

# VOTE YES

## 4A & 4B

### D38 MLO & Bond

You may have noticed that there is no FOR statement in the 11 Paso County ballot flyer (aka "Blue Book"). One was submitted, on time, by a local homeowner, mother of 2 kids in Bear Creek Elementary School, and military spouse. However an unexpected issue arose after the deadline and the statement could not be used. Here it is...

#### PRO for Ballot Measure 4A 7-year MLO for \$1M per year

1. Threats to safety can come in the form of physical violence from outside sources, from other students, and even from students who seek to harm themselves. Our current counselor to student ratio is 1:400, while the recommended ratio is 1:200. Across our nine school sites (5 elementary, 1 middle, 2 high school, 1 district), we have only 4 security personnel.

2. Measure 4A is a balanced approach, addressing both prevention and real time intervention, with 40% allocated to security, 40% allocated to wellness and 20% allocated to training. Having counselors available to intervene and interact with students before they reach a point of causing harm is the best way to reduce risk to the entire school. Real additional security personnel means faster response times and a full time presence at some of our school buildings in the event a security issue arises.

3. Because the MLO expires in 7 years, it's a time-limited investment in our schools and not something that will be paid by homeowners forever. The Board of Education has the option to not apply the MLO on a year-by-year basis over those 7 years, so if funding for security and wellness personnel is generated from other sources (such as the federal government or specific state initiatives), there could be years that it is not applied at all.

4. The community overwhelmingly supports making security improvements in schools including increasing the number of security officers and wellness staff in the district (82% agree, based on I&L Research Consultants May 2018 poll). Truly supporting the safety of our students is something that can only be done pro-actively and pro-actively and voting yes for 4A is the best way to protect our kids. 4A is a smart investment in our kids and our community.

#### PRO for Ballot Measure 4B \$36.5M Bond

1. The Tri-Lakes area is one of the fastest growing areas in the state of Colorado. We've added 300 students to our school district since 2013 and are projected to add another 1800 in the next 10 years. Our one 7th & 8th grade middle school is over capacity, with large class sizes and crowded hallways and common areas. All of our elementary schools are nearing capacity.

2. As a district, we are at a critical point and the time for action is now. Our kids don't get a de-er in their education!

3. Measure 4B is a well-researched, fiscally conservative plan that maximizes the use of existing district resources. Building an elementary school is a more cost effective alternative to constructing a new middle school (savings of over 30%).

4. The plan is fast, with new seats available for our students quickly. With infrastructure and land in place at the Bear Creek site and the design nearly complete, construction can start immediately, with doors ready for fall 2019.

5. Construction of an elementary school adjacent to the middle school on the Bear Creek site was always part of the plan, going back to original construction of Crestside Middle in 2011. Now is the time to implement that plan!

6. With two middle schools in the district, grade levels will be realigned with K-5 in the middle schools and K-5 in elementary buildings. We get desperately needed middle school seats immediately and by moving the 6th graders out of elementary, each of the five near-capacity district elementary buildings also gain seats. Building one new elementary on the Bear Creek site is quite simply the most cost effective way to provide the most amount of seats to the district as a whole, positively impacting every single elementary and middle school student in D38.

7. To accommodate the influx of students over the last several years, class sizes have been growing at all levels and buildings are very crowded. There is simply no more classroom space and some buildings have needed to convert areas being used for classes and teacher offices in closets. These crowded learning environments are detrimental to our kids and have a negative impact on the quality of their education.

8. Overcrowded classes make the district less desirable for teachers, meaning hiring and retaining great staff is more challenging. To continue to maintain the high level of excellence D38 is known and revered for, we must provide more capacity for students.

9. The physical security upgrades included in Measure 4B benefit all of the school sites in the district. Adding things like security cameras and more secure entries make our buildings as secure as possible for our children.

10. The collaboration with the district charter school, Monument Academy, is a win for everyone. Constructing a district-owned gymnasium adjacent to MA's planned 6-12th campus shows partnership with our D38 charter yet maintains accountability and oversight to the D38 taxpayer. It's a smart collaboration that not only supports our MA students, but will be an asset and resource for the entire community.

11. D38 is one of the highest performing school districts in the state, and its excellence is cited as one of the primary draws to our area. Our community overwhelmingly agrees that having great schools in the district keeps our local economy strong (80% of voters agree, based on I&L Research Consultants May 2018 poll). Voting yes on 4B to invest in our schools and our kids will not only keep them strong, but keeps our entire community strong.

*Our community is saying...*

"The reality is we are growing and our children deserve to have us put them as our priority... this [is to] take care of our kids and to put our kids first, not our adult egos, not our adult issues. Let's talk like adults, but remember our focal point is our children."

Tiffany Upchurch

D38 Board of Education Vice President & D38 parent

"The Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation and Visitor Center's Board of Directors, unanimously support the D38 MLO and Bond ballot measures (4A and 4B).

We believe in order to have a **thriving community**, which includes residents needed to frequent our local businesses, we must have a **healthy school district**. Families move here for the fantastic school district which is accredited with distinction, realizing it not only gives children a great education, but also directly affects housing prices, and our overall local economy. Though there will be some slight increases for a small portion of our members, the **overall gain to our community will have a positive impact** on our business community and will ultimately be a benefit to our members."



"There is a direct impact to our kids if 4A/4B don't pass. Our kids will undoubtedly have a better educational experience and be safer at school next year with this bond & MLO. Voting yes is a way to show that I prioritize all kids, support our teachers and want to keep our community strong."

Amy Shorter  
D38 parent

"I am asking as a mother, a tax payer, and a teacher, please do your research... ask yourself if the extra money is worth a better education for students and more support for teachers."

Melissa Kauravangh  
D38 teacher & parent

"As a parent of children attending D38 schools, I feel strongly that increasing the security of our children and staff at the schools is of paramount importance."

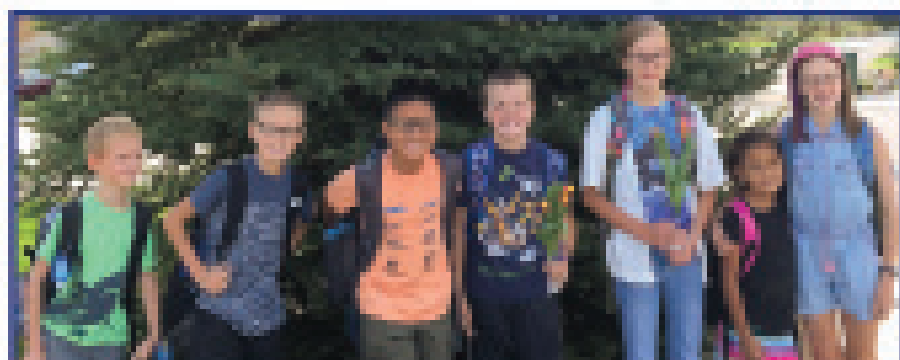
Matt Carlson  
D38 Board of Education President & D38 parent

"While I do appreciate the impact on my property values, I also appreciate how having a great school district gives us pride and a sense of community."

Jackie Burbans  
D38 resident & empty nester

"Do you think kids deserve to have a great education? An education without overcrowded classes/buildings? An education that is physically safer, with a student body who has easier access to mental health professionals? The last time the community passed a MLO, this year's senior class wasn't born (1999)! The last time the community passed a Bond, this year's senior class was in kindergarten (2006) and the iPhone didn't exist!"

Melissa Zeitman  
D38 parent



 **OUR KIDS NEED YOU**

**VOTE YES BY NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

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 Strong D38 Community

