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AS MEASURE Z WORK NEARS COMPLETION, AUHSD TURNS SIGHTS TO FUTURE PROJECTS

PRESS RELEASE

AS MEASURE Z WORK NEARS COMPLETION, AUHSD TURNS SIGHTS TO FUTURE PROJECTS

Anaheim, CA--Strong leadership and innovative management strategies continue to drive the success of the \$257 million Measure Z building program in the Anaheim Union High School District as the final two projects near completion.

At Katella High School, students and staff are enjoying the modernized main building and library, which has helped give the front of the campus a more welcoming and defined look. At Anaheim High School, classes will start the second semester in the new two-story, 49-classroom building that has transformed the flagship campus.

"The completion of the Measure Z program and the investment in the community that it represents sends the clear message that our students and staff deserve the best possible learning environment," said Board Member Mrs. Anna L. Piercy.

Measure Z dollars have touched eight campuses throughout the district, in keeping with the Board of Trustees' goal of providing adequate, equitable facilities at all schools. Slightly more than 50 percent of the total Measure Z budget was allocated to the four Anaheim-based schools--Anaheim High School, Katella High School, Loara High School, and South Junior High School. The remaining funds were distributed to the campuses on the west side of the district--Cypress High School, Kennedy High School, Oxford Academy, and Lexington Junior High School.

Many accomplishments have been realized in the building program since July 2005, when the board selected a new superintendent with experience overseeing large construction projects, and a deputy superintendent with far-ranging, project-management experience.

The first challenge of the new leadership team of Superintendent Dr. Joseph Farley and Deputy Superintendent Mr. Timothy Holcomb was to bring order and control to the bond program by accountability and professionalism in oversight, management, bidding, and contracting. New financial controls were also put into place. After several months of unraveling all obligations and expenditures, Mr. Holcomb presented his first Measure Z budget in January 2006. The bottom line was a budget of \$237 million for the eight campuses.

The construction team set about adjusting to the new budget reality, which meant that Wave 1 schools could be completed. The team saved \$11 million in design fees for future projects, and dedicated some of the savings to bringing the Wave 1 schools up to the district's new design standards.

"We didn't want to leave schools with no visible signs of modernization, looking as if money had been spent, but nothing was done," said Board Clerk Mr. Thomas "Hoagy" Holguin. "We weren't taking money from other schools to add to these projects, but we made the commitment to finish the projects properly."

At about this time, the Orange County Grand Jury concluded its extensive report into the district's Measure Z-funded projects. The investigation included interviews with many current and former staff members, a review of thousands of documents, and visits to construction sites throughout the district.

The report contained specific recommendations that the new leadership team had already implemented. The report also commended the Board of Trustees for the construction oversight and management changes it had put into place, and the district's new leadership for successfully resolving a variety of construction challenges.

"We have come a very long way to get to this stage in the construction program, and it is a testament to the current leadership that we have been so successful," said Board Assistant Clerk Mr. Brian O'Neal.

With the final \$13 million in bond funds being released, the district was able to take a completely fresh approach to the work at Katella and Anaheim high schools. At Anaheim High School, this included adhering to the historical craftsman nature of the Anaheim neighborhood when designing the new classroom building.

The Anaheim and Katella projects were completely redesigned in a span of three months. The bids were within budget, which was a first. In fact, alternate bids, including the enhancement of the historical façade at Anaheim, were able to be accepted because of good estimating and design management.

At the same time, the diligent efforts of the construction team in reviewing all expenditures and contracts resulted in a savings of more than \$3 million. Because of systems that the team had put into place to effectively monitor change orders, money was not taken from future projects to fix current ones.

With the end of Measure Z work in sight, the district was charged with coming up with innovative solutions to meet the facilities needs at its other campuses.

The focus turned to capitalizing the district's redevelopment income stream to address the major modernization needs at Hope High School and Polaris/Alternative Education, along with additional projects at Anaheim High School. The income will replace rented portables at Sycamore Junior High School, Savanna High School, and Magnolia High School. It will provide for minor modernization work at Brookhurst Junior High School, Orangeview Junior High School, and Western High School. The campuses were selected to benefit from the funding based on their ability to generate the maximum state match, and the level of need.

The fact that the district has selected when schools will be modernized based on their age, on when their previous modernization occurred, and on how much eligibility they maintain in state matching funds, is important to note, said Board President Mrs. Katherine Smith.

"One of the concerns of the community has been the fairness of choosing one school over another in making improvements. It is difficult to see one school get the full treatment while another does not get the same level of attention. But we are determined to turn that same focus to all of our schools eventually. That is what we mean when we talk about our goal of providing adequate and equitable facilities across the district."

At the Dec. 11 board meeting, trustees heard about the next steps in securing and maximizing redevelopment funds and other revenue opportunities, including grants and matching funds.

"The overarching theme is maintaining the community's confidence in the district's ability to make the maximum benefit of each of their tax dollars, through every available funding source," said board member Mr. Jordan Brandman.

The next schools to be addressed will be Ball Junior High School, Brookhurst Junior High School, Dale Junior High School, Magnolia High School, Orangeview Junior High School, Savanna High School, Sycamore Junior High School, Trident Education Center, Walker Junior High School, and Western High School. State matching funds will be available for these projects, once local funds have been identified.

Here is a wrap-up of Measure Z work:

ANAHEIM HIGH SCHOOL
Total Budget: \$36.4 million

The campus has a new, two-story 49-classroom building, and a new east-west thoroughfare. Music, art, and cafeteria quads were renovated. Improvements were made to West Street, where the parking lot and campus entrance were reconfigured and improved. Circular corridors and a quad area replaced relocatable classrooms in the business and tech quad, and the remaining temporary classrooms were replaced with new modular classrooms.

CYPRESS HIGH SCHOOL

Total Budget: \$28.5 million

The campus has 16 new classrooms, a new second gym, and new student and staff parking. Modernization work encompassed nine campus buildings and included 72 classrooms.

KATELLA HIGH SCHOOL**Total Budget: \$42.5 million**

All campus buildings were improved. There are 38 new classrooms, and a new administrative facility, practice gym, and student and staff parking.

KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL**Total Budget: \$46.5 million**

Twelve campus buildings were renovated, including support facilities. New construction included science classrooms, the performing arts center, a practice gym, and the expansion of the library-media center.

LEXINGTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**Total Budget: \$17.2 million**

All campus buildings were modernized. New construction included three science classrooms.

LOARA HIGH SCHOOL**Total Budget: \$31.5 million**

New buildings include 18 classrooms, four science labs, and a practice gymnasium. Sixteen buildings were modernized, including the administration building, library-media center, auditorium, and support facilities.

OXFORD ACADEMY**Total Budget: \$19.6 million**

Eight new classrooms and a gym were added. Six buildings, including 33 classrooms, were modernized.

SOUTH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**Total Budget: \$21.7 million**

Eighteen buildings were modernized, including administration, the library-media center, multipurpose room, and support facilities. Eight new classrooms were added, along with four computer labs and a portion of the administrative wing.



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