

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD REPORT

To: Board of Trustees

From: Clark Hampton, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services
Ryan Burris, Chief Communications and Public Engagement Officer

Date: April 20, 2022

Board Item: Presentation on Results of Dana Hills High School-School Facilities Improvement District Bond Feasibility Survey

HISTORY

The State of California provides certain matching funds for school district capital facility projects. To receive these funds, school districts must provide local matching funds. In most instances, school districts must pass local school facilities bonds in order to meet the matching requirements of the state funds. The District allocates over three percent of the annual budget for routine maintenance and repairs; however, District schools continue to age and the cost of repairs and maintenance continues to increase.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board of Trustees has analyzed potential facilities bonds for the District during public meetings since the spring of 2016. At the December 15, 2021, Board of Trustee meeting, the Dana Hills High School boundary and the City of Aliso Viejo were identified for further study to include polling. In January 2022, the Board approved a contract with True North Research to conduct public opinion surveys in both areas. Timothy McLarney, President, True North Research, Inc. will be on zoom to present the results.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS

The District has completed polling for the Dana Hills High School boundary area, results are presented in the attached exhibit. Staff will present the results of the public opinion poll on the Dana Hills High School-School Facilities Improvement District.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for this item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

District staff recommends the Board of Trustees receive the informational presentation on the results of the Dana Hills High School SFID bond feasibility survey. This is an information item only and no Board action is necessary.

APPROVED BY: Clark Hampton, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Support Services
APPROVED BY: Ryan Burris, Chief Communications and Public Engagement Officer



Section 1: Introduction to Study

Hi, may I please speak to _____. My name is _____, and I'm calling on behalf of TNR, an independent public opinion research firm. We're conducting a survey of voters about important issues in Dana (DAY-nuh) Point and Laguna Niguel (NIH-gell) and I'd like to get your opinions.

If needed: This is a survey about important issues in your community. I'm NOT trying to sell anything and I won't ask for a donation.

If needed: The survey should take about 12 minutes to complete.

If needed: If now is not a convenient time, can you let me know a better time so I can call back?

If the person asks why you need to speak to the listed person or if they ask to participate instead, explain: For statistical purposes, at this time the survey must only be completed by this particular individual.

If the person says they are an elected official or is somehow associated with the survey, politely explain that this survey is designed to measure the opinions of those not closely associated with the study, thank them for their time, and terminate the interview.

Section 2: Importance of Issues

Q1 To begin, I'm going to read a list of issues facing your community and for each one, please tell me how important you feel the issue is to you, using a scale of extremely important, very important, somewhat important or not at all important.

Here is the (first/next) issue: _____. Do you think this issue is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?

	Randomize	Extremely Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not at all Important	Not sure	Prefer not to answer
A	Improving the quality of education in our local public schools	55%	29%	11%	5%	0%	0%
B	Repairing and upgrading aging school facilities	35%	27%	29%	8%	1%	0%
C	Maintaining local streets and roads	27%	45%	22%	6%	0%	0%
D	Preventing local tax increases	46%	18%	24%	11%	1%	0%
E	Improving public safety	35%	31%	25%	8%	0%	0%
F	Ensuring local school buildings are earthquake safe	34%	29%	27%	9%	1%	1%
G	Reducing homelessness	33%	30%	25%	9%	1%	1%

Section 3: Initial Ballot Test

Your household is within the Capistrano Unified School District. Later this year, voters in the Dana Hills High School attendance area may be asked to vote on a local ballot measure. Let me read you a summary of the measure.

Q2	In order to:			
	- Repair or replace old classrooms and facilities at Dana Hills High School that don't meet earthquake safety standards - And construct/acquire modern classrooms, science labs, and career technical facilities that support college and career readiness in science, technology, arts, math, and skilled trades			
shall Capistrano Unified School District's (SFID #2) measure be approved authorizing 148 million dollars in bonds at legal rates, levying 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (9 million dollars annually) while bonds are outstanding, with independent citizen oversight and all money locally-controlled?				
If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this measure? <i>Get answer, then ask:</i> Would that be definitely (yes/no) or probably (yes/no)?				
	1	Definitely yes	27%	
	2	Probably yes	25%	
	3	Probably no	15%	
	4	Definitely no	21%	
	98	Not sure	12%	
	99	Definitely yes	0%	
Q3	By law, all of the money from the measure I just described will stay local and will be dedicated to replacing and upgrading classrooms and school facilities at Dana Hills High School. It can't be taken away by the State or diverted to other schools. Knowing this, would you vote yes or no on this measure? <i>Get answer, then ask:</i> Would that be definitely (yes/no) or probably (yes/no)?			
	1	Definitely yes	38%	Skip to Q5
	2	Probably yes	24%	Skip to Q5
	3	Probably no	12%	Ask Q4
	4	Definitely no	18%	Ask Q4
	98	Not sure	7%	Ask Q4
	99	Definitely yes	1%	Skip to Q5
Q4	Is there a particular reason why you do not support or are unsure about the school measure I just described? <i>If yes, ask:</i> Please briefly describe your reason. <i>Verbatim responses recorded and later grouped into categories shown below.</i>			
	Money is misspent, mismanaged		41%	
	Taxes already too high		22%	
	Improve quality of education		10%	
	Do not trust District		9%	
	District has enough money		8%	

Money will go to admin, union pensions, salaries	8%
Need more information	7%
Other ways to be funded	6%
Not sure / Cannot think of anything specific	6%
Do not support bonds, increased debt	5%
Mentioned past ballot measure	3%
No children in District	2%
Measure too expensive	2%
COVID-19 mandates, vaccination concerns	2%

Section 4: Tax Threshold

Q5 The amount each home owner will pay if the school bond passes depends on the assessed value of their home – not the current market value of the home.

If you heard that the annual property taxes on your home would increase: _____ per 100,000 (one hundred thousand) dollars of assessed valuation, would you vote yes or no on the school bond measure? *Get answer, then ask: Is that definitely (yes/no) or probably (yes/no)?*

If needed: The assessed value of your home is listed on your property tax bill.

Read in sequence starting with the highest amount (A), then the next highest (B), and so on. If respondent says 'definitely yes', record 'definitely yes' for all LOWER dollar amounts and go to next question.

	Ask in Order	Definitely Yes	Probably Yes	Probably No	Definitely No	Not Sure	Prefer not to answer
A	\$30	22%	20%	20%	32%	6%	1%
B	\$24	23%	19%	21%	30%	6%	0%
C	\$20	28%	20%	16%	31%	5%	0%
D	\$16	31%	22%	13%	30%	5%	1%
Q6	Let me put it another way: If you knew that this measure would cost the <u>typical</u> home owner about \$191 per year, would you vote yes or no on the school bond measure? <i>Get answer, then ask: Is that definitely (yes/no) or probably (yes/no)?</i>						
	1	Definitely yes	27%	Skip to Q8			
	2	Probably yes	24%	Ask Q9			
	3	Probably no	13%	Ask Q9			
	4	Definitely no	29%	Ask Q9			
	98	Not sure	6%	Ask Q9			
	99	Prefer not to answer	0%	Skip to Q8			

Q7	If you knew that this measure would cost the <u>typical</u> home owner about \$102 per year, would you vote yes or no on the school bond measure? <i>Get answer, then ask: Is that definitely (yes/no) or probably (yes/no)?</i>		
		Definitely yes @ \$191 (Q6)	27%
	1	Definitely yes	6%
	2	Probably yes	21%
	3	Probably no	11%
	4	Definitely no	29%
	98	Not sure	5%
	99	Prefer not to answer	0%

Section 5: Quality of Education

Q8	In general, how would you rate the quality of education provided at Dana Hills High School? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor, or very poor?		
	1	Excellent	10%
	2	Good	37%
	3	Fair	19%
	4	Poor	4%
	5	Very poor	3%
	98	Not sure	27%
	99	Prefer not to answer	1%

Section 6: Projects & Improvements

Q9	The measure we've been discussing would provide funding for a variety of projects and improvements at Dana Hills High School. If the measure passes, would you favor or oppose using some of the money to: _____, or do you not have an opinion? <i>Get answer, if favor or oppose, then ask: Would that be strongly (favor/oppose) or somewhat (favor/oppose)?</i>						
	<i>Randomize</i>	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not sure	Prefer not to answer
A	Repair or replace classrooms and school facilities that do not meet earthquake safety standards	46%	29%	9%	10%	4%	3%
B	Provide the modern classrooms, science labs and technology needed to support high quality instruction in math, science, engineering, and technology	58%	23%	4%	8%	4%	2%
C	Provide the modern classrooms and facilities needed to support high quality instruction in music, visual, and performing arts	40%	30%	12%	11%	5%	2%

D	Provide modern science labs and career technical facilities and equipment so students are prepared for college and in-demand careers in fields like health sciences, engineering, technology, and skilled trades	56%	25%	6%	8%	3%	2%
E	Upgrade or replace older classrooms and school facilities so they meet current health codes, building safety codes, and provide proper access for students with disabilities	49%	31%	5%	9%	3%	2%
F	Create flexible, multi-use classrooms to support hands-on science instruction and learning-by-doing	46%	31%	7%	8%	6%	3%
G	Replace aging portable classrooms that are expensive to repair and maintain with safe, modern classrooms	48%	31%	5%	9%	4%	2%
H	Remove hazardous materials like asbestos and lead pipes	61%	20%	5%	8%	3%	3%
I	Make energy efficiency improvements to save on utility bills and have more money to spend in the classroom educating students	39%	32%	9%	10%	7%	2%

Section 7: Positive Arguments

What I'd like to do now is tell you what some people are saying about the measure we've been discussing.

Q10	Supporters of the measure say: _____. Do you think this is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not at all convincing reason to SUPPORT the measure?						
	<i>Read A first, then randomize.</i>	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Not At All Convincing	Don't Believe	Not sure	Prefer not to answer
A	Dana Hills High School was built 50 years ago using construction methods that don't meet the State's standards for structural integrity and earthquake safety. Nearly all of the buildings need to be retrofitted or replaced.	35%	31%	19%	9%	3%	3%
B	This measure requires a clear system of accountability, including a project list detailing exactly how the money will be used, a Citizens' Oversight Committee, and independent audits to ensure the money is spent properly.	44%	25%	13%	13%	2%	3%
C	By law, no money from this measure can be used for administrators' salaries or benefits.	45%	20%	12%	17%	3%	3%
D	Even if you do not have school-age children, supporting this school bond is a wise investment. Good schools improve the quality of life in our community and protect the value of our homes.	41%	28%	16%	10%	3%	3%

E	Modern classrooms, science labs and school facilities will help Dana Hills High School attract and retain high quality teachers.	29%	27%	23%	16%	2%	3%
G	If voters approve this measure, Dana Hills High School will be eligible to receive about \$55 million in State matching money that otherwise will go to other school districts.	47%	24%	11%	11%	5%	3%
H	This measure will ensure that students who plan to go to college are prepared to succeed, and those who don't plan to go to college can compete for good paying jobs in skilled trades.	34%	25%	21%	13%	3%	3%
I	Dana Hills High School was built 50 years ago, back when asbestos and lead pipes were used during construction. We need to remove these hazardous materials from our school.	43%	29%	15%	8%	2%	3%
J	Our students deserve to have the same educational opportunities as others in the region. By modernizing Dana Hills High School, this measure will ensure that our students have access to the facilities, technology, and education they need to succeed.	39%	27%	19%	10%	3%	3%
K	Because Dana Hills High School doesn't meet modern health and safety codes, even simple renovations like replacing a heating and ventilation unit will trigger <i>mandatory</i> seismic upgrades. We either have to leave the aging buildings as they are, or pass a bond to fix all of the health and earthquake safety issues.	34%	26%	22%	13%	3%	3%

Section 8: Interim Ballot Test

Sometimes people change their mind about a measure once they have more information about it. Now that you have heard a bit more about the measure, let me read you a summary of it again.

Q11	In order to:	
	- Repair or replace old classrooms and facilities at Dana Hills High School that don't meet earthquake safety standards - And construct/acquire modern classrooms, science labs, and career technical facilities that support college and career readiness in science, technology, arts, math, and skilled trades	
	shall Capistrano Unified School District's (SFID #2) measure be approved authorizing 148 million dollars in bonds at legal rates, levying 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (9 million dollars annually) while bonds are outstanding, with independent citizen oversight and all money locally-controlled?	
	If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this measure? <i>Get answer, then ask:</i> Would that be definitely (yes/no) or probably (yes/no)?	
	1	Definitely yes 30%
	2	Probably yes 24%
	3	Probably no 13%
	4	Definitely no 25%
	98	Not sure 8%
	99	Prefer not to answer 0%

Section 9: Negative Arguments

Next, let me tell you what opponents of the measure are saying.

Q12	Opponents of the measure say: _____. Do you think this is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, or not at all convincing reason to OPPOSE the measure?						
	<i>Randomize. Split Sample C1/C2</i>	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Not At All Convincing	Don't Believe	Not sure	Prefer not to answer
A	Local residents and businesses have been hit hard by the pandemic, inflation, and rising gas prices. Many are struggling to stay afloat. Now is not the time to raise taxes.	40%	30%	17%	9%	1%	3%
B	We can't trust the District with this tax - they will mispend the money and not build what they promise.	33%	23%	25%	13%	3%	3%

C1	The District just received millions in pandemic relief funds, and the State of California has a 30-billion-dollar surplus this year – which means schools will be getting even more money. We don't need to raise taxes.	42%	30%	18%	4%	3%	3%
C2	Including interest, this bond will cost taxpayers nearly 300 million dollars and will take 35 years to pay off.	32%	35%	15%	7%	7%	4%
D	Enrollment has been declining for 10 years and is expected to continue dropping. Why spend 200 million dollars to rebuild a school that we don't need?	18%	28%	31%	16%	3%	4%

Section 10: Final Ballot Test

Now that you have heard a bit more about the measure, let me read you a summary of it one more time.

Q13	In order to:		
	◇ Repair or replace old classrooms and facilities at Dana Hills High School that don't meet earthquake safety standards ◇ And construct/acquire modern classrooms, science labs, and career technical facilities that support college and career readiness in science, technology, arts, math, and skilled trades		
	shall Capistrano Unified School District's (SFID #2) measure be approved authorizing 148 million dollars in bonds at legal rates, levying 3 cents per \$100 assessed value (9 million dollars annually) while bonds are outstanding, with independent citizen oversight and all money locally-controlled?		
	If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this measure? <i>Get answer, then ask:</i> Would that be definitely (yes/no) or probably (yes/no)?		
	1	Definitely yes	27%
	2	Probably yes	25%
	3	Probably no	13%
	4	Definitely no	27%
	98	Not sure	7%
	99	Prefer not to answer	1%

Section 11: Background & Demographics

Thank you so much for your participation. I have just a few background questions for statistical purposes.

D1	Do you have any teenagers who currently attend Dana Hills High School?			
	1	Yes	14%	
	2	No	79%	
	99	Prefer not to answer	8%	
D2	Do you have grown children who previously attended Dana Hills High School when they were younger?			
	1	Yes	36%	
	2	No	58%	
	99	Prefer not to answer	6%	
D3	Do you have any children who you expect will attend Dana Hills High School in the future?			
	1	Yes	28%	
	2	No	65%	
	99	Prefer not to answer	7%	
D4	Overall, how would you rate the quality of education provided in the Capistrano Unified School District? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor, or very poor?			
	1	Excellent	13%	
	2	Good	45%	
	3	Fair	20%	
	4	Poor	4%	
	5	Very Poor	2%	
	98	Not sure	13%	
	99	Prefer not to answer	3%	
D5	In general, would you say you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Capistrano Unified School District? <i>Get answer, then ask:</i> Would that be very (favorable/unfavorable) or somewhat (favorable/unfavorable)?			
	1	Very favorable	22%	Ask D6
	2	Somewhat favorable	45%	Ask D6
	3	Somewhat unfavorable	15%	Ask D6
	4	Very unfavorable	6%	Ask D6
	98	Not sure	10%	Skip to end
	99	Prefer not to answer	2%	Skip to end

D6	Is there a particular reason why you have a <favorable/unfavorable> opinion of the District? <i>If yes, ask: Please briefly describe your reason. Pipe based on answers to D4. Verbatim responses recorded and later grouped into categories shown below.</i>	
	Prefer not to answer	21%
	Personal, family, friend experience	19%
	Not sure / Cannot think of anything specific	17%
	Quality of education, curriculum	12%
	Poor quality of education, teaching ideologies	11%
	Positive comments in general	8%
	High quality teachers, staff	7%
	Budgeting, fiscal mgmt concerns	5%
	Negative comments in general	4%
	Concern with opinions, actions regarding COVID-19	3%
	Poor quality of staff, administration	3%
	Large class sizes	3%
	Old, deteriorated buildings, facilities	2%
	Lack of parent involvement	1%
	Good schools, facilities	1%
Those are all of the questions that I have for you. Thanks so much for participating in this important survey.		

Post-Interview & Sample Items		
S1	Gender	
	1	Male
	2	Female
	99	Prefer not to answer
S2	Party	
	1	Democrat
	2	Republican
	3	Other
	4	DTS

S3	Age on Voter File		
	1	18 to 29	10%
	2	30 to 39	11%
	3	40 to 49	12%
	4	50 to 64	31%
	5	65 or older	35%
S4	Registration Date		
	1	Since Nov 2018	9%
	2	Jun 2012 to before Nov 2018	17%
	3	Jun 2006 to before Jun 2012	11%
	4	Before June 2006	63%
S5	Household Party Type		
	1	Single Dem	13%
	2	Dual Dem	9%
	3	Single Rep	14%
	4	Dual Rep	17%
	5	Single Other	11%
	6	Dual Other	6%
	7	Dem & Rep	3%
	8	Dem & Other	12%
	9	Rep & Other	12%
	0	Mixed (Dem + Rep + Other)	2%
S6	Homeowner on Voter File		
	1	Yes	67%
	2	No	33%
S7	Likely to Vote by Mail		
	1	Yes	69%
	2	No	31%

S8	Likely June 2022 Voter		
	1	Yes	70%
	2	No	30%
S9	Likely November 2022 Voter		
	1	Yes	100%
	2	No	0%