

## **Blaine School District Capital Projects Bond Facts April 26, 2011 Election Date**

- The proposed capital projects bond in the Blaine School District will be placed on the ballot on April 26, 2011, and will total \$32.0 million.
- The April 26, 2011 capital projects bond is being proposed in response to both short term and long term facility needs in the Blaine School District.
- While public school districts in Washington State receive day to day operating funds from the state, as well as through maintenance and operations levy funds approved by local voters, capital projects needs are generally of a magnitude requiring the submittal of a capital projects bond for local voter approval.
- The capital projects bond issue being presented to voters in April of 2011 will address the expansion of and upgrades to Blaine High School, upgrades to special education space at Blaine Middle School, the acquisition of property for a future school in the Birch Bay area, upgrades to five classrooms at Blaine Elementary School, and the enclosure of the covered play area at Blaine Primary School.
- The needs at Blaine High School are the most urgent and, with passage of the capital projects bond, will be addressed first.
  - Most of the High School facility is now 35 years old. There is a need for comprehensive remodel and addition as many of the program areas in the facility that were adequate for 400 students are not effectively meeting the educational needs of 600 students and will continue to be inadequate as enrollment numbers climb. An upgraded Blaine High School will accommodate 800 students.
  - Currently the band, choir, T.V. studio, art room, construction classroom, technology education classroom and one language arts classroom are located in areas outside the High School. Consolidation of these programs on the High School campus will support efficiency in teaching and learning, enhance security and minimize disruption at the Middle School.
  - High school students are currently using two classrooms at the Middle School. This instructional space will be needed by the Middle School to accommodate future growth.
  - High School students are sharing Middle School cafeteria space, with 750 students daily eating lunch in an area designed for 350 students. The High School needs a separate cafeteria facility.

- The English Language Learners Program is currently being facilitated in a 10 x 12 office in the library and is need of dedicated instructional space.
  - Science classroom and lab space are inadequate, with lab space at approximately 40% of current need.
  - The current facility has numerous points of entry. The new facility will greatly enhance overall supervision and security needs.
  - Administrative and faculty work areas are overcrowded as the square footage in these areas has not changed from when the Blaine High School Campus had 200 fewer students.
- The remaining capital projects identified are being proposed in response to existing program needs, or, in the case of property purchase for a future school, potential long term needs.
    - The Special Education Life Skills class has no available space on the High School campus and is currently housed in the old locker rooms of the Middle School gym at the opposite end of the campus.
    - Five classrooms at the Elementary School were not included in the previous remodel and are now in need of upgrades.
    - Blaine Primary School has no dedicated space for physical education classes. Enclosure of the existing covered play area will provide for more flexibility in addressing this need.
    - The property market is favorable to the purchaser at this time and as such the Board feels that consideration needs to be given to securing property in the Birch Bay area now.
  - Once the School Board sets a capital projects bond amount, and voters approve a bond request, the amount set becomes the maximum that can be collected. Taxes collected by the school district do ***not*** increase after they are set in place, regardless of changes in assessed property value. In fact, as the tax base increases, the tax rate to collect the dollars authorized by voters is reduced.
  - The financing and subsequent repayment schedule for capital projects bonds serves to assure that future home owners assume a share of the resulting tax burden and that the repayment obligation does not rest exclusively with existing home owners.
  - Capital projects bonds are paid off over a more extensive period of time (up to or exceeding 20 years) than are maintenance and operations levies (2-4 year tax

collection). It is not uncommon for voters to be asked to approve a new bond when the debt for an existing bond has not been fully exhausted.

- The bond rate is calculated from the total assessed valuation of all the real property within the district boundaries and is also impacted by the schedule under which approved bonds are sold and subsequently repaid.
- The Blaine School District realizes an overall tax rate for the repayment of capital projects bonds that is significantly less than that of some of our neighboring districts, as a result of the location of the BP Cherry Point Refinery in the district. BP accounts for 24% of the overall tax base and the Blaine School District is grateful for their continued support for education.
- The tax rate for existing bond repayment in 2012 is estimated at \$0.95 per \$1,000 valuation. With passage of the proposed \$32.0 million measure, the bond rate would increase by a projected \$.35 per \$1000 valuation. *This represents an additional \$105 annually on property valued at \$300,000.*

Actual tax rates are set by the county. Historically, the actual rate has been lower than the estimated rate as a result of increases in assessed property valuation.

- An exemption is available for qualifying seniors and low-income homeowners. Those interested in learning more should contact the County Auditor's Office by phone at 676-6742.
- School bonds positively impact everyone in the community, whether you have children in school or not. Bond dollars remain in our community helping with economic stability and prosperity. The success of our schools is a critical part of the quality of life that attracts people to Blaine, Pt. Roberts and Birch Bay.

*Capital Projects Bond questions, comments and suggestions may be sent via email to: [bond@blainesd.org](mailto:bond@blainesd.org) or by U.S. Mail to: Superintendent, Blaine School District, 765 H. Street, Blaine, WA 98230.*

12/13/2010