



Measure C Progress Report

Measure C Full Text Language

"To improve the quality of education, shall Byron Union School District be authorized to renovate and modernize existing classrooms and school facilities, construct a library for school and community use, build additional classrooms to relieve overcrowding, make health and safety improvements and upgrade electrical systems to improve student access to computers and modern technology by issuing \$19,700,000 in bonds within legal interest rates, with a citizens' oversight committee, annual audits and NO money for administrator or teacher salaries." - June 2006

Dear Byron Union School District Families and Friends:

In June 2006 our citizens passed a general obligation bond called Measure C which offered our local school district the opportunity to improve the conditions of its campuses and raise the standard for school facilities in our community. Despite facing serious challenges, we have made significant progress towards this goal. This communication is to provide you with a Progress Report on our efforts thus far.

Technology:

The Board of Trustees wants all Byron District students to be prepared for the 21st Century. By investing in a server-based technology platform, students and staff will have the advantage to quickly adapt to a rapidly changing environment at a much lower cost. We are one of a few districts in California to move in this direction and we look forward to realizing its potential. This decision will provide all students with access to technology whether they are in a computer lab, a library, or a classroom within our district.

We have implemented the following technology improvements at all three sites:

- Fiber Optic Cable installed throughout the district -allowing for maximum speed through the virtual highway
- Network Telephone System improving communication between staff and community
- School Messenger System - instant contact tool for emergency and general school communication
- Brand new servers at each site with the capacity to keep up with advancing technology
- Six hundred 17" computer monitors with keyboards, mouse, and headphones
- WYSE virtual computers placed in all district computer labs and 4 student computer stations in all classrooms throughout district



- Laser printers for student and staff access in all classrooms and computer labs
- Digital Presenters to promote improved visual understanding for students and teachers in all classrooms
- LCD Projectors in all classrooms to bring learning alive
- Extra-large projector screens to improve visual access in all classrooms
- Computer labs at all three schools (2 at Excelsior)
- All students provided with personal file storage accounts to create their own virtual "back packs"
- All classrooms at Timber Point are equipped with an auditory projection system

We are excited to offer staff development opportunities for our staff members to ensure that our investment is fully realized. In the future, we hope to offer technology classes to our community as well.

Timber Point Elementary:

- New pick-up and drop-off loop completed with additional parking for parents and staff
- Tan-bark replaced by recycled rubber product in both main and kindergarten play areas
- New paving to provide room for Ball Walls
- Kindergarten play area equipment added to address increased enrollment
- New storage and maintenance facility for with fenced and gated security
- Tan-bark re-distributed throughout all planter areas in the district
- Ball Walls completed and installed



Timber Point Kindergarten and Preschool Playground Area



Timber Point Pick Up and Drop off Area

Discovery Bay Elementary:

- Plaza project completed
- Restrooms completed
- Sports field with track completed
- New playground area completed
- Kindergarten play area expansion completed
- Server Room improvements completed
- Shade structure completed
- Landscaping of Plaza project completed
- Ball Walls completed
- Windows, doors, and stucco replaced as needed
- Rubber product in the Kindergarten area completed
- Natural Gas fence area completed



Discovery Bay Plaza Project

Discovery Bay Quad Area



**Discovery Bay Sports
Field and Track
Project**

Excelsior Middle:

- Fencing security project in the front of Excelsior completed (with the 2nd phase completed once the building of Increment 1 and Increment 2 are completed.)
- Landscaping project in front of school completed
- Asphalt walkway for students and staff completed
- Air conditioning unit for Byron Gym completed
- New high-capacity well for expansion project for fields and new buildings
- **Increment 1** will conclude in the summer of 2010 which includes the following: new grading and irrigation for fields (6 baseball diamonds, multiple soccer fields, football field with track, security fencing around fields and campus, etc.), underground work including: (sewer, water, drainage, electrical, landscaping, paving, new entry way off of Byer Rd., new classroom building wing with 14 classrooms, etc.)
- ****Increment 2** will include the following buildings:
1) Multipurpose Room/Cafeteria/Theatre, 2) Gymnasium, and 3) Library/Administration Building.



Excelsior Fencing and Landscaping Project



Excelsior Expansion Project

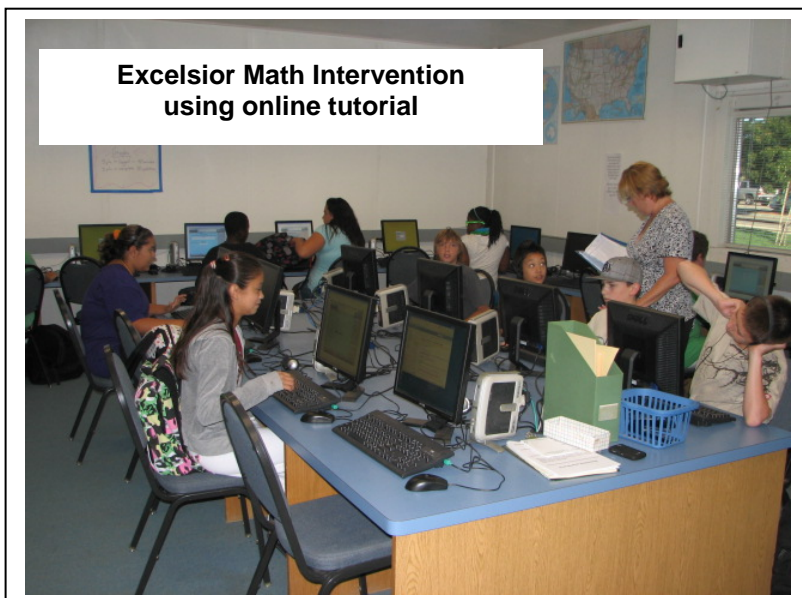
Excelsior Landscaping Project



Byron Union School District and the Economy:

Prior to the economy's collapse, the BUSD issued two releases on our general obligation bond for approximately \$14.3 million. This money has been used to support our past and current projects. A good portion of the funds continue to earn interest until our middle school expansion designs are cleared through the state. We currently have approximately \$10 million remaining to apply to our projects - without considering the \$5.4 million remaining from the final release of the \$19.7 million bond.

The weakened economy has been a blessing and a curse for the Byron Union School District's Measure C projects. First, construction costs have dropped significantly over the past 12 months. The bids are typically 40%-50% less than the projected costs that we expected during the planning phase. This is fantastic! We are able to complete much more than we originally thought with the dollars that we have remaining. Sadly, the Contra Costa Treasurer (Bill Pollacek) contacted me over the summer to notify us that our property values dropped nearly 20% over the last 12 months. This was the biggest drop among any area in California! This is important information as it impacts our ability to access the remaining \$5.4 million from our original \$19.7 million guaranteed under Measure C.



Under Proposition 39 law, tax fees on general obligation bonds (Measure C) cannot exceed \$30 per \$100,000 of assessed value. If it does, the district cannot issue additional bonds until that value drops to below \$30 per \$100,000. As a result of the recent 20% devaluation on property values in Discovery Bay, our tax fees on Measure C are currently at \$33 per \$100,000. *Even though the amount per \$100,000 has increased, this does not necessarily mean that homeowners are paying more in taxes, because the assessed value of the home is typically less.*

With this in mind, the Board of Trustees' are faced with the difficult decision of choosing what to build given the fact that we cannot currently access the \$5.4 million remaining in our Measure C account. To make matters worse, we still are not sure that the state of California will provide us with the state-match funds for building classrooms. At this point, we feel confident that the state will come through on the matching funds.

In order to receive state-match funds, we must have done at least one of the following things: 1) have 50% of the cost of the classrooms in a savings account, or 2) have built the classrooms. This is important to understand as it impacts the Board's decision on what to do next. We expect to receive \$4.5 million from the state-match program if it is funded. We will not know until early in the 2010 calendar year.

Excelsior Expansion Classroom Wing



On Friday, September 25th, 2009 the Board of Trustees met in a special facilities meeting to discuss next steps. The decision was made to build the classroom building wing first as it will secure our district an additional \$4.5 million to use towards other building projects if we are funded by the state. It also places all Byron Middle School students in close proximity and within "state of the art" classrooms beginning next school year. Next, a decision was made to go out

immediately for bids for the remaining buildings: 1) Multipurpose Room/Cafeteria/Theatre with specific adjustments added in to the bid, 2) Gymnasium, and 3) Library/Administration building. We will look at the bids (costs) of each of the buildings and decide at that point which buildings we can afford and how it will have the greatest impact on our students.

It is our intention for the 2010-2011 school year to provide the following:

- 1) a safer entry-way into our middle school off of Byer Rd.
- 2) a classroom building wing that brings students together with the rest of the middle school campus (as opposed to housing them in substandard portable classrooms)
- 3) expansive sports fields and blacktop areas for physical education, recess time, or after school sports, and
- 4) complete the remaining projects in the order that our budget will allow.

These are difficult times. I continue to be optimistic and believe that our decisions will benefit students and our community well into the future. I fully support the difficult decisions that our Board of Trustees have made and I admire their willingness to place students first.

Please let me know if you have any questions. My email address is eprater@byron.k12.ca.us

Eric Prater, Superintendent
Byron Union School District
925.809.7502



Byron Union School District Board of Trustees:

Ken Silman, President
Lisa Hultz
Bobbi Nugent

Jill Sprenkel, Clerk
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