

## PSD Mill Levy and Bond Issue Information

### *2000 and 2010: Promise Made, Promises Kept*

Planning is underway for a Poudre School District mill levy/bond issue election in 2010 to enhance an already excellent education for students, and help all students achieve at higher levels.

- PSD has demonstrated high levels of accountability to taxpayers for funds received in the 2000 mill levy/bond issue election.
- A 10-year facilities plan completed in 2007 identified needs for which there is no current funding.
- A thorough process will determine and prioritize school needs related to PSD's learning goals.
- The information gathering process will involve every school and all stakeholders.

#### **The \$175 million bond addressed one-time facility and construction needs:**

- **Careful stewardship of funds made it possible for PSD to build 6 schools instead of 5 funded through the 2000 bond:**

Zach Elementary (2002)	Kinard Junior High (2006)
Bacon Elementary (2003)	Rice Elementary (2007)
Fossil Ridge High (2004)	Bethke Elementary (2008)
- **Every PSD school received needed remodeling, repairs, and/or expansion:** Provided activity centers, media center expansion, flex rooms, additional classrooms, training facilities, roof repairs, flooring, carpeting, lighting, pavement, hallway "bridges," lunchrooms, lockers, ADA compliance, theatre improvements, bus terminals, and restroom remodeling.
- **Funds addressed technology, security, playgrounds, athletics, and partnerships:**
  - **Technology:** Computers, software, labs, wireless network upgrades, telephones in every classroom, technical education equipment, instructional television equipment.
  - **Security:** Improvements such as traffic safety at 10 schools, video security systems, entry area remodeling, and emergency lighting generators.
  - **Playgrounds:** Improvements and expansion to early childhood and elementary playgrounds and equipment, fences, and wheelchair access.
  - **Athletics:** Soccer fields, football field and track improvements, gyms, artificial turf.
  - **Partnerships:** Upgrades to the Partnership and Foundation building; and Fossil Ridge High School culinary arts partnership with Front Range Community College.

#### **The \$10 million annual mill levy provides ongoing funds for staffing and operations:**

- Critical dollars to open 4 elementary, 1 junior high, and 1 new high school, and operating budgets for these schools. Hired principals, licensed instructional staff, custodial and maintenance staff.
- Added 45 teachers to schools district wide.
- Scholarships for all-day kindergarten for students with highest needs, and funding to expand early childhood programs for children ages 3-5.
- Staff development and training for PSD staff.
- Textbooks, technology, and transportation funds.



**The accomplishments don't stop there**—PSD's accountability to taxpayers also is evident in more than 30 awards schools have won for sustainable environmental design, pollution prevention, renewable energy, and energy efficiency, resulting in substantial savings in utility costs.

### **Timeline for 2010 Election**

- PSD developed a 10-year facilities master plan over an 18-month period. Completed in 2007, the plan identifies needs for which there is no current funding source.
- A community-led committee has been formed to gather needs, prioritize needs and develop an election proposal that will benefit all students in PSD.
- Beginning fall 2008, the committee will begin holding "Listening Sessions" at each school to gather information from parents, staff, and community members on future needs.
- The information gathering process will involve every school and all stakeholders.
- The committee will develop an election proposal to present to the Board of Education.
- The Board of Education will determine whether to accept or revise the proposal, and approve ballot language in 2010.
- PSD would place the proposal on the November 2010 ballot for voter consideration.

### **Needs gathered from schools will be related to PSD's student achievement learning goals:**

- Goal #1: Students achieve 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade reading proficiency
- Goal #2: Students achieve annual academic growth
- Goal #3: Students become post-secondary ready
- Goal #4: Students have successful transitions between grades and levels

**Mill/bond Committee members** represent a broad spectrum of PSD stakeholders: parents, community members from business/industry and higher education, PSD staff members, and PSD principals and other administrators. Subcommittees are being formed for specific activities, such as school engagement and communications.

### **Additional information**

PSD Communications Services, phone 970-490-3427, PSD website [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) under District Committee Updates; email [elaubhan@psdschools.org](mailto:elaubhan@psdschools.org)

### **Frequently-Asked Questions:**

**What is a mill levy?** A school mill levy override is a property tax based on assessed value used to help fund day-to-day school operating expenses. It generates funding for specific purposes as stated on the election ballot. This funding is over and above the minimum revenues school districts receive from the state.

**What is a bond issue election?** When voters support a bond issue, bonds are issued or sold to address one-time facility and construction needs stated on the election ballot.

**At what level is PSD currently funded?** PSD is funded at the lowest level among Colorado's 178 school districts. In 2008-09, PSD received \$6,554 per student (not including a potential rescission), compared with the statewide range of \$6,554 per pupil to \$14,687 per pupil, with an average across all districts of \$6,899 per pupil.