**Linden USD School Bond Talking Points**

**Should LUSD Seek a Bond to Improve Facilities & Programs?**

* **Linden Unified School District is committed to providing students with a quality education**.
In order to continue this success, we need to invest in repairing and modernizing our schools.
* **District has a long history of good facility administration.**
The last voter-approved bond measure in 2002 provided the chance to advance career technical education opportunities, make improvements to the existing building infrastructure and add facilities to the District’s inventory. Those funds – which were generated without reaching the maximum allowable tax rate per property - were appreciated and well-spent.
* **The economic downturn of the late 2000’s only allowed for the most basic facility needs of the District to be met.**
Since 2008, the District has focused its limited resources on classroom education, which often resulted in facility maintenance receiving only the minimum funding needed to keep our school safe and clean.
* **Now, so we can continue to allow our facilities the chance to fulfill their purpose of quality educational support, long-delayed and important major maintenance projects need to be completed.**At this time, the District needs to provide 21st Century classroom learning environments for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs; repair leaky roofs, deteriorating plumbing, sewer and heating/cooling systems; modernize outdated classrooms and restrooms; upgrade old and outdated athletic facilities; and make general school improvements at all sites to meet current health, safety, and accessibility requirements. In addition, improvements to the Districts technology and computer-based learning environments will help prepare students for future jobs.
* **In support of this goal, the District has commissioned a facility needs assessment that will identify deficiencies, in addition to providing repair and replacement cost estimates for the required rehabilitation work.**The Facility Needs Assessment is nearing completion and has already provided vital, initial information to the Board about facility issues and concerns which must be addressed in some way.
* **With limited general operating funds available for facility support, the Board is considering undertaking a local school bond election.**The Board is looking to the local community for input on the feasibility of a school bond and help in prioritizing where dedicated facility improvement funds might best be spent. **You can easily provide feedback by completing the 3 question survey located on the web at:** [**https://goo.gl/forms/voYk3pVlh6dLIoql2**](https://goo.gl/forms/voYk3pVlh6dLIoql2)
* **Initial projections indicate that more than $30 million dollars could be made available for school repairs and capital projects through a local bond measure.**From these moneys, the Board would pledge to eliminate $6 million in existing facility-improvement borrowing – a commitment that would free up as much as $415,000 per year (on average) in general fund monies to be used in direct educational program support. In addition, having local funding will open the door for the District to receive state-matching funds for facility improvements at our existing schools – money’s that will not be available with local matching funds.
* **As an educational partner of the school district, we are reaching out to ask for your input on the issue of a local bond measure that will repair and modernize our schools.**
The Board needs to hear the thoughts, support or concerns from its schools and local community on the possibility of a bond election. That input is key to the Board’s upcoming discussions on a bond election and will ultimately drive their actions on this important issue.