

## **Progress Update on the Rancho Cordova Measure B School Bond From the Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee**

Committee Members: Guy Anderson, Roger Benton, Russ Davis, Conrade Mayer,  
Neil Orchard, Craig Osborn, Mike Passof, Mary Sebastien, Liane Sousa

### Background:

In March 2002, Rancho Cordova voters approved a school facilities bond (Measure B) that provided \$49 million (the most we can impose on the taxpayers for this bond) toward renovations for the Folsom Cordova Unified School District schools in Rancho Cordova. This measure has provided and continues to provide much-needed funds for classroom renovation and modernization, school construction, and technology upgrades. Every public school in Rancho Cordova is receiving some of this funding.

### **Who is watching over this money?**

A Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee was established specifically for this bond, as required by Proposition 39. The role of the committee is to confirm that bond funds were used properly and that no funds were used on teacher or administrator salaries, or other school operating expenses. No teachers, administrators, or other school employees can serve on the committee. The committee includes individuals representing parents of students attending Rancho Cordova public schools, parent-teacher organizations at these schools, business, senior citizen, taxpayer and home building organizations.

All construction work is open to competitive bidding, and every project is subjected to close scrutiny to maximize the value received for the money. In some cases, the scope of a project is adjusted based on the costs quoted, and in rare cases, the district has the ability to decline a project if bids are too high. After each project is complete, a final inspection is conducted, and the contractor is required to fix any work that is not acceptable.

### **Who decided how to spend the bond money at Cordova High?**

Measure B funds must be shared by all the district schools in Rancho Cordova. Cordova High School (CHS) is receiving the largest share of the bond funds; an amount that is roughly equivalent to the amount all eleven elementary schools are receiving, combined. Before the bond was submitted to voters, a list of desired projects for each site was created. There were more needs identified at CHS than could be funded, therefore some projects on the initial wish lists will not be possible. The specific projects for CHS modernization were selected by a CHS Site Committee consisting of CHS teachers, staff, students, and parents, who selected projects from the original wish list based on the greatest needs, academic importance, and the greatest potential benefits for the high school students overall.

### **Are we paying for schools being planned in future development?**

Planning for new schools in Rancho Cordova is being partially funded by the bond. The majority of bond funds are being spent on existing schools in Rancho Cordova, all of which are 40 to 50 years old.

### **What improvements are being made to Cordova High School?**

The ballot text of the bond did not specify or promise any specific projects. Many ideas and potential projects have been discussed for several years, and the CHS Site Committee chose the following ones as being the most important for the money available:

- Renovation of classrooms and subsidiary facilities; new roofing and dry rot repair where needed; HVAC system upgrades where needed including replacement of ventilator fans; gymnasium renovation; stadium renovation (synthetic turf field, new track surface, stadium seating); new or repaired gutters throughout the campus; replacement of windows as needed; painting of campus exteriors; renovation of toilet rooms and faculty rooms; replacement of cafeteria stage folding partition; replacement of selected asphalt walkways with concrete; improvements to administration building; a new attendance and counseling center; new shade structure; new student drop-off loop and parking.

In addition to those selected projects, some extra projects were possible due to money saved and new funding obtained during the construction phases:

- Replacement of the asbestos (VAT) flooring with new flooring; painting of the interior of the cafeteria and administration; replacement of vinyl flooring in four science classrooms; addition of carpet and wall finishes to the administration building.
- The District's Facilities team also secured a \$100,000 grant from the state for using California recycled tires in the track replacement.

The technology upgrades selected for CHS by the CHS Site Committee included:

- Active distribution upgrades; new servers; 45 new computers and 15 new LCD projectors.
- Upgrading three computer labs.

Most of the major projects at CHS have already been completed in the three years since the bond was passed by voters. Several more are in progress this summer and should be complete by October 2005. The new stadium concession stand should be ready for the 2006 football season.

### **How can we get more improvements at CHS?**

For the last four consecutive years, school funding from the state has been repeatedly reduced, requiring deep cuts to district programs. Those cuts have included landscaping and custodial/maintenance work. In addition, state law prohibits the bond funds from being used for school operating expenses. Bond funds are intended for major capital improvement such as classroom renovation, school construction, and technology upgrades. The projects selected by the CHS committee were focused on improving the learning environment. Future improvements at CHS could come from either normal operating funds, which are extremely limited due to state reductions, or a future bond measure approved by taxpayers.

### **What if a problem arises with the work that is complete?**

The final inspection process is a good one, but not a perfect one. It may happen that poor quality product or workmanship may go unnoticed. For example, the gym floor contractor came back and fixed a problem that was identified. Also, the G Wing HVAC manufacturer has recalled some components of the HVAC and the replacement system is expected to be installed and fully functioning by September 2005. So if you encounter a problem, please let us know! Start by notifying the Facilities Department at 355-1111 x 184. The district has a minimum one-year warranty for all items, and many items have a longer warranty period.

### **How can I learn more about what's going on? How can I get involved?**

Progress reports are updated monthly on the district web site. Annual reports are issued to the public which were mailed with the June 2005 utility bill from BFI. Periodic updates are also published in *The Grapevine Independent*, and provided to the Rancho Cordova City Council as well as FCUSD Board of Trustees monthly. Your Citizens Oversight Committee is interested in hearing your feedback relevant to this bond. Please feel free to reach us through any of the following methods:

Citizens Oversight Committee Meetings: These meetings are all open to the public. Locations, dates, and agendas are at [www.fcusd.k12.ca.us/facweb](http://www.fcusd.k12.ca.us/facweb)

Email: Craig Osborn, Chair of Rancho Cordova Citizens Oversight Committee: [RCMeasureB@yahoo.com](mailto:RCMeasureB@yahoo.com)  
 Matt Washburn, FCUSD Director of Facilities: [mwashbur@fcusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mwashbur@fcusd.k12.ca.us)

US Mail:           Rancho Cordova Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee  
                       c/o Matt Washburn, Director of Facilities  
                       Folsom Cordova Unified School District  
                       125 East Bidwell Street  
                       Folsom, CA 95630

This flyer is being distributed several ways, including among others:

- sent to parents of CHS students at the start of the 2005-06 academic year
- provided to all CHS teachers and administrators
- handed out at various CHS PTA functions, CHS athletic events, etc.
- available to anyone at the CHS office, the district office, and Rancho Cordova City Hall
- available to anyone on request, or at the district web site [www.fcusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.fcusd.k12.ca.us).