

news release

For immediate release: December 8, 2023 Media Contact: Geoff Maleman

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CCUSD Board Unanimously Approves Resolution to Put Educational Facilities Bond on the March 5, 2024 Ballot

Proposed bond would generate \$358 million

(Culver City, Calif.) – At a special meeting held on Tuesday, December 5, the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD) Board of Education unanimously approved <u>a resolution to put an Educational Facilities Bond on the March 5, 2024 ballot</u>. Board members were united and enthusiastic following a period of public comment, a presentation, and a short discussion among the Board members.

Most CCUSD school sites date back to the 1950s and have not had significant renovations in decades. Some of the issues are: crumbling ceiling tiles that are falling down, leaky roofs and plumbing, outdated wiring and deteriorated walls, doors, windows and restrooms all must be replaced or fixed. Outdated, inefficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning units are costly to maintain and contribute to poor air quality.

As Interim Superintendent Maria Martinez-Poulin explained, "State government provides no dedicated funding for local school facilities. The proposed bond will generate \$358 million in locally-controlled funding to fix and upgrade local schools. None of these funds can be taken by the state."

If approved by 55% of local voters in the upcoming March Primary election, the bond measure would:

- Fix leaky roofs, falling ceiling tiles, and aging, deteriorated wiring, plumbing and drainage
- Update science labs, libraries, and instructional technology to catch up with the rapidly changing demands of our modern world and support student achievement
- Improve fire safety, emergency communications, and school security
- Modernize our aging neighborhood schools, which support everyone's property values

"I've heard loud and clear that our community wants to ensure that all students have the opportunity to receive an excellent education in safe, modern classrooms and schools," said Martinez-Poulin. "Now, it's up to the voters to decide whether our local schools will receive funding for these urgent repairs that the state won't provide."

The CCUSD bond measure includes specific fiscal accountability provisions:

- By law, all funds remain under local control and may only support CCUSD schools
- Independent citizen oversight and public reports of all spending are required
- Funded by a levy limited to 6 cents per \$100 of assessed (not market) property value (assessed value can be much lower than market value for those who have owned their homes a long time)
- CCUSD currently has the third-lowest tax rate for school facility funding in Los Angeles County
- No funds may be taken by the state.

For more information, including a link to CCUSD's site assessments and master plan, or to take an online survey, please visit <u>Essentials for Excellence</u>.

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