

DRAFT

At our March and April meetings the Citizens Bond Accountability Committee discussed how to identify and prioritize potential new projects to be funded by the bond program reserve. Factors considered included decision-making criteria, weighting of criteria, community outreach, timing of the release of reserve funds, equity in the distribution of reserve funds, the risk of increasing project costs due to rising labor costs, and the capacity of district staff to define the scope and estimate the cost of proposed projects in the near term. Based on these discussions, **the committee agreed to the following recommendations:**

- 1. With one exception, bond program reserve funds should not be spent on new projects for the next few years.** Several local school districts recently passed bond measures which will increase the demand for the services of local contractors who rely on a limited labor pool. As a result, labor costs are projected to increase, affecting the cost of ongoing and upcoming district projects. As with the recent cost increase for the Aloha High School Title IX project, other pending projects may need additional funding from the bond program reserve to be completed.
- 2. Money from the program reserve should be set aside to acquire a second elementary school site in the South Cooper Mountain Area.** The South Cooper Mountain community plan calls for two elementary schools in the area. Money to acquire one site is included in the bond program, presently at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million. However, since the bond measure passed in 2014 the second site, which was previously the responsibility of the Hillsboro School District, has now become the responsibility of the Beaverton School District due the recent boundary change between the districts. Given that land in the South Cooper Mountain area is rapidly being acquired by residential developers, the BAC thinks the district must reserve funds for the acquisition of the second school site in the near future.
- 3. Discussion of additional projects using bond program reserve funds should not occur for a few years to avoid creating public expectations that the district may not be able to meet.** Again, until the amount of program reserve money that might be available becomes more certain, the committee thinks it would be best not to get into a detailed discussion about new projects.
- 4. If, in a few years, it is determined that new projects could be funded from the bond program reserve, the district should engage with its citizens through means such as surveys and focus groups to define and weigh criteria to determine priorities before focusing on specific projects.** The district should attempt to ascertain the level of interest in different types of projects (e.g., safety vs. capacity related) and then define the projects that fall within that category.
- 5. When defining new projects, assuming that becomes possible, consideration should be given to increasing spending for fixed budget sub-programs such as District-Wide Facility Repairs and District-Wide ADA Compliance.** Rather than funding a few larger projects, such as a new school, money could be spent on a number of smaller projects, thereby benefiting more people within the district.
- 6. Consideration should also be given to using bond program reserve funds to leverage acquisition of grant funds for capital improvements.** Again, this should not be done in the next few years, but the district should be opportunistic if grant availability aligns with district objectives.