September 2011
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# MEASURE J SCHOOL BOND UPDATE

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.

## SHADE STRUCTURES

Shade structures at Traina, Hawkins and Monticello schools are slated to be designed and installed by the start of the 2012 – 2013 school year, possibly sooner.

On August 25th and 26th, 2011, school committees reviewed and approved these much needed structures that will provide some weather protection for students. These structures will be installed in the kindergarten yards and playgrounds and create new outdoor eating areas at Traina and Monticello.

## JEFFERSON SCHOOL

On March 8th, 2011, the Jefferson School Board prioritized the design and State Division of Architects approval for the Jefferson School Campus.

PJHM Architects has been meeting with the Jefferson School Committee and principal Jim Bridges over the past several months to start designing the type of school that will best meet student and staff needs. Multiple design options will be presented to the Jefferson School Committee in the coming months to get input prior to going to the Board of Education.

While it is expected that state approval will be achieved by October of 2012, actual construction of Jefferson School could still be years away. Measure J authorized 35.4 million dollars for modernization projects in the Jefferson School District. While the district will eventually have access to the entire amount for facility improvements, bond money will be released in partial "phases" due to multiple variables. Assessed valuation, new development, interest rate changes and the maximum tax rate assessed to voters will all have an impact on when the bond money can be accessed.

## FIELDS AND TRACKS

On August 25th and 26th, 2011, the committees at Traina, Hawkins and Monticello Schools met to review and approve their new grass fields and running path designs. The Jefferson field and running path will be part of the full-school modernization planning.

The designs are expected back from Department of State Architecture initial review by the end of October. Provided weather and other unforeseen issues cooperate, construction most likely would begin at the end of the 2011-2012 school year with the fields and tracks being ready for use in late fall 2012.

TRAINA

HAWKINS

MONTICELLO

## 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.

## BOND FINANCING

Measure J authorized 35.4 million dollars for modernization projects in the Jefferson School District. On April 27, 2011, the School District issued Series A Bonds of Measure J in the amount of approximately $6.4 million. The District did not need to purchase bond insurance due to the high rating of "AA-" provided by Standard & Poors.

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

These are some of the variables that impact how much money the district can access in each phase:

**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 Jefferson School Board remains committed to honoring this pledge.

**Assessed Valuation:** The assessed valuation in our community is currently down 4.04% in 2011. This represents a cumulative drop of 24.5% since 2009. 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. As land is changed from agriculture to developable and maps are recorded, the assessed value increases. The assessed value will also increase as such land has residential homes or commercial buildings constructed on it. Those new residents will pay their share of the bond as well.

## 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 on August 25, 2011 to create bylaws, elect officers 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 will be available on the Jefferson School District website. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be December 5th at 1:00 P.M.

| 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 |

## TRAINA GYMNASIUM

The design of the Traina gymnasium will be included in the design of Jefferson School. While both designs won't be exactly alike, designing a standard district gymnasium will save bond money and more clearly define the district program. Traina staff members have been and will continue to be involved in the discussions around the gymnasium design.

## Future CONSTRUCTION

While $6 million dollars of projects have been scheduled for phase one by the board of education, many projects have been identified by school site committees for consideration in future phases. The following is a partial list, in no specific order, of projects that will be considered by the board in future phases.

- Construction of Jefferson School
- Construction of Traina gymnasium
- Additional computer labs
- Upgraded science labs
- Upgraded planting area at Traina
- Renewable Energy Systems at all schools
- District-wide security camera systems
- Natural lighting in Monticello classrooms
- Relocatable classroom replacements at Monticello
- Library modifications to Monticello and Hawkins
- Reconfiguration of administrative areas at Monticello and Hawkins
- HVAC system upgrade at Monticello
- Roof replacement at Monticello
- Increase playground equipment at Monticello and Hawkins
- Increased storage at all campuses
- Parking lot resurfacing at Monticello
- Running course at Hawkins and Monticello
- Upgrade or add central kitchen
- Reconfigure cafeteria line and add eating area at Hawkins
- Expand playground area at Hawkins

## 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.