

January 27, 2026

SB314

Proponent

Allison Reed

Stop the Bond – Hutchinson

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Last year, USD 308 pushed for a 200-million-dollar property tax increase. With that price tag alone, it was a hard sell with most Hutchinson residents. As the campaign for the bond continued, it became disheartening to see all the taxpayer money the District was spending to benefit the Vote Yes campaign and to influence the school bond election in their favor.

First, there was an eight page, full-color, glossy mailer which the District called “informational”, with statements like, “investing in what matters most: our kids, our schools” or “believe in the future of Hutchinson.” I was honestly looking for a “paid for by” after I finished reading. I handle marketing for a non-profit. If I am sharing “information”, it is very black and white like what services we provide, how many clients have we seen, how much money have we raised, or what are our goals for the upcoming year. What I read was not informational; it was advocating for the reader to support the bond and using taxpayer resources to advocate for it to pass.

Next, there were the videos. Videos used by both the District and the Vote Yes campaign.

The District and the Campaign claimed the videos were “informational.”

Highlights from the transcript include...

- “We will need a new building to do that.”
- “To provide the best for our children, I think we need to capitalize on that.”
- “To make things more efficient, I think that would be best.”
- “Why settle when we can soar.”

A local columnist was tipped off concerning these complaints and his article, "Hutchinson School Leaders Masked Numbers with 25-Year Plan" exposed the shocking truth that the Vote Yes yard signs were purchased with taxpayer money. These signs were also used to raise money for the Vote Yes campaign.

As part of Stop the Bond - Hutchinson, I felt like our campaign was running an IG Hotline for complaints of how the District was using taxpayer resources.

Additional complaints included...

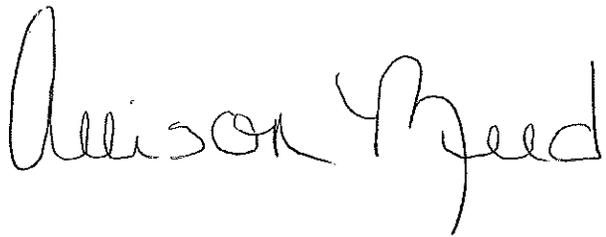
- Having Vote Yes signs displayed on the grounds of multiple school buildings
- Having Vote Yes signs displayed in the entrances and hallways of schools
- Pushing the bond at Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Sending Vote Yes signs home with students with the instructions to place in their yards
- Having teachers wear buttons during the school day with the same slogan as the campaign and the same logo the Vote Yes campaign was using on social media.
- The appearance that paid District Staff were working for the campaign
- Facebook ads that when you clicked to learn more showed graphics both the District and the campaign used to advocate for support of the bond. Anyone that clicked through the advertisement saw the opportunity to learn more about the bond first than any general information about the District.
- Working with the PTO and the Vote Yes committee to "take part actively and energetically in the activities of an election campaign" (electioneer) on school property the week of the vote. Vote Yes t-shirts were worn and homemade signs were seen saying vote yes.
- Text messages reminding people to vote.

USD 308 has responded somewhat to my complaint. They will only admit to spending \$4,402 on signs, \$10,592 on mailers and \$3,060 for those mailers to be distributed by our local Chamber for a total cost of \$18,054. They claim no

taxpayer money funded the videos I mentioned yet the videos in question do not have a "paid for by" on them.

In a final waste of taxpayer resources, USD 308 could be spending almost \$28,500 for a survey to find out why the voters didn't support their bond campaign.

This week an upset voter told me, "Campaigning to get more of our tax dollars, by using our tax dollars, is not the purpose of our tax dollars." I humbly ask you to remove the ability for school districts to use taxpayer money to advocate for passing their school bonds. I strongly support SB314. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Myer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.