



PROPOSED BOND INFORMATION

Sweet Home will receive a \$4 million matching grant if proposed bond passes

The Sweet Home School District has been selected to receive a \$4 million state funded priority grant if a \$4 million facility improvement proposed bond is passed in the upcoming May election. By doing so, Sweet Home would have \$8 million available to address the district's most significant facility needs.

Sweet Home was one of eight school districts in Oregon to receive a grant commitment. Only three districts in the state, including Sweet Home, received a dollar for dollar match commitment.

The priority grant is intended to help school districts with relatively low property values raise enough funds to make needed facility improvements without overburdening taxpayers.

Sweet Home will only receive the matching grant if the proposed bond passes.

How will we know the money is well spent?

The Sweet Home School District is fiscally accountable, having received clean external audits each year for over two decades. The District has also refinanced the 2001 bond twice at lower interest rates, eliminating over \$5 million in debt service payments for taxpayers.

If voters pass the proposed bond, an independent citizen oversight committee will be established to ensure accountability of bond expenditures.

WHY GO FOR A BOND? WHY NOW?

Sweet Home has an opportunity to make school safety and security improvements and address key facility needs without increasing the tax rate if a proposed \$4 million bond is passed in the May 2017 election.

Sweet Home will receive a state facility matching grant if the proposed bond is passed. The proposed bond and grant proceeds totaling \$8 million would fund the following projects:

- The replacement of modular buildings at Sweet Home Junior High School with new construction attached to the main building. The modular buildings were purchased in 1969 and house a multipurpose room/cafeteria and two classrooms.
- Facility improvements to the junior high's main building including electrical and plumbing system
- Safety, security and facility improvements at all district schools.



The proposed bond would replace Sweet Home Junior High School's modular structures that house a multipurpose room/cafeteria and two classrooms with new construction connected to the main building. The proposed bond would also make additional facility improvements to extend the school's useful life and address student safety and security concerns. In addition, safety, security and facility improvements would be made at the district's elementary schools and the high school.

upgrades to extend the school's useful life.

- District-wide energy savings improvements to reduce operating costs.

If the state facility grant program is still available after the May 2017 election, it is not known if Sweet Home would be able to receive another funding commitment. The grant is competitive and there is limited funding available.

PROPOSED BOND STRUCTURED TO NOT INCREASE TAX RATE

The proposed bond will be structured to not increase the current bond tax rate of \$1.62 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Debt service payments for the proposed bond would largely replace debt service pay-

ments that were eliminated when the district refinanced a 2001 voter approved bond at lower interest rates.

Actual tax rates may differ, depending on interest rates incurred and change in assessed value.

Depending on interest rates, a final partial year payment may be necessary during the 2029-30 fiscal year at a tax rate that is less than the current bond tax rate before all district bonds are fully paid off.

PROPOSED BOND FOCUS AREAS



Student Safety/Security

Students will come first with investments in safety and security.

For example, visitors to Sweet Home Junior High often encounter students before a staff member since the school has multiple entrances and the school office is located within the building away from any entrance.

The proposed bond and matching grant will fund the construction of a secured main entrance with adjoining office space providing access control at the junior high.

Visitors will be required to enter the front vestibule and then pass through the front office for screening by staff before being allowed access to the rest of the building during the school day.

In addition, the junior high currently has structures detached from the main building, each with separate entrances.

The proposed bond and matching grant will allow the junior high to be configured as one building with one main entrance to help provide access control.

Student safety and security will also be enhanced at all district schools utilizing the proposed bond and matching grant funds.

The district is considering providing a universal card swipe system at primary exterior doors, door position sensors at all exterior doors, and auto lock-down systems.

The proposed bond and matching grant funds will also be used to upgrade emergency communication systems and cameras at primary locations.

Secure entrance features will also be incorporated into the elementary schools.



Long-Term Investments

The proposed bond will address our schools most significant facility infrastructure needs. Doing so will allow us to extend the lives of our schools.

For example, the electrical and plumbing systems at Sweet Home Junior High School were installed underground below a concrete slab making them largely inaccessible for repairs and maintenance when the main building was constructed in 1962.

We are planning to install a parapet wall along the edge of the roof that will serve as a chase for new mechanical systems which will make them much more accessible. We will also be able to add slope to the flat roof behind the parapet wall to address moisture management issues in order to extend the life of the main building structure. In addition, we plan to upgrade windows to allow more natural light into classrooms and learning areas.

Modular buildings located on the southwest side of the junior high campus that were purchased from Western Homes' Sectional Division in 1969 would be replaced with new construction attached to the main building. The modular structures have exceeded their useful lives. Mechanical systems and the modular structures themselves are failing.

Junior High today:



Junior High concept idea with parapet wall serving as a chase for new mechanical systems, along with upgraded windows and updated siding:

