

Superintendent's Message

August 2007

It's All About the Kids — Part II

Voters this month will be deciding on whether to extend the 2004 measure that funds several core services in our district, Measure G. The facts about Measure G are:



1. It is an extension of the 2004 parcel tax—not something new;
2. All the funds from the 2004 measure have been spent where the district promised they would be—for direct services to our kids;
3. Measure G will provide funds to continue our safety services in and around our schools;
4. Measure G will continue the funding match that allows us to have class sizes of 20 or fewer students in grades K-3. Without Measure G class sizes in grades K-3 will increase by 50% to 30 or more students.
5. Librarians, library aids and counselors are funded from the parcel tax. Without Measure G, we'll be forced to eliminate 37 counseling positions, and 31 positions for librarians and aids;
6. Much of the funding for athletic programs comes from our

current parcel tax and the loss of Measure G will result in a substantial reduction in our sports program;

7. The current measure provides for 13 custodial positions. Without Measure G, our schools will not be as clean or well maintained as they currently are.

It's a fact that there is strong support among our elected and appointed officials. A partial list of public officials who have endorsed Measure G is at the end of this article.

In March of this year, a study that had been requested by the Governor's Commission on Educational Equity found that California's schools are not adequately funded (<http://irepp.stanford.edu/documents/GDF/SUMMARIES/Chambers.pdf>). The facts in the commission report help illustrate why so many districts have asked their voters for additional funding through parcel taxes as many of the surrounding districts do.

The funds in Measure G are for core services to students and are essential to improving student learning. It's all about the kids in West County.

Bruce Harter
Superintendent



Supporters of Measure G include:

George Miller	Congressman, 7 th District
Ellen O. Tauscher	Congresswoman, 10 th District
Don Perata	State Senate President Pro Tem
Tom Torlakson	State Senator, 7 th District
Mark DeSaulnier	State Assemblyman, 11 th District
Loni Hancock	State Assemblywoman, 14 th District
Bob Kochly	District Attorney, Contra Costa County
Warren Rupf	Sheriff, Contra Costa County
John Gioia	Supervisor, Contra Costa County Board, District 1
Lynette Sweet	President, BART Board, District 6
Joel Keller	Director, BART Board, District 2
Bob Franklin	Director, BART Board, District 3
Tomi Van de Brooke	Director, Contra Costa Community College District, Ward 2
Pam Mirabella	Trustee, Contra Costa County School Board
Lesa McIntosh	Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Ward 1
Andy Katz	Director, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Ward 4
Nancy Skinner	Director, East Bay Regional Parks District Board, Ward 1
Ted Radke	Director, East Bay Regional Parks District Board, Ward 7
Letitia Moore	Mayor of El Cerrito
Janet Abelson	Councilmember, City of El Cerrito
Jan Bridges	Councilmember, City of El Cerrito
Bill Jones	Councilmember, City of El Cerrito
Sandi Potter	Councilmember, City of El Cerrito
Ed Balico	Mayor of Hercules
Joe Eddy McDonald	Councilmember, City of Hercules
Charleen Raines	Councilmember, City of Hercules
Kris Valstald	Councilmember, City of Hercules
Joanne Ward	Councilmember, City of Hercules
Maria Alegria	Mayor of Pinole
David Cole	Councilmember, City of Pinole
Mary Horton	Councilmember, City of Pinole
Peter Murray	Councilmember, City of Pinole
Steve Tilton	Councilmember, City of Pinole
Gayle McLaughlin	Mayor of Richmond
Tom Butt	Councilmember, City of Richmond
Ludmyrna Lopez	Councilmember, City of Richmond
John Marquez	Councilmember, City of Richmond
Jim Rogers	Councilmember, City of Richmond
Harpreet Sandhu	Councilmember, City of Richmond
Maria T. Viramontes	Councilmember, City of Richmond
Paul Morris	Mayor of San Pablo
Sharon Brown	Councilmember, City of San Pablo
Genoveva Calloway	Councilmember, City of San Pablo
Joe Gomes	Councilmember, City of San Pablo
Leonard McNeil	Councilmember, City of San Pablo
Pat McGlaughlin	President, Kensington Police & Community SD
Paul Haxo	Director, Kensington Police & Community Services District
Cindy Kimball	Director, Kensington Police & Community Services District
Bill Wright	Director, Kensington Police & Community Services District



Helmut Blaszczyk	Director, Kensington Fire Protection District
Don Dommer	Director, Kensington Fire Protection District
Leslie William Michael	Director, Kensington Fire Protection District
Barbara Pendergrass	Chairperson, El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council
Mike Daley	Member, El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council
Wendi Gosliner	Member, El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council
Tom Owens	Member, El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council

