

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 6

TO: Governing Board X Action
X Discussion
FROM: Dr. Susan J. Cook, Superintendent Information
1st Reading

DATE: June 10, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: To Consider and, if Deemed Advisable, to Adopt a Resolution Ordering and Calling a Special Bond Election to be Held in and for the District and Authorizing the Business Services Director to Comply with Certain Sections of the Internal Revenue Code

INITIATED BY: District-wide School Facility Planning Council; Mike Kramer, Director of Capital Projects and Maintenance; Sue Pierce, Director of Facility Planning SUBMITTED BY: Dr. Susan J. Cook, Superintendent

GOVERNING BOARD POLICY REFERENCE OR STATUTORY CITATION: BBA, ARS §15-491, 15-492, 15-1021

SUPPORTING DATA

Funding Source: N/A
 Budgeted: N/A

The May 27, 2010 Governing Board meeting included an update regarding WESD capital projects. That information was presented in preparation for the Governing Board’s consideration of a WESD special bond election.

Arizona Revised Statute §15-491 grants public school district governing boards authority to call for an election to “decide whether the bonds of the school district shall be issued and sold for the purpose of raising money for purchasing or leasing school lots, for building or renovating school buildings, for supplying school buildings with furniture, equipment and technology, for improving school grounds, for purchasing pupil transportation vehicles or for liquidating any indebtedness already incurred for such expenses.”

In November 2001, voters authorized the Washington Elementary School District (WESD) to sell up to \$64 million in school improvement bonds. At present, the District has received all proceeds from the 2001 authorization; to date, with the exception of a small amount that is held in reserve for emergency projects, the funds have been expended, and the originally designated bond projects have been completed.

Buildings throughout WESD are aging, and some will require extensive repair, renovation or rebuilding in the near

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Governing Board approve the Resolution ordering and calling a special bond election to be held in and for Washington Elementary School District #6 of Maricopa County, Arizona, on November 2, 2010 and authorizing the District's business services director as the officer to comply with sections 103 and 141 through 150 of the internal revenue code. In addition, it is recommended that the Governing Board adopt the informational publications associated with this Agenda item, including the display boards, as well as the non-interactive WESD Web site page on which bond-related information is posted.

Superintendent _____

Board Action	Motion	Second	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Adams					
Graziano					
Jahneke					
Lambert					
Maza					

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future. Capital Projects and Maintenance Department staff, as well as school administrators, have identified significant capital project needs and priorities. State Building Renewal funding, which was established in 1998 for the purpose of maintaining the adequacy of existing school facilities, has not been a reliable funding source. If WESD capital project needs are to be addressed and if District facilities are to be adequately maintained, funding must come from voters' authorization of additional school improvement bonds.

For over two years, WESD's five Regional School Facility Planning Councils, in collaboration with the Capital Projects, Facility Planning and Finance Departments, have participated in the District's facility planning process. Each regional council's efforts culminated in a prioritized list of capital projects based on identified needs of the schools within the region. Representatives from the regional councils served on a 15-member District-wide School Facility Planning Council, the three-part purpose of which is indicated below:

- a) To review and come to consensus regarding the prioritized capital improvement projects that have been forwarded to the District-wide Facility Council for possible inclusion in a November 2010 bond election, should such an election be called by the WESD Governing Board;
- b) To consider the feasibility of holding a bond election in November 2010;
- c) To apply the District's decision-making template in developing a comprehensive bond election recommendation and to forward said recommendation to the Superintendent and Governing Board

On February 16, 2010, District-wide council members reviewed and unanimously approved the capital project lists submitted by the regional councils, as well as District-level capital project proposals. Then, they applied the WESD decision-making model in consideration of a possible bond election recommendation. Details of the process are provided in the materials that follow. During their March 2, 2010 meeting, council members made a consensus decision to recommend that the Governing Board call for a bond election to take place on November 2, 2010. This recommendation is based on the following conclusions:

- In order to protect facilities and maximize their utility, WESD must conscientiously maintain, repair and renovate its buildings and sites.
- Facility project needs throughout the District have been identified and prioritized, with critical attention paid to issues of safety, code compliance and building system failure.
- Because state funding is not sufficient to maintain the adequacy of school facilities, districts typically seek funding through voter-approved school improvement bonds.
- Bond funding would enable WESD to continue to address high priority maintenance and renovation needs as well as energy conservation efforts.
- According to research, the physical condition of school facilities impacts students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to instruct.
- Research also indicates a positive correlation between school quality and residential property values, with the characteristics and condition of facilities contributing to overall school quality.