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**GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND MEASURE PLANNING****POLICY ISSUE / SITUATION:**

The District is continuing to experience student enrollment growth and will need more classroom capacity within the next few years. The predicted capacity shortfall will be most acute at the high school level, with some additional capacity needed for K-5 schools. The transition to full-day kindergarten and the new physical education standards (effective in 2017) will also influence space needs. Furthermore, many older school and administrative facilities are in need of modernization, and state law now provides the opportunity to use bond resources for technology. The District should discuss the timing of the next bond.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

- The BSD 2010 Facilities Plan documented future facility needs based upon existing capacity, an enrollment projection study performed by the PSU Population Research Center, and an assessment of the existing condition of BSD facilities.
- An analysis of enrollment data confirms that a new comprehensive high school will need to be operational by 2017. The District will need three years to design and construct the new school. Working backward from September 2017, a timeline has been developed reflecting the sequential steps necessary to meet that deadline. Staff work should start in September 2012 and include analyses of project scopes, costs, recommended size of the bond measure, and development of a communication and public engagement plan.
- Existing BSD bonded debt will begin to drop in 2015 providing the opportunity for voters to approve a new bond in 2014 without increasing their tax rate.
- The BSD technology plan articulates a strategic technology vision with a focus on improving student learning through appropriate instructional and administrative uses of technology tools. There are also a number of technology infrastructure upgrades needed to support teacher and student use of technology for teaching and learning; the District-wide telephone system is nearly 20 years old and needs to be replaced; and shifting from leased to purchased office copy machines might be advantageous.
- The attached timeline compares planning steps necessary to support a 2013 vs. 2014 bond election.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the School Board discuss the merits and timing for the next BSD bond election and that the Board support the initiation of pre-bond planning activities with a target election date of May 2014.

## General Obligation Bond Planning Timeline Comparison

Activity	May 2014 Election	May 2013 * Election	Comments
Internal Staff Planning	9/12 – 6/13	9/12 – 12/12	Concurrent and iterative process to develop Bond project and line item details with specific scopes of work and cost estimates. Determine recommended Bond \$\$ amount and split between construction and technology (etc.).  May '13 timeline shortens this phase to ~3 months resulting in incomplete staff work and high uncertainty about accuracy of costs.
Technical Analysis, Scope & Cost Estimating with Consultant Support	1/13 – 6/13	10/12 – 12/12	
Public Involvement – Advisory Committee	6/13 – 12/13	None	Lose opportunity to gain public / citizen advocates if timeline advanced to May 2013.
Form Campaign Committee; Fund Raising; Communication & Public Engagement	9/13	Now	Not adequate time or information to communicate for a 2013 election date.
Polling	11/13	11/12	
Final Board Authorization	1/14	12/12	
File Ballot Title & Voter Pamphlet	3/14	3/13	Election Campaign Ongoing
Election	5/14	5/13	Election Campaign Ongoing

\* Business Office continuing to work with Financial Advisor on \$\$ strategy