What is a Public School Bond Election?

"Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."

Marian Wright Edelman



Brief Summary of PUSD

- PUSD serves over 2,000 students
- PUSD is the largest employer in Payson
  - 42% of employees are teachers and 51% classified employees
- PUSD has earned a "**B**" grade from ADE
- PHS, RCMS and JRE are recognized as an A+ School or Excellence
- PUSD is recognized as a National Capturing Kids Hearts Showcase District
- PUSD has received the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting for over 31 years and has had ZERO financial audit findings for the last 7 years.
- PUSD has a Moody Rating of AA2 which saved taxpayers close to ½ million dollars in 2024 due to refinancing looking ahead

MOODY'S

What is a Bond Election?

- Communities in Arizona have been voting on school bonds for at least 70+ years, and the practice has been standard for a very long time.
- As soon as public school districts existed and needed buildings, they used bonds as a financing tool—similar to how cities fund infrastructure.
- Bond elections come from state laws that allow local governments to borrow money with voter approval (in Arizona, that's written into statutes like A.R.S. 15-491)
- Occur about every 10 years
- PUSD has made improvements through voter approval on Bond elections continuously since 1996



What is a Bond Election?

- In an Arizona public K–12 school district, a **bond election** is a community vote on whether the district can borrow money for big, long-term brick and mortar type projects NOT for day to day operations.

- Bonds can be used for construction, repairs, infrastructure, transportation, equipment, and safety and security measures.

- District must seek voter permission to issue bonds



What is a Bond Election?

- 🏫 **Buildings and major construction**
  - Building new schools
  - Adding classrooms or wings
  - Renovating or modernizing old buildings (HVAC, roofs, plumbing, electrical)
- 🔧 **Big repairs and infrastructure**
  - Fixing aging facilities
  - Upgrading heating/cooling systems
  - Improving accessibility (ADA compliance)
  - Utility systems and campus infrastructure
- 🚌 **Transportation**
  - Buying school buses
  - Building or upgrading bus facilities

What is a Bond Election?

- 🪑 **Equipment**
  - Furniture (desks, cafeteria tables)
  - Large equipment for classrooms or gyms
  - In many cases, technology infrastructure (like network systems), though districts must follow state rules on what qualifies

- 🔒 **Safety and security**
  - Secure entrances and fencing
  - Security cameras and alarm systems
  - Emergency systems

What is a Bond Election?

- What Bond funds CANNOT be used for:
  - Teacher or staff salaries
    - Maintenance and Operations and Override Elections
  - Student Programs
    - Maintenance and Operations and Override Elections
  - Everyday supplies (paper, books, routine tech replacements, etc.)
  - Operating costs
    - i.e utility bills

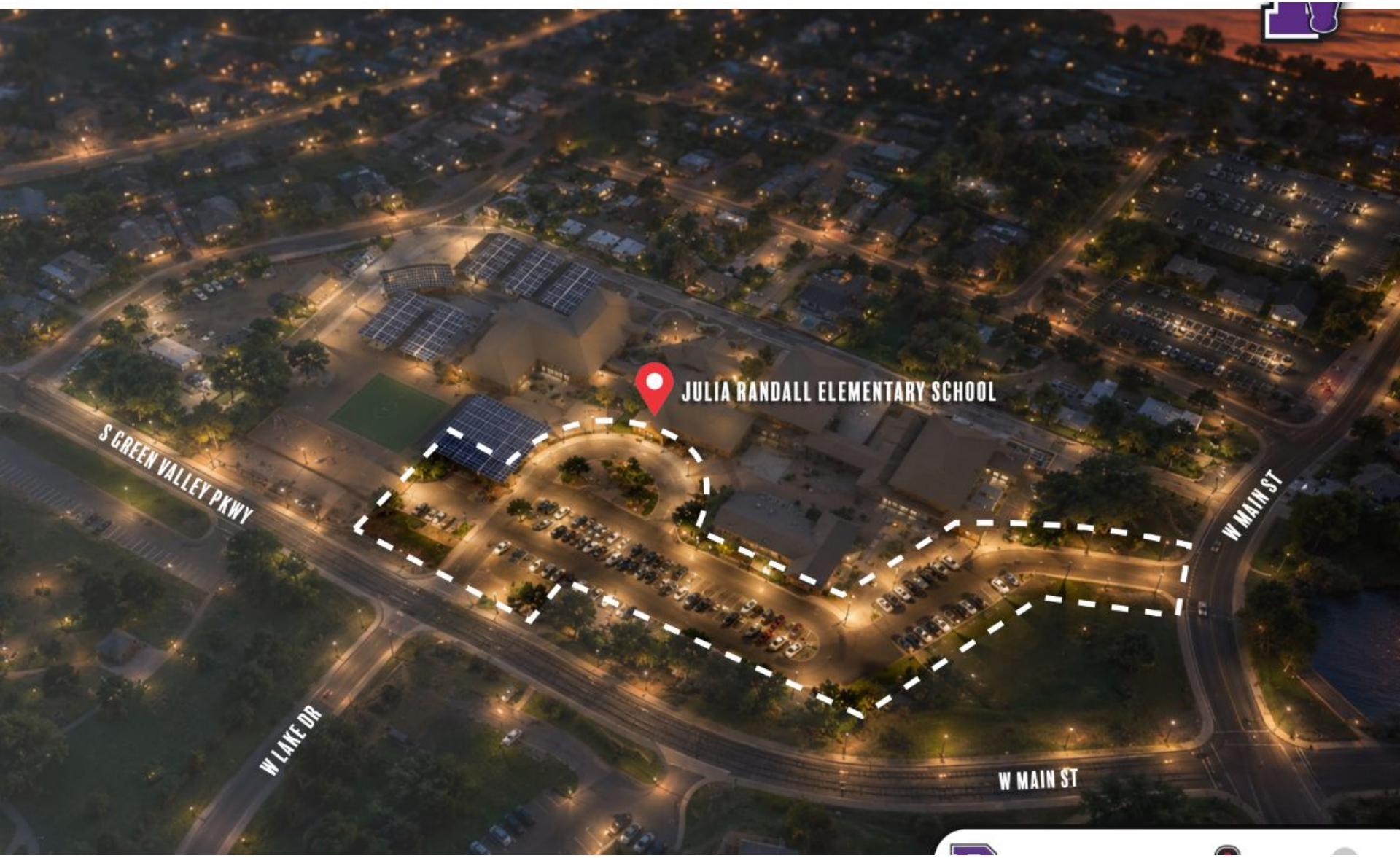
Bonding Capacity of PUSD

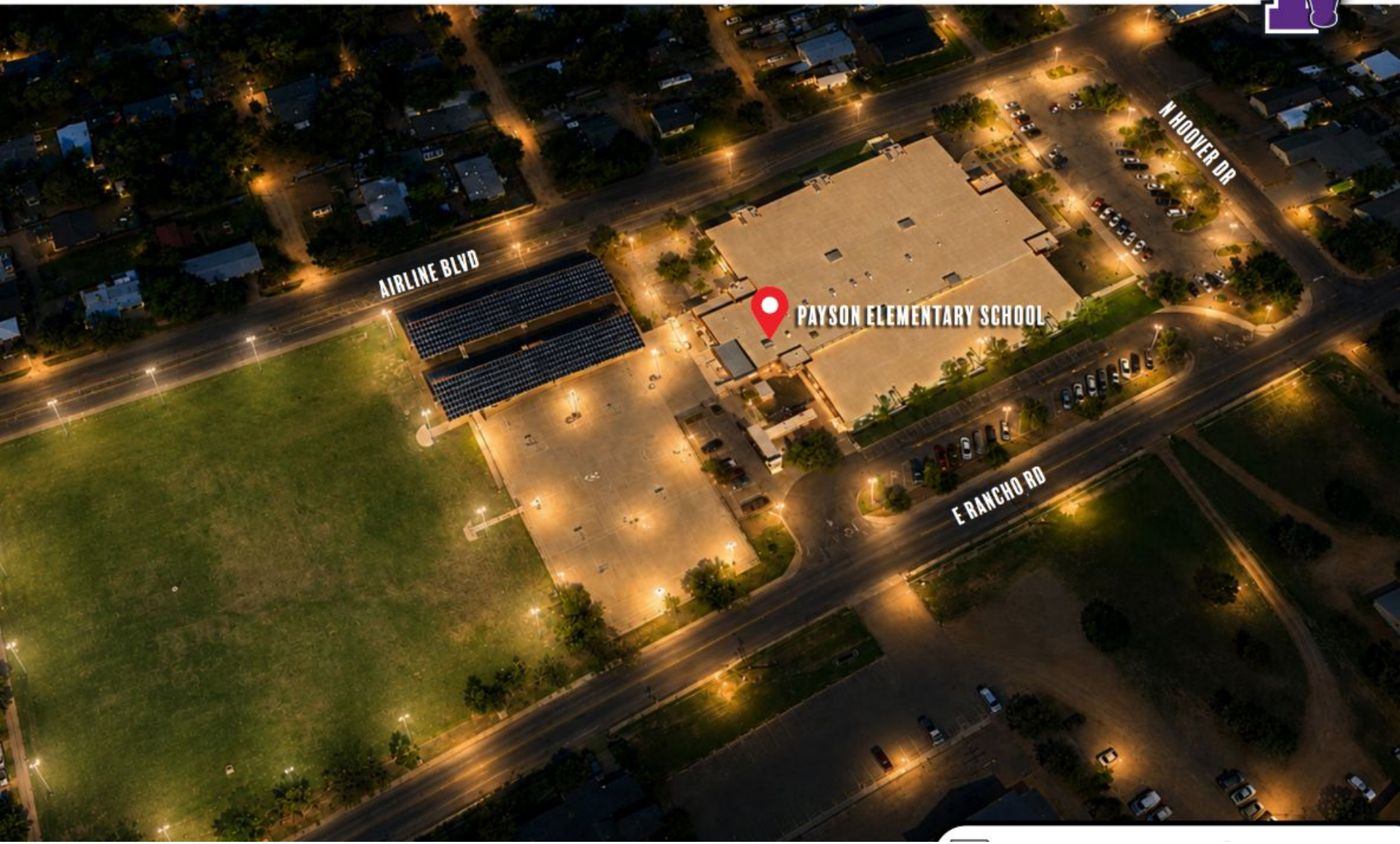
- Current Bond Debt to be paid off in 2028
  - Bond Election 2016
    - New JRE, RCMS Cafeteria & Kitchen, PHS AG building
- PUSD Bond Capacity $119,000,000.00
- **NO** New tax, **NO** percentage increase to current tax rate
  - Bond capacity up to $75,000,000.00
    - Currency rate .01004 >would go to .01000 for two years then drop to 0.0099 -.0093

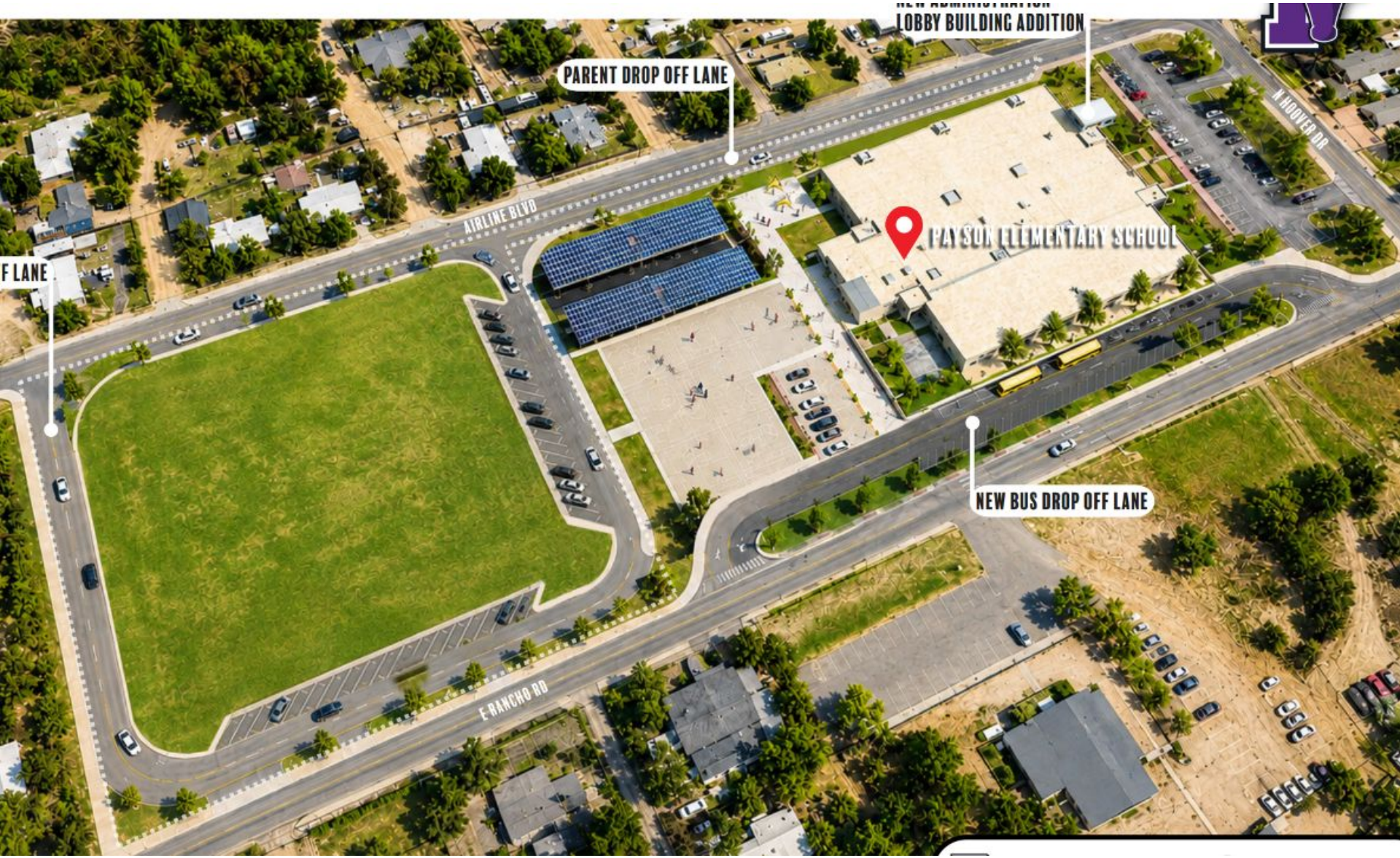
MOODY'S

What would it be used for?

- Infrastructure Needs: Community Areas
  - Auditorium
    - Deficiencies that could cause closure of use
  - Lighting on useable field space (PES & RCMS)
  - New Building Trade Shop/classroom at PHS - Automotives Trade area expanded and remodeled.
  - Softball/baseball field areas upgrades including restroom/snack bar (continuous plumbing issues)
  - Cafeteria - Kitchen equipment replacements
- Safety and Security
  - Corrective action to student, and bus loading and unloading traffic flows (PES)
  - Parking lots resurfaced and lighting restorations
  - All areas - Perimeter fencing remediation
  - All areas - Camera repairs and installation linked to PD
  - School intercom systems upgrades

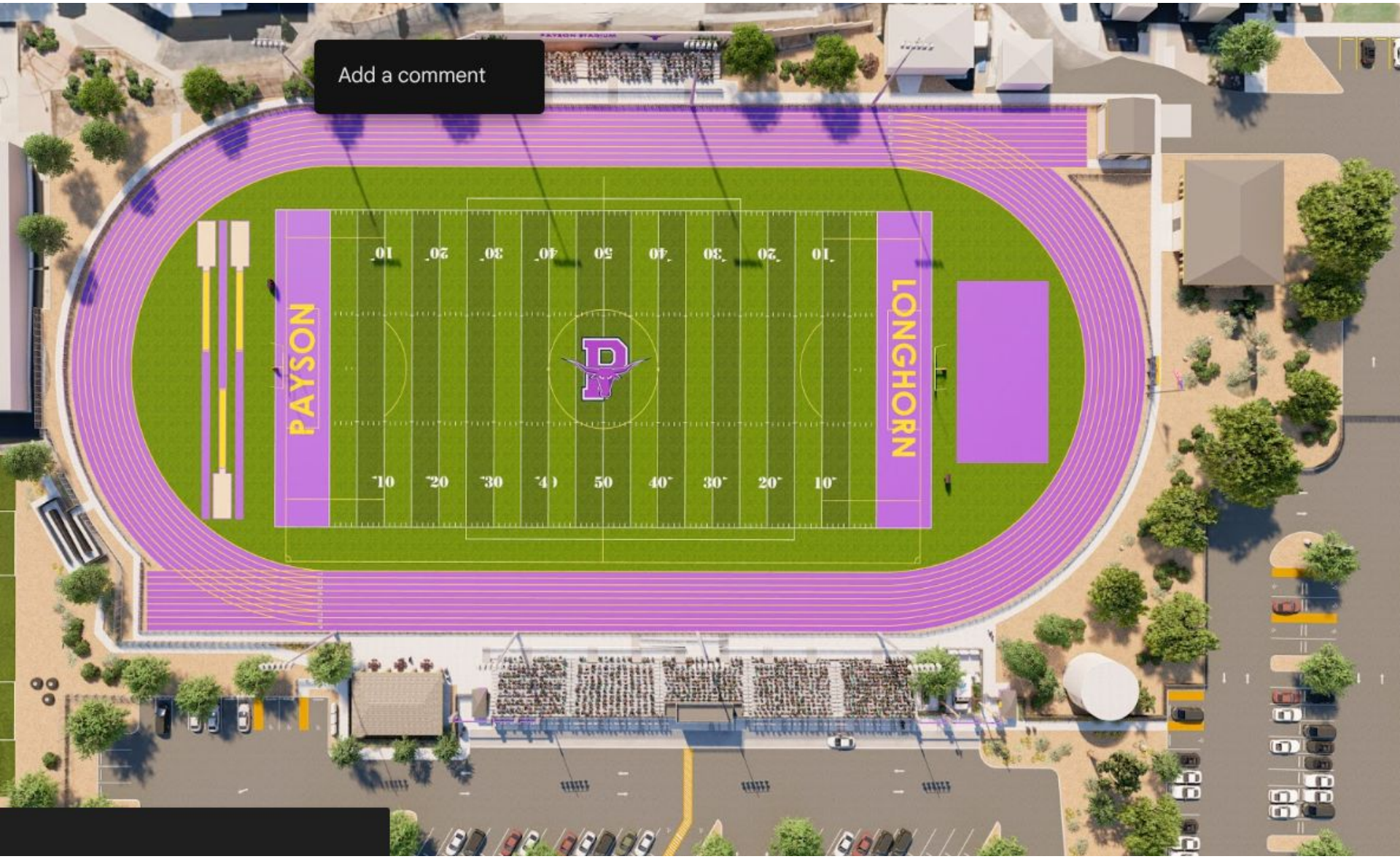

JULIA RANDALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
S GREEN VALLEY PKWY
W LAKE DR
W MAIN ST
W MAIN ST


AIRLINE BLVD
PAYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
N HOOVER DR
E RANCHO RD

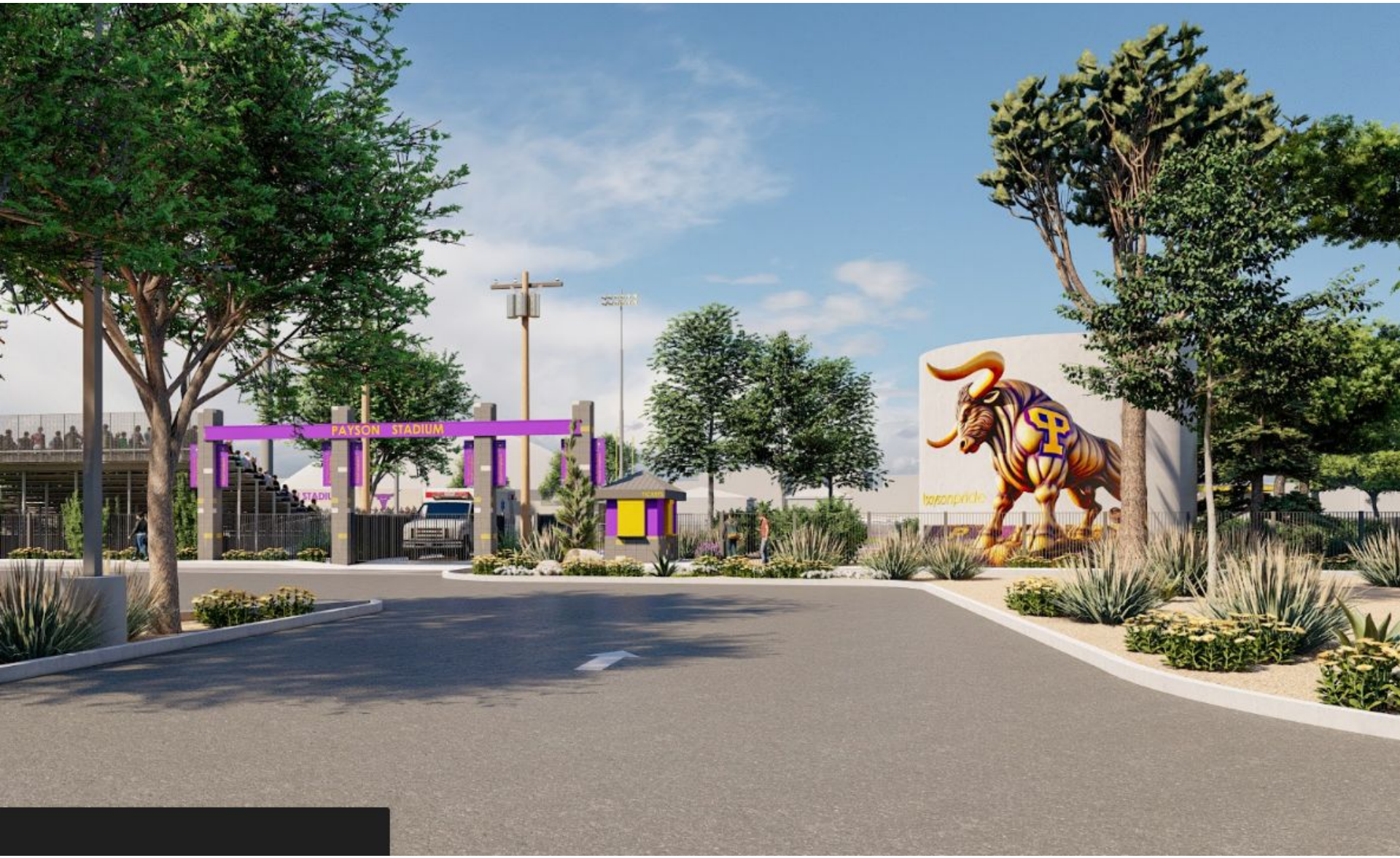

LOBBY BUILDING ADDITION
PARENT DROP OFF LANE
AIRLINE BLVD
N HOOVER DR
PAYSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
NEW BUS DROP OFF LANE
E RANCHO RD


LONGHORN RD
S MCLANE DR
PAYSON HIGH SCHOOL
NEW STUDENT PARKING LOT EXPANSION
S GOODFELLOW RD
W WADE LN


PAYSON HIGH SCHOOL
S MCLANE DR
S GOODFELLOW RD
W WADE LN


Add a comment
PAYSON
LONGHORN


LONGHORN
PAYSON


PAYSON STADIUM


PAYSON STADIUM
The Home to the Payson Longhorns

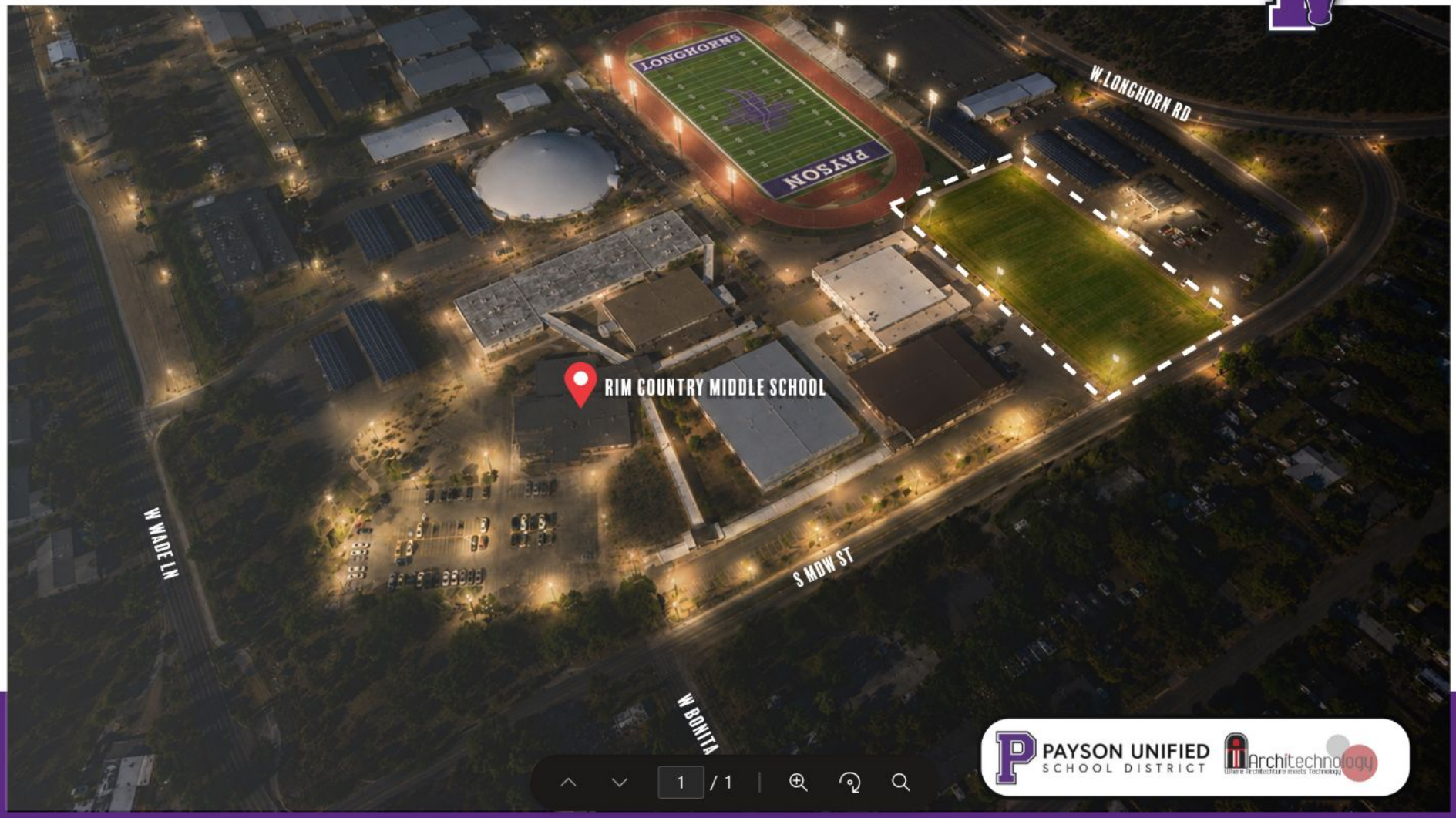
RIM COUNTRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARKING LOT LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS Payson Unified School District



RIM COUNTRY MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRACTICE FIELD LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS Payson Unified School District



WESTERLY PRESCHOOL

PARKING LOT LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS Payson Unified School District



Auditorium

- Replacement of stage and house lighting systems
- New stage and fire curtains
- Refinishing of stage flooring
- Replacement of seating and carpeting
- Interior repainting
- New lighting
- New casework
- New Plumbing fixtures
- New toilet partitions and accessories

A Community Working Together

"Public education is a cornerstone of a progressive and inclusive society. By supporting public education, we foster equal opportunities, promote social cohesion, drive economic growth, nurture civic engagement, and secure long-term benefits for individuals and communities. It is a collective responsibility to invest in and advocate for accessible, high-quality public education. Let us recognize the power of education and work together to ensure that every student has the chance to thrive and reach their full potential."

Daylan Caldwell -

The Power of Public Education:

Why Supporting It Benefits Everyone