

Look for Measure L on the ballot in November!

By Kendra Turk-Kubo, in partnership with Bonny Doon School Board of Trustees

In the Spring of 2024, Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District hired experts from Stacked, an architectural and engineering firm, to create a new multi-year Facilities Master Plan (FMP). They undertook an analysis of the status of the current school building, campus and community facilities and gathered input and ideas from key stakeholders: staff, teachers, parents and community leaders. Groups consulted included the School Board of Trustees, the Parent Volunteer Association, and the Bonny Doon Community School Foundation. The new FMP includes updates and improvements for the school buildings, the school campus, and the facilities available for use by the wider Bonny Doon community. Information on the FMP is available at: www.buesd.org.

The budget for implementation of the FMP was calculated to be \$15.7 million. The district is seeking to raise an initial \$7 million to implement the highest priority projects through a school improvement bond measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot. Bonny Doon voters will be asked to vote yes or no on a proposed increase in their property taxes to provide the funds.

Measure L Questions and Answers:

What is the proposed measure?

Measure L is a \$7.0 million general obligation (G.O.) bond program intended to address the needs of the student population through modernization and renovation projects at Bonny Doon Elementary School.

What is a General Obligation (G.O.) bond?

G.O. bonds fund projects such as the renovation of existing classrooms and school facilities, as well as construction of new schools and classrooms. Like a home loan, G.O. bonds are typically repaid over 25 to 30 years. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property - residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial - located within the district's boundaries.

Why does the district feel Measure L is needed?

Our school is outdated, and upgrades and renovations need to be made. While facilities have been well maintained, old classrooms must be upgraded since many do not meet 21st century education and technology standards. Measure L would allow the district to improve the quality of the school facilities and education provided to local children.

Why can't the district meet its facilities needs with its current budget?

Today, the scope of improvements needed at the Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District is far more than the current funding sources available. The funding which the district receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating children and not the cost of upgrading and modernizing facilities.

What are some of the specific projects that could be covered by this bond?

- Repairing or replacing leaky roofs
- Making health, safety and security improvements

- Modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms and school facilities
- Replacing deteriorating plumbing and sewer systems
- Improving playgrounds and playfields for school and community use

What will the passage of the proposed measure mean for our students and the community?

The proposed measure will provide Bonny Doon students with a better learning environment by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also used and available to the community.

What will happen if the proposed measure does not pass?

If the measure does not pass, Bonny Doon Elementary School classrooms and school facilities will continue to deteriorate. In addition, funds that would otherwise go to classroom instruction will be needed to make critical safety repairs and improvements at the school. Major repairs will need to be postponed and as a result may be more expensive.

What will the proposed measure cost?

The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year (Note that assessed valuations are the value placed on property by the County and are lower than market values).

How can I be sure that funds will be spent on improving our local school?

By law, all funds must be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state. Furthermore, an independent citizens' oversight committee will be established to ensure that bond funds are properly spent. Also, by law, there must be annual audits and no bond money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.

Please stop by the Bonny Doon School booth at the upcoming Arts, Wine and Brew Fest at Crest Ranch on Saturday, September 21 to learn more.

Additionally, residents who have questions on the plan can email school superintendent Mike Heffner at: mheffer@bduesd.org. Questions on the ballot initiative should be directed to School Board President Joanna Reynolds at: jreynolds@buesd.org