January 2012
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MEASURE J SCHOOL BOND UPDATE

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

We are committed to providing the safest possible environment for all students and staff during construction. We will highlight some Frequently Asked Questions about construction safety over the next few newsletters.

Question: What steps are taken to ensure student, faculty and staff safety during a construction project?

Answer: Construction fencing is typically used to isolate the area(s) under construction. Construction workers typically work within the construction area and are not allowed outside this area unless prearranged with the site administration and construction manager. At no time are construction workers allowed in student restrooms. Temporary toilet facilities are used by workers within the construction area. Construction workers are not allowed to engage in conversations with students. All construction workers that come in contact with students are fingerprinted by the DOJ. Workers in the fenced in area must be under the supervision of a responsible person who has been fingerprinted and is cleared by the DOJ.

BOND FINANCING

On April 27, 2011, the School District issued Series A Bonds of Measure J in the amount of approximately $6.4 million.

The first tax levy of Measure J is in Fiscal Year 2011-12. Taxes are due by December 10, 2011 and April 10, 2012.

The current fiscal climate is making it difficult for the district to access future bond money. This may result in delays to finance our larger projects such as Jefferson School and the Traina Gymnasium. These are some of the variables that impact how much money the district can access in the future.

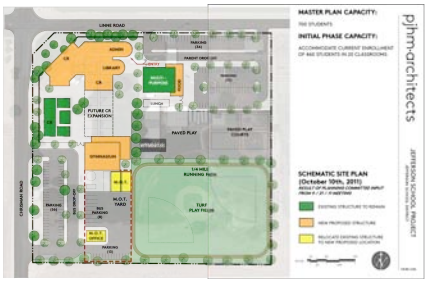
Campaign Pledge: Proposition 39 allows for a maximum tax of $30.00 per $100,000 of assessed valuation. The Measure J estimate to voters was $23.03 per $100,000. The actual tax rate was $24.50 per $100,000 due to decreased assessed valuation that took place after the April bond sale.

Assessed Valuation: The assessed valuation in our community was down 6.6% during the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year. Lower assessed valuation limits the amount of taxes that can be levied in order to stay within the pledge.

Interest Rate: California's poor fiscal condition impacts the interest rates on municipal bonds. Over the past three years, bond rates have been very volatile. Increased interest rates means reduced bonding capacity.

Development: The other component which impacts assessed valuation is entitlement and development. Tracy Hills has not begun construction and the Ellis Project agreement with the city was disallowed by the courts. The assessed value will increase as land has residential homes or commercial buildings constructed on it. Those new residents will pay their share of the bond as well.

On November 2nd, 2010, Jefferson voters passed Measure J, a $35.4 million bond measure. Measure J was passed by our community with over two-thirds of the vote. We are committed to continually updating the community on the progress of our bond program through periodic newsletters, our web page and district bulletin board.



JEFFERSON SCHOOL

On December 8th, the Jefferson School planning committee met again to provide input about educational delivery, space requirements, and adjacency requirements based on the initial design schematic above. PJHM architects will be taking that information and returning to the committee in January with schematic floor plans for further input and continued refinement.

Jefferson and Traina music and physical education teachers will be coming together to work on joint gymnasium planning.

CONSTRUCTION FIRM OUTREACH

The Jefferson School District has selected RGM Construction as our Construction Management firm to partner with the district in our modernization program. Among other projects, RGM was the lead firm on the recent Tracy High School modernization. A key component in selecting RGM was their ability to reach out to local construction firms. The Jefferson School Board is committed to engaging local firms and contractors in bidding for our upcoming projects. Please contact our district office to ensure your local firm is on our list to contact when projects go out to bid.

PROJECTS ON THE WAY TO SCHOOLS

Most of the projects listed below are scheduled to start construction immediately following the end of the 2011-2012 school year. While construction timelines are subject to delay, the goal is to have most of the projects completed prior to the start of the 2012-2013 school year. One notable exception is the replacement of the turf and installation of running paths at Traina, Hawkins and Monticello Schools. The turf will require a significant amount of time to germinate following construction and seeding. This will require the closure of these fields through most of the fall of 2012.

MONTICELLO SCHOOL

- Complete turf replacement and running path construction
- Shade structure adjacent to kindergarten classrooms
- Construction of new outdoor eating area behind multi-purpose room
- Fencing improvements for increased security
- All student restrooms renovated
- Safety lighting improvements
- Drainage and paving repairs
- Nurse office monitoring
- Roof replacement
- Multi-purpose room, stage and kitchen renovation

TRAINA SCHOOL

- Partial turf replacement and running path construction
- Shade structure adjacent to kindergarten classrooms and outdoor restroom area
- Roof access issues mitigation
- Construction of flagpole and seating area adjacent to playground
- The design of the Traina gymnasium will be included in the design of Jefferson School. The plans are scheduled to be approved by the state in October of 2012. Funding availability will be the key factor in moving towards construction.

HAWKINS SCHOOL

- Complete turf replacement and running path construction
- Shade structure installed adjacent to kindergarten classrooms and on both sides of the playground.
- Installation of gymnasium divider to provide for physical education space
- Sidewalk expansion and hill reduction
- New concrete bench area and drinking fountain between 6-8th grade wing
- Kindergarten playground area expansion and equipment replacement
- Safety lighting improvements

JEFFERSON SCHOOL

The design of the new Jefferson School is exciting and ongoing. Currently a committee of staff members and parents are meeting regularly to create educational specifications and design the school based on programmatic needs. Many of the modernization items being completed for the other schools will be incorporated into the Jefferson design in an effort to promote equitable facilities across the district. The plans are scheduled to be approved by the state in October of 2012. Funding availability will be the key factor in moving towards construction.

oversight committee

Under the provisions of Proposition 39, state law requires the district establish a Citizens' Oversight Committee appointed by the district's Governing Board. The committee purposes are:

- To actively monitor all projects and expenditures approved by the voters.
- To provide proper oversight and accountability to ensure that Measure J funds are used as they were intended.
- To report to members of the community on the progress of Measure J projects.

The Citizens' Oversight Committee met for a second time on December 5, 2011, to get updated on construction progress and review bond expenditures to date. Like school board meetings, these meetings are open to the public and participation is welcome. Materials from each of the meetings are available on the Jefferson School District website. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 26th at 1:15 P.M. and will include the first audit.

Committee Member	Term
Jennifer Couch (Vice Chair)	2 Years
Russell Lovell	2 Years
Michael Petrucelli (Secretary)	1 Year
Nicole Riley (Chair)	2 Years
Craig Saalwaechter	1 Year
Raul C. Salazar	1 Year
Nineb Paul Tumazi	2 Years

SECURITY KEYING

One of our first construction projects will go mostly unnoticed, but will have long-term security and financial benefits. Traina, Monticello and Hawkins will all be placed on a singular "key family" that will provide the template for the new Jefferson as well as future schools. All classrooms will be able to be locked by a teacher from the inside, a safety requirement of all new school construction. Building an expandable key system now will save the district money in future expansion.

HAVE INPUT TO SHARE?

It is not too late to provide input to the Measure J Modernization Program. Each school site has a committee that meets regularly with the superintendent, chief business officer and architectural team. Please feel free to provide input to your school principal or any of the teachers or parents that make up each committee. Feedback can also be delivered to superintendent Dana Eaton at deaton@sjcoe.net.