

# 2013 Pasco Bond Election

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# Overview

- Why now? Didn't we just have a school election?
- How does the current request differ from the previous one?
- What will happen if the bond passes?
- What will happen if it fails?
- How will this affect Pasco and me?
- What can I do to help?

# Didn't we just have a school election?

- Two types of elections: levy elections and bond elections.
- **L**evy elections fund **l**earning activities, like Enterprise.
- **B**ond elections **b**uild schools.
- Levy election in 2012 and a bond election in 2011.
- 2012 levy passed (requires a simple majority);  
2011 bond failed (requires 60% supermajority)

# Why a bond election now?

- Since 2000, Pasco School District has grown by 80%. It now has nearly 16,000 students.
- New schools have been built, but not enough to accommodate this growth.
- All schools are overcrowded, some significantly so.
- Overcrowding has been accommodated through creative use of space and installation of portables.
- This strategy cannot be maintained: available space and infrastructure are reaching their capacity.

# October 2012 Enrollments by School

| <u>Elementary<br/>Schools</u> | <u>*Capacity</u> | <u>Oct 2012<br/>Enrollment</u> | <u>Secondary<br/>Schools</u>                | <u>*Capacity</u> | <u>Oct 2012<br/>Enrollment</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Gray                          | 550              | 542                            | McLoughlin                                  | 1000             | 1,620                          |
| Markham                       | 325              | 345                            | Stevens                                     | 715              | 962                            |
| Emerson                       | 550              | 535                            | Ochoa                                       | <u>770</u>       | <u>973</u>                     |
| Longfellow                    | 500              | 562                            | Middle Total                                | 2,485            | 3,555                          |
| Twain                         | 450              | 758                            |   |                  |                                |
| Frost                         | 550              | 557                            | PHS   | 1900             | 1,914                          |
| Livingston                    | 500              | 880                            | CHS   | 2200             | 2,240                          |
| McGee                         | 500              | 908                            | NHHS  | <u>*200</u>      | <u>199</u>                     |
| Whittier                      | 550              | 696                            | HS Total                                    | 4,300            | 4,353                          |
| Chess                         | 575              | 590                            | Second Total                                | 6,785            | 7,908                          |
| Angelou                       | 725              | 887                            |   |                  |                                |
| Robinson                      | <u>725</u>       | <u>826</u>                     | K-12 Total                                  | 13,285           | <u>15,994</u>                  |
| Elem Total                    | 6,500            | 8,086                          | * Excludes portable classrooms, except NHHS |                  |                                |

# Options for going forward

- Build the schools our kids and community need.
- Implement Multi-Track Year Round (MTYR) or Double Shifting (DS) at selected highly overcrowded schools.

# How does this bond proposal differ from 2011?

- Cost reduced by
  - Moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade into elementary (elementary schools cost less per pupil)
    - Delays need for middle school until about 2024
    - Increases need for elementary schools immediately
  - Using the “Pasco design” (also part of 2011 proposal)
  - Building large schools (also part of 2011 proposal)
  - Using property already purchased or adjacent to other usable property
    - Recommendations for sites (saves about \$1.7 million in site design)
      - Elementary #13 at 52 and Powerline
      - Kindergarten Center (Elem #14) at 60 and Sandifur
      - Elementary #15 at Whittier site with shared playground. Purchased 1.3 acres vs. 15-20 acres needed for a school.

## The School Board listened to the Community and made adjustments.

### April 2011

- \$59 million local/\$50 million state match
  - One 1250 middle school
  - One 750 elementary
  - One 600 ELC
  - Other projects as listed
- \$.95/\$1000\*

### February 2013

- \$46.8 million local/\$38.1 million state match
  - Two 750 elementary schools
  - One 725 Kinder Center
  - Other projects as listed
- \$.34/\$1000\*

\*Major differences are the elimination of the middle school and lower estimated interest rates—*2011 at 5%, 2012 at 3%* per SNW Securities.



# Other projects include

The following projects will need to be prioritized based on any remaining dollars:

- New Horizons relocation
- Stevens site improvements
- District wide improvements such as upgrades at older schools
- PHS entrance, offices, additional science labs
- Twain pick up and drop off
- Portables
- Design funds for next schools
- Land purchases
  - Elementary, middle and high school sites

# What happens if bond passes?

- District will move forward in construction of the 3 approved schools.
  - One to be opened in 2014-15
  - Two to be opened in 2015-16
- District will probably be able to avoid MTYR or DS by addition of the new schools and portables – depending on enrollment growth.
- K/1-6 conversion in 2015-16 when all new schools opened.
- The new schools alleviate immediate overcrowding, but do not provide significant space for additional growth (this option chosen to reduce cost).

# What happens if bond fails?

- The District will almost surely have to move to MTYR or DS at one or more schools in 2014-15.
- Conversion to K/1-6 will take place as schools move to MTYR or DS.

# What is MTYR or DS

- **Multi-Track Year Round:**
  - Schools operate all year.
  - Student body divided into four tracks.
  - Tracks alternate attending school with break to allow other tracks to attend—always 3 tracks in school and 1 track on break.
  - Attendance periods and breaks would be 45/15 or 60/20 days depending on how implemented. Total school year would remain 180 days for students.
- **Double Shifting:**
  - School operates on two 6-hour shifts.
  - One-half of student body attends school from, say, 6:30 AM to 12:30 PM.
  - One-half attends from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
- **Does MTYR or DS save money? NO!** Estimated operating costs for MTYR are about equal to bond debt service; DS costs are more. These additional costs would come at the expense of other functions.

# How would MTYR or DS affect parents?

- Parents with children in different schools may find them on different school schedules.
- Coordination of child care and parent work schedules are made more difficult.
- Less flexibility for parents, children, and families (vacations, outside school activities, parental visitation, etc.)

# How would MTYR and DS affect the Community?

- Failure to pass the bond implies that Pasco does not support its schools (especially when there are no actual cost savings in moving to MTYR or DS).
- MTYR or DS is not popular with parents. Makes Pasco a less desirable place to live.
- This perception will be amplified because surrounding communities will be on traditional calendars.
- MTYR schools have been shown to reduce property values in communities where tried (e.g. Clarke County NV).<sup>\*</sup> Less is known about the effects of DS but schools only use it in temporary emergency situations such as when a school burns down, or in developing countries, like Guatemala.
- All of these effects will have a negative effect on economic development and on the financial wellbeing of **all** Pasco citizens.

<sup>\*</sup>Clauretie and Neill (2000): "Year-Round School Schedules and Residential Property Values," *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, 20:3, 311-322.

# What can you do to help?

- Talk to your neighbors. Tell them the about the importance of this election.
- Urge them to get correct information by attending PSD community information sessions or by visiting the PSD website (<http://www.psd1.org/domain/85>).
- Write letters to the TCH.
- Don't believe rumors. Get the facts.
- For example, Pasco school construction costs are significantly below state averages.

## Construction Costs for New Pasco Schools since 2002 Compared to Other New Washington Schools

| Pasco Schools |                     |             | Other WA Schools   |                             |
|---------------|---------------------|-------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 2007-09       | CHS                 | \$211.56/sf | Other high schools   | \$247.18/sf and \$401.45/sf |
| 2005          | Robinson Elementary | \$140.11/sf | State average for similar sized elementary schools in eastern WA | \$276/sf                    |
| 2004          | Angelou Elementary  | \$127.84/sf | State average for similar sized elementary schools in eastern WA | \$206.80/sf                 |
| 2002          | Ochoa Middle School | \$118.81/sf | Middle School  | \$167.41/sf                 |

Sources: OSPI website and PSD Fiscal Office Excludes cost of land



# In Closing

**Outstanding schools are essential for maintaining a strong community. Failure to build the schools we need will be a step backwards for Pasco, and *everyone* will pay the price whether they have children in school or not.**

*Vote YES and tell your friends and neighbors to vote YES!  
It is important for the well being of our whole community.*