**BIRDVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT** DARRELL G. BROWN, PH.D., SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear BISD Community Member,

On Aug. 16, BISD's Board of Trustees called for a bond proposal to be placed on the November 6 ballot. This bond proposal will address the following in BISD:

- Safety & Security Upgrades
- Technology Upgrades
- Renovations & Additions
- Rebuilding (Haltom Middle School, Richland Middle School, Smithfield Elementary, and a partner school with Richland and Cheney elementary schools)

I would like to share six facts every BISD citizen should know before they vote in the general election in November.

- 1. Local BISD citizens (senior adults, business leaders and parents) developed this bond program as members of the Bond Planning Committee. It was not developed by BISD administration.
- 2. The bond program on the November ballot impacts every campus in BISD.
- 3. BISD's current debt is about \$730 per student. This is calculated by taking current debt divided by the number of students using our facilities over the life of the bond.
- 4. Computers and technology are paid for in five years or less, not 20–25 years.
- 5. If approved, school property tax rates will not increase as a result of this bond proposal.
- 6. Those who claim the "Over 65" exemption on their home will not see their school property taxes increase.\*

\*The Texas Constitution provides homeowners an "Over 65" property tax exemption when they turn age 65. Like the homestead exemption, a homeowner must file an application with the Tarrant County Appraisal District. Once the exemption is granted, the homeowner's property taxes will not increase above what they were the year they turned 65.

In the future, if you have any questions about the BISD bond program, I encourage you to contact the school district. We will give you the facts. You may contact Mark Thomas, BISD Communications Officer, at 817-547-5799, or my assistant, Brenda Ryan, at 817-547-5722. We always welcome the opportunity to share information about the progress our school district is making in the education of BISD students.

Sincerely,

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Darrell G. Brown, Ph.D. Superintendent