxes in Piute County increased by **87%** from 2009 to 2010 when Piute High School (PHS) was remodeled/reconstructed. Recent legislative changes have made it possible for rural school districts to apply for state funding assistance for school buildings to lessen the impact at the local level.

When a school district uses general obligation bonds to finance a new school they are required to conduct a vote on a regular November election ballot. With the current proposal being considered, a countywide vote would not be required. The school board still wants community feedback. This information is to request community feedback on the school building proposal.

The estimated cost of all proposal components is \$20,000,000. An estimated \$3,000,000 would be paid by a municipal revenue bond backed by property taxes, \$1,000,000 by school district cash on hand, and \$16,000,000 by state grant funding.

Potential 2024 Tax Impact

This proposal would impact Piute County property tax bills beginning in 2024. Next summer the school district would hold a Truth-In-Taxation hearing to raise the Board Levy to .0004, the Voted Levy to .0016, and the Capital Levy to .00225. The tax increase would pay the payments on the revenue bond for the next 15 years. Even a municipal bond that is tiny in comparison to those in other school districts could have a significant impact in Piute County. It's estimated that this proposal would raise the total average property tax bill by around 17% with the total school related property tax increase around 34%. A first residence valued at \$300,000 could expect an increase of \$234 and a business valued at \$400,000 could expect an increase of \$568. More precise estimations would be available for the Truth-In-Taxation hearing in August 2024.

Rationale

State grants would cover 80% of the cost of the proposed projects. Such generous grants haven't been available for the last 50 years and may not be available much longer.

A school consolidation significantly increases the likelihood of receiving grant funding.

The last time the school district received such substantial state support to build a school was during the merger of Marysvale High School and Piute High School in Circleville in 1961. While this proposal would be a sacrifice for Piute County residents, it's overwhelmingly less than the sacrifice that would be needed to build two schools without state support.

The chart below is actual enrollment for 1990 and 2005, as well as expected enrollment for fall 2023. An elementary consolidation in Junction would also support the high school as many instructional services have been shared between them such as Art, Music, Special Education, and Migrant Education Services.

School	1990	2005	2023
CES	89	109	93
OES	69	51	26
PHS	213	144	145
Total	371	304	264



Oscarson Elementary School - 1961