

# MAPLETON BOND MEASURE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Why is Mapleton School District seeking a Bond Measure?**

Our school buildings average over 65 years old (MES 1957, MMS 1939, MHS 1948); serious and immediate infrastructure improvements are needed. Through Senate Bill 447 Mapleton School District (MSD) has been awarded four million dollars (\$4,000,000) in grant funds if voters approve this measure. If voters reject this measure, state grant funds will be diverted to another district on the waiting list.

### **What is Senate Bill (SB) 447?**

The primary goal of SB 447 is to encourage communities to pass local general obligation (GO) bonds to address the deferred maintenance problems present in Oregon's schools. SB 447 provides direct matching facility grants to districts. Mapleton School District is eligible to receive up to \$4 million in matching funds. A \$4 million bond would actually provide an \$8 million facility improvement budget. MSD is one of only sixteen school districts in the state of Oregon to receive committed funding from this inaugural program!

### **What is a Bond Measure and how is the money used?**

A school bond measure is a voter-approved funding method that can only be used for constructing or improving school buildings, facilities and equipment, such as books and computers. Under state law, the revenue from bonds cannot be used for operating expenses.

### **My property tax statement already has a Mapleton School District tax.**

Property owners currently pay a permanent tax rate to Mapleton School District. This permanent rate was set by the state of Oregon, not the district, when Oregon Ballot Measure 5 passed in 1990. All school districts are assigned a permanent tax rate. *Revenue from the permanent tax rate is intended for school operations only.* Revenue from the proposed bond measure would be recorded in a separate fund as it is designated for *capital improvement costs only.* Please click [here](#) for a summary of Lane County school district permanent rates and bond rates.

### **Are school district bond measures common?**

In the state of Oregon school districts pass a bond to fund capital construction improvement projects. The new SB 447 facility grant demonstrates this; in order to receive the \$4,000,000 grant the district must pass a \$4,000,000 bond. The purpose of the facility grant is to give an incentive for communities to pass a bond.

### **Do other Lane County Schools have bonds?**

Yes, 15 of 16 Lane County Schools either have a bond/local option levy or are seeking one. Please click [here](#) for a summary of Lane County school district permanent rates and bond rates.

### **Where does the school district get its money from?**

Mapleton receives revenue from two primary sources; property taxes from our permanent rate and the State School Fund. *These two streams of revenue are intended for operations.* For 2015-16 we receive \$7,343 per ADMw from the total of these two revenues. Please click [here](#) to view MSD's 2015-16 funding model.

### **What is the State School Fund? What is ADMw?**

Oregon Ballot Measure 5 created the State School Fund. The State School Fund was developed with the goal of providing equal funding to all school districts based on the number of students that attend each district. The State School Fund, simply put, is an equation. All districts receive their state funding through this set equation. Funds are allocated according to ADMw, average daily membership weighted. Each student receives one point. Extra points are provided for special education students, students in poverty or foster care, and students enrolled in remote schools. For 2015-16 we receive \$7,343 per ADMw. Please click [here](#) to view MSD's 2015-16 funding model.

**What are the planned improvements?**

Mapleton High School and Elementary would be the focus of our remodels. The project would include asbestos abatement, upgrades to plumbing, electrical, window and door replacement, energy efficient lighting and heating, increased security and ADA accessibility. Design details will be discussed at our community meetings.

**Is technology a part of the plan?**

Yes. We want to increase the student to computer ratio, create greater access for students, and strengthen our technology infrastructure to address current and future needs for connectivity through hard-wire and wireless resources.

**There has been a lot of national attention lately to school security issues. How is safety and security addressed?**

Our discussions about renovations are centered on safe, secure and healthy learning environments. We have focused on entry points of buildings and how to better secure our campus. A vestibule for the High School main entry has been designed to be directly supervised by the administration office. Additional emergency exits will be created district wide.

**What would be the potential ways the community could use the new facilities?**

A new community room equipped with computer workstations and access to the internet will be created in Mapleton High School. We also plan to relocate the weight and exercise room to the High School; this facility will be open to the public on weekends. Resurfacing and painting new lanes on our track is also planned.

**What happens if MSD closes before the bond is set to expire?**

This would depend how a school district merger is accomplished. This would be an extremely sophisticated legal proceeding. Unfortunately, this is a very complicated hypothetical scenario and there is no definite answer. However, if Mapleton School District dissolved new boundary lines would be drawn for the school district that takes over Mapleton School District's territory. Tax payers would then be subject to the new school districts tax rates. All surrounding districts of Mapleton currently have higher tax rates. It should be noted that the board considered this is a highly unlikely scenario. We are passing this bond to sustain our school district.

**How is MSD's budget approved each year?**

MSD follows Oregon's Local Budget Law, a series of statutes (ORS 294.305 to 294.565) that require local governments to prepare and adopt annual or biennial budgets following a very specific process. We conduct public meetings to discuss the proposed budget and to approve and adopt the official budget. The district budget is available at the district office to view.

**What is MSD's current budget?**

MSD's adopted budget totals \$3,168,965. Here is a breakdown of our *projected expenditures*: General Fund (common operations) \$2,523,126, Special Revenue Fund (restrictive grants) \$535,774, Capital Improvement Fund \$110,065.

**What were MSD actual expenditures last year?**

Our audited financials total our general fund expenditures for 2014-15 at \$2,244,882, Special Revenue Fund (restrictive grant) expenditures at \$532,776, and Capital Improvement Fund expenditures at \$39,208.

**What funds are allocated for facilities maintenance?**

The majority of the proposed bond projects are to replace aging infrastructure systems; including, mechanical, electrical, plumbing and septic systems. These infrastructure projects are beyond regular maintenance costs. There are two separate funds that address facilities in the 2015-16 adopted budget. In our General Fund budget we have a maintenance account that includes expenditures for *Repairs and Maintenance*, \$5,000, *Professional Services*, \$10,000, and *Capital Outlay* \$12,500. Additionally, we have a Capital Improvement Fund that includes expenditures for *Repairs and Maintenance*, \$5,000, and *Structural Alterations*, \$10,000.

**What significant facility projects has Mapleton recently completed?**

This current school year, 2015-16, completed facility projects include, but are not limited to, \$5,817 Elementary Roof Repair, \$8,140 Middle School Paint and Rot Project, \$29,536 High School and Elementary Gymnasium Lighting replaced

with motion sensor LEDs (grant funded). For the 2014-15 school year facility projects included, but were not limited to, \$39,088 High School Roof Replacement, \$11,767 HVAC repair and replacement, \$4,500 Tree Service.

### **How was PIVOT Architecture selected?**

*It should be noted that PIVOT Architecture was the only firm located in Lane County to submit a proposal. A Request for Proposals for Capital Improvement and Community Outreach Services was published in The Eugene Register-Guard and The Daily Journal of Commerce on October 21, 2015. Proposals were due on November 2, 2015.*

In summary the RFP requested proposals from qualified firms to assist the District in developing an educational program and imagery for a Facility Master Plan based on their existing facility assessments and district data, to facilitate a communications and outreach campaign to the community, and to assist the District with the implementation of School Board proposals for major facility improvement projects (pending voter approved funding).

The following scoring was used to evaluate the proposals.

1. Relevant Oregon experience with school facility projects. (25 pts)
2. Experience with pre-bond communications and campaign facilitation services. (30 pts)
3. Fee Structure. (10 pts)
4. Experience and expertise of key staff. (15 pts)
5. References from previous projects. (15 pts)
6. Overall Cohesiveness and responsiveness of proposal (5 pts)

After consideration of the all proposals, the contract award offer was made to PIVOT, the best overall proposal in the opinion of the evaluation committee. *It should be noted that PIVOT Architecture was the only firm in Lane County to submit a proposal.*

### **What bank would likely be carrying that loan?**

A bank would not carry the loan. If the bond passes Mapleton School District, the issuer, would sell our bond to Piper Jaffray, the underwriter. The Underwriter buys bonds from an issuer and resells them to investors. Underwriters not only find investors for the district's bonds, they also take the risk out of the transaction for the issuer. Once the underwriter offers to purchase the bonds, the issuer is no longer at risk if the issue does not sell or if the interest rates rise. The bonds are sold on the bond market.

### **When is the vote?**

Ballots will be mailed to voters on April 19<sup>th</sup> and must be received at the elections office by Election Day, May 17<sup>th</sup>. The voter registration deadline is April 26<sup>th</sup>.