

District looks at options if bond issue vote is defeated

Heather Rule
hrule@postbulletin.com

Austin Public Schools is the only topic on the ballot during this off-year election day Nov. 8. It's asking voters whether or not they support a \$28.9 million bond referendum that would call for building a new intermediate school and making an addition and modifications to Woodson Kindergarten Center.

Superintendent David Krenz and the district's director of finance and operations, Mark Stotts, have been busy making presentations about the levy throughout the community. Krenz said at the school board meeting Monday that he's made two to three dozen so far.

But what if the referendum doesn't pass?

While no firm plans are in place, there are some possibilities that will have to be looked into. Stotts and others from the district haven't yet said "this is what's going to happen," because things can change, Stotts said. And it also depends on what the voters decide.

"We've got some time here," Stotts said. "But eventually, we're going to have to do something, if the referendum fails."

The situation at Woodson, where they're already in a space crunch this year, is "maybe a little more immediate," Stotts said, because construction for the additional six classrooms and modifications to the building would be set to begin in summer 2012. So the building would be ready for the 2012-13 school year.

With the new intermediate school that would house fifth- and sixth-graders, that building wouldn't be ready for students until 2013-14. Both scenarios will only happen if the bond issue passes.