**ADAIR COUNTY R-I SCHOOL DISTRICT, MISSOURI**

**APPROVES SALE OF $1,200,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

The Board of Education of the Adair County R-I School District, Missouri at a regular meeting on May 19, 2025 approved the sale of $1,200,000 General Obligation Bond Issue to its Municipal Bond Underwriter, L.J. Hart & Company of St. Louis, Missouri. "We appreciate the strong vote of confidence we received from local patrons at the election and want to lock in interest rates that are still favorable in the current rate environment," stated Troy Smith, President of the Board of Education. These General Obligation Bonds were approved by about 84% of the voters at the April 8, 2025 election, for the purpose of providing funds to renovate restrooms at the elementary school, to complete gymnasium improvements, to upgrade the District’s building automation system, to make improvements to the baseball and softball fields, and complete other repairs and improvements to the existing facilities of the District.

The bond marketing process provided the first opportunity to invest to local financial institutions and according to Neil Branham, Senior Vice President of L.J. Hart & Company, First State Community Bank purchased $450,000 and Citizens Bank of Edina acquired $350,000 of the bonds. The local support was very helpful to the success of the financing. “It is nice that our marketing procedures facilitated this local involvement while still receiving attractive interest rates,” commented Ms. Robin Daniels, Superintendent of Schools.

The Board of Education selected the negotiated sale of the bonds in order to capture current market conditions, to be certain that local banks received an opportunity to purchase the bonds, and because the proposed interest rates were fair based upon current conditions in the municipal bond market.

 The information shared by L. J. Hart & Company indicated that the bonds are scheduled to mature on March 1, 2039 through March 1, 2045 with reoffered yields ranging from 4.00% to 4.55% which produces additional funds for the projects in the amount of $34,477.00. The interest income from the bonds is exempt from federal and state of Missouri income taxes and the bonds were available in $5,000 denominations.

These bonds carry a "AA+" rating from S&P Global due to the District's participation in the State of Missouri Direct Deposit Program coordinated through the Missouri Health and Educational Facilities Authority.

The bonds do contain optional redemption (call) provisions on March 1, 2030 at no penalty that will facilitate the reduction of future interest expense in the event of prepayment or a future refunding to lower rates if market conditions make it economically feasible. The financing proceeds became available to the District on June 4, 2025 and will be reinvested by the District to earn additional interest for use in the completion of the projects.