

## **BANKS SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Constructing new high school and junior high school classrooms and other facilities to improve student learning and upgrade safety, security and basic systems are top priority projects recommended by the community Facilities Planning Committee that spent two years studying enrollment growth, existing school conditions, and future student learning requirements.

- Banks High School was originally built in 1936. It has been expanded and renovated three times in 1950, 1967 and 1975. Further renovation to accommodate updated student learning and enrollment growth would not be cost effective, according to the community Facilities Planning Committee.
- A professional engineering study found the main junior high school building would not withstand a moderate earthquake and should be replaced.
- In the last 10 years, enrollment in Banks schools has increased by 25%, and enrollment is expected to increase by at least another 27% over the next 10 years, according to Portland State University's Center for Population Research and Census Projections.
- Constructing additional classroom space at the Junior High School would allow the district to relieve crowding at the Elementary School by moving sixth graders to the Junior High School.

**Replacing classroom buildings and renovating Junior High/High School facilities** would improve items such as roofs, heating and ventilation, and safety and security systems. These upgrades also would reduce the district's annual operating costs.

**New Junior High School** facilities, constructed on the same school site, would

- Accommodate approximately 400 students.
- Include classrooms designed especially for science, computer technology, special education and vocational education.
- Have a new library and other core area improvements.

**New High School** facilities, constructed on the same school site, would:

- Accommodate approximately 600 students.
- Include classrooms designed especially for science, computer technology, special education and vocational education.
- Have a new cafeteria, commons area, gym and related physical education facilities, and other core area improvements.

In addition the bond measure would provide funds to:

- **Renovate the remaining buildings/facilities at the Junior High/High School**, including the existing cafeteria, gymnasium, locker rooms and music room so that they can continue to be used;

- **Make other district safety, security and code upgrades and site improvements** including purchasing land adjacent to Junior High/High School and Elementary School sites to reduce traffic congestion and provide safer access.
- Pay demolition costs and the fees associated with issuing the bonds.

**The estimated tax rate** increase for a \$25.5 million bond would be approximately \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value per year, or \$199 per year more for each \$100,000 of assessed property value. The bonds are expected to mature in approximately 27 years. The rate could vary depending on interest rates, changes in the District's total assessed value and from new homes and businesses, and other factors.

*Source: Banks School District Business Office*