April 2013
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MEASURE J SCHOOL BOND UPDATE

MAY 9TH STATE MEETING CRITICAL TO TIMELINE OF JEFFERSON AND TRAINA GYMNASIUM

A recommendation from the California Department of Education (CDE) to limit bond issuance could place the modernization of Jefferson and Traina Gymnasium construction at risk of long delays and higher costs. The Jefferson School Board voted at their October meeting to authorize $23 million dollars of bond sales that will allow the district to construct a modernized Jefferson School (Approximate Budget $19 million) and the Traina Gymnasium (Appr. $4 million) starting in summer 2014.

On March 14th, 2013, board member Pete Carlson and Jefferson Superintendent Dana Eaton presented at the State Board of Education meeting about the impact of the recommendation. The use of Capital Appreciation Bonds (CABs) as part of school financing is currently being debated in the state legislature.

The Jefferson School District is seeking a waiver to allow the district to raise the bond indebtedness from 1.25% to 1.91% while still remaining under the required $30 per $100,000 tax assessment laid out in Proposition 39. The bond can be refinanced in ten years if the financial climate improves. These waivers have been routinely approved throughout the past eight years. In anticipation of possible legislation, the CDE is recommending approving the waiver, but preventing the district from issuing CABs.

The State Board of Education was receptive to the district's stance that; 1) a local process has taken place to control local spending, 2) Unlike some other entities, Jefferson's use of CABs is responsible and in line with our County Treasurer's recommendation and 3) to complete the same facilities under the recommendation could take 20 years longer to finance and build, five years longer to repay and cost local taxpayers millions more. The state asked for more information from the district and scheduled an additional hearing on May 9th to consider the waiver. Please direct any questions or concerns to Dana Eaton at deaton@sjcoe.net or 209-836-3388.

OPENING OF GRASS FIELDS AND TRACKS FURTHER DELAYED

The Hawkins Measure J Committee, including parents, teachers and administrators, met with construction manager Anthony Continente on March 22nd and then again on April 9th. An additional site walk has been set at 3:00 P.M. on Monday April 22. The focus of the site walks were concerns about weeds, the slow growth of grass, drainage, and some uneven grading of the grass fields at Hawkins.

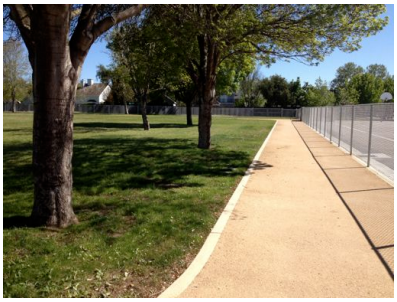
While the fields at Monticello and Traina are further along, the district has not accepted any fields and tracks to date and will not until they are in good condition. Unfortunately, this has further delayed the opening of the fields and tracks. While this is disappointing, the district is committed to a quality product that meets district expectations.

All fields are making progress and it is anticipated that they will be in much better shape as the spring heat begins very soon.

WANT TO SEE MORE?

The goal of the Measure J Newsletters is to provide up to date information to families, staff and community members about the responsible spending of Measure J Funds. The nature of a two page newsletter makes it impossible to show more than a few pictures. Our website is regularly updated with information and photos. Please scan the QR Code to the right to go directly top the Measure J section of the Jefferson School District web page.

SERIES A PROJECTS NEARING COMPLETION



With the exception of the tracks and fields, the remaining Measure J Series A improvements are largely completed.

The Traina campus enjoyed several improvements under Series A. Major projects include shade structures in kindergarten and on the outer playground, an outdoor covered eating area, and an outside patriotic courtyard adjacent to the play structure. The track and field are expected to be ready the end of the school year and should be ready to be fully utilized for the 2013-14 school year. A safer keying system has been put in place throughout the campus. The future Traina gymnasium design is nearing approval from the state and will be built when funds become available.

Monticello School underwent major renovations under Series A. Major projects included kindergarten shade structures, an outdoor covered eating area, path replacement, roof replacement, security fencing additions and school-wide bathroom modernization. The track and field at Monticello are also expected to be ready the end of the school year. A safer keying system has also been put in place throughout the campus.

Hawkins School also underwent major improvements under Series A. The kindergarten playground was expanded and remodeled, the interior corridors and outdoor stage area of the campus were expanded, a safer keying system was put in place campus-wide, two shade structures were installed, outdoor lightening was enhanced, and a new outdoor sitting area was constructed in the 6-8th grade wing. The track and field are expected to be ready the end of the school year and should be ready to be fully utilized for the 2013-14 school year.

The design of a modernized Jefferson School was a major focus of Series A dollars. The Jefferson School Committee met multiple times during the school year to participate in planning, The design is nearing approval from the state and will be built when funds become available.

oversight committee

The Jefferson School District is now accepting applications for the Measure J School Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee. The district is seeking four members who come from the following classifications. Applications are available on our website or by contacting our district office at 209-836-3388.

- Representative from a Business Organization
- Representative from a Senior Citizen's Organization
- Parent with Child(ren) Currently Enrolled in District
- Representative from a Taxpayer's Organization
- Parent Representative from a District Support Organization
- Representative from Agricultural/Farming Industry
- At-Large Member of the Public

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 on March 28, 2013, to get updated on construction progress and review bond expenditures to date.

2012 - 2013 Committee Members

Steve Abercrombie (Vice Chair)
Jennifer Couch
Russell Lovell
Nicole Riley (Chair)
Craig Saalwaechter
Raul C. Salazar
Nineb Paul Tumazi

BOND MONEY AND SCHOOL BUDGET CUTS

By law, Measure J money may only be spent on facilities projects and infrastructure improvements listed in the ballot measure. Bond money cannot be used to offset salary or school supply costs. However, it is hoped that by utilizing bond money to make schools more energy efficient, money will eventually be saved in utility costs that come directly out of the general fund.