

MEASURE A GETS SOME BASICS DONE MEASURE A BOND UPDATE

Not so long ago, PG High School, PG Middle School and Forest Grove Elementary were saddled with outdated heating, lighting, electrical, and plumbing systems. Thanks to the Measure A bond, which passed on the November 1999 ballot, these shortcomings were rectified. Today, students enjoy the most basic of comforts, which makes for better learning environments. In 2004, Robert Down Elementary facilities will also be modernized.

The Measure A Bond has provided a total of \$12 million in funding for the repair and modernization of all schools in the District over a four-year period. In addition to enabling much-needed facilities improvements, Measure A also made the District eligible to receive \$2.5 million in State matching funds, which have been used for basic repairs

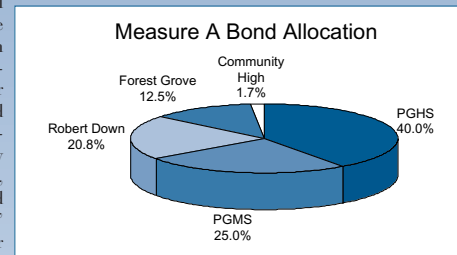
and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

Measure A funds have been allocated to all five schools in the District. The amount per school has varied depending on the condition of the site and other factors. Robert Down will receive about 21 percent of these funds as shown below.

Many of the planned improvements at Robert Down will be invisible because they are either hidden behind walls, underneath floors, or between roofs and ceilings. However, students will enjoy warmer classrooms, better ventilation, and other "small things" like adequate water pressure.

The \$2.5 million Robert Down modernization project is currently out for bid. Construction is scheduled to begin in June 2004.

Community High School will be the next and last project. \$200,000 has been allocated for portable classroom repair and/or site remodeling; however, final decisions about the project have not yet been made.



COMMUNITY INVESTS IN SCHOOL QUALITY

Last November seventy-two percent of Pacific Grove voters supported a parcel tax that will provide a total of \$1.5 million to PG schools spread over the next five years. The parcel tax will enable the District to maintain and improve operations and programs in the face of statewide budget cuts.

The parcel tax is an annual levy on each parcel of land within the District, regardless whether the land use is residential, commercial, agricultural or industrial. These funds will maintain and improve a variety of activities and programs that were either reduced or eliminated by State cutbacks.

The parcel tax will be collected on an annual basis at a rate of \$35 per parcel, which will provide the District with approximately \$300,000 per year for a total of five years. The District

may use the funds for items such as maintaining small class sizes, campus safety, maintenance, schoolyard supervision, student computer technology programs, and library support, as well as music and athletic programs.

"The amount of community support and involvement was amazing," said Janice Russo, a Pacific Grove parent and the phone bank coordinator. "People in the community really care about the quality of our schools."

Funds for the 2004 - 2005 school year included in the budget development discussions will be expended during the 2004 - 2005 fiscal year. The District will establish an independent citizens oversight committee that will ensure that the funds are properly spent. For example, none of the funds can be used to pay any portion of administrative salaries.

Parties interested in joining the oversight committee should contact Jennifer Jansen at the District office at 646-0661.

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improve, the school may implement intervention strategies that include parent participation.

"We're on a journey, constantly looking for ways to make the District's educational services more effective through staff training, new textbooks, and the use of software," said Patrick Perry, Pacific Grove Unified School District Superintendent. "To meet the needs of individual students we must continue to use varied approaches in the classrooms, monitor student success, and execute intervention strategies."



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REALIZING STUDENT POTENTIAL

President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" policy and State legislation challenge schools and school districts to meet the needs of all students. Pacific Grove Unified School District is doing an outstanding job meeting the challenge with a broad range of programs that address a wide range of students from developmentally challenged to gifted. In its quest to address ever expanding needs, the District has recently adopted a number of administrative and teaching practices designed to meet the individual needs of students.

Personalizing Education

The District administers its own "Multiple Measures" assessments on a quarterly basis to track individual student performance in the elementary grades. (See Keeping Students on Track, page 3). Some schools also use supplemental teacher and/or textbook assessments.

Collectively, the assessments indicate students' individual strengths and weaknesses, which can be used by

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SUPPORT PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	ROBERT DOWN	FOREST GROVE	PG MIDDLE	PG HIGH
State assessments	X	X	X	X
District Assessments (3 annually)/others ongoing	X	X	X	X
Differentiated learning	X	X	X	X
GATE	X	X	X	-
Honors classes	N/A	N/A	X	X
Advanced Placement Classes	N/A	N/A	N/A	X
AVID	N/A	N/A	X	X
Math tutorial class	X	X	X	X
Math lab	X	X	X	-
Computer lab	X	X	X	X
History Day	N/A	N/A	X	X
Individualized intervention (for at-risk students)	X	X	X	X
Group workshops/tutorials (for at-risk students)	X	X	X	X
Special Education	X	X	X	X

teachers to fine-tune learning programs. The data can also be viewed at an aggregate level, which enables teachers to identify groups of students with common needs.

The assessments further serve as a foundation for "Differentiated Instruction" which assists teachers in proactively planning varied approaches to student learning. The assessments also enable teachers to account for student readiness and individual learning styles.

Expanding Class Support

PG Schools offer rich class support programs designed to help students achieve higher levels of success. Some programs are available at all schools, while others are designed for students at specific grade levels, as shown above.

Students in grades 3 - 8 who are identified as gifted are eligible for optional Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) classes that are held after school. High achievers and GATE students in grades 7 - 12 may

participate in a variety of Advanced Placement and Honors classes.

Both the middle school and the high school offer Advanced Placement and/or Honors classes in math, English, and history. Next year the high school will add an additional English Honors class, as well as an additional Advanced Placement class in Psychology or Statistics. Also beginning in the 2004 - 2005 school year, Advanced Placement and Honors classes will be available to students with 3.0 (B) grade point averages or better.

"Mid-range" students with grade point averages ranging from 2.0 (C) to 3.5 (B+) may improve their academic performance through Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) elective classes. AVID helps students develop better organizational and learning skills, and also prepares students for college.

"At risk" students may be eligible for group workshops or tutorials. If their academic performance does not

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