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Lebanon Community School Board Passes Resolution for Facilities Bond

State to Provide Matching Funds If Bond Is Approved By Voters May 17

[Lebanon, Ore.] The Board of Directors for Lebanon Community Schools unanimously approved a resolution to place a facilities bond request on the May 17, 2022 Primary Election ballot. If approved by voters, the state will provide \$4.3 million in matching funds, which would help the school district complete more projects.

“This is a great opportunity to help stretch local tax dollars further,” said Bo Yates, Superintendent of Schools. “We can make more improvements to our school facilities at less cost for property taxpayers long-term.”

Lebanon Community Schools is asking the community to consider a 20-year bond to improve safety and security systems at school facilities and complete important maintenance projects to extend the life of the existing buildings. Once completed, these projects will bring facilities up to code and raise all school buildings to the same standards district-wide.

Part of the bond funding would renovate the Lebanon Community Pool and add space to school buildings for preschool programs to serve young families. The pool is owned by the school district and operated by the Lebanon Aquatics District. Preschool space will provide critical opportunities for socialization, boost kindergarten readiness, and early learning opportunities for children aged 3-5 years in the Lebanon community.

The bond is projected to cost the average property owner \$4.23 per month, or \$50.75 per year starting in 2023. This is defined as a home with an assessed value of \$175,000. The assessed value of a home is what taxes are based on, and is lower than its market value.

Maintaining school facilities is significantly less expensive than building new ones – \$17.50 per square foot compared to \$600 per square foot. The Lebanon community has a history of funding capital projects with voter-approved bonds, and interest rates to borrow money are currently at historic lows.

The school district also was awarded an additional \$4.3 million from a state matching funds if the bond is approved by voters. This grant program is designed to help communities, like Lebanon, with a smaller tax base that struggle to raise enough funding for capital projects. More information about the facilities bond can be found on the school district website at www.lebanon.k12.or.us/facilities-bond.

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Lebanon Community School District educates more than 4,000 students from preschool through 12th grade. Eighty percent of its funding goes to the classroom to keep class sizes smaller for personalized instruction. The school district is working to lead the state in providing preschool education, and online access to learning. Its technical programs and higher education partnerships mean students have opportunities for careers or college as soon as they graduate. Learn more about Lebanon Community Schools at www.lebanon.k12.or.us.

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