

Hope School District

The future of the world is in our classrooms today.

3970 LA COLINA ROAD • SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93110 • PHONE (805) 682-2564
Anne Hubbard, Ed.D., District Superintendent FAX (805) 687-7954

June 12, 2024

Joseph E. Holland, Santa Barbara County Clerk,
Recorder and Assessor/Registrar of Voters
4440-A Calle Real
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Jacquelyne Alexander
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board
Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara
105 E. Anapamu Street, 4th Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: Hope Elementary School District November 5, 2024 Bond Measure Election

Dear Mr. Holland and Ms. Alexander,

Enclosed please find the Hope Elementary School District Board of Education RESOLUTION NO. 23/24-20 "RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT ORDERING AN ELECTION, AND ESTABLISHING SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION ORDER" adopted on June 10, 2024, calling for a November 5, 2024, local bond measure election.

In accordance with Section 1 of the Resolution, the ballot measure language to be placed on the ballot is set forth in Exhibit A to the Resolution and the full text of the ballot measure to be printed in its entirety in each sample ballot/voter pamphlet is set forth in Exhibit B to the Resolution.

In accordance with Section 6 of the Resolution, we request that you consolidate the election on the bond measure with the general election being held on November 5, 2024. We further request that the Santa Barbara County Counsel's office prepare the impartial analysis to be included in the sample ballot/voter pamphlet.

Also enclosed is the Tax Rate Statement to be used in connection with the election which has been prepared in accordance with Elections Code Sections 9400 to 9404 and is to be included in the sample ballot/voter pamphlet.

We are formally requesting that prior to publishing the sample ballot/voter pamphlet that you provide us with an opportunity to review a proof of the ballot measure language that will appear on the ballot as well as the full text of the ballot proposition, impartial analysis and ballot arguments to be included therein. Please direct this proof to the undersigned as soon as it is available.

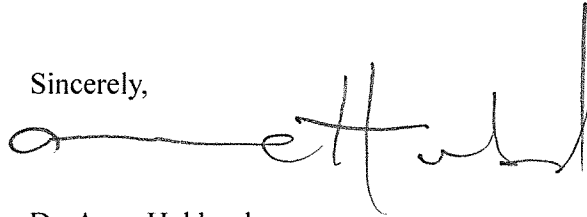
If possible, the District would like to request the measure letter designation of "H" or "Y." If possible, the District also requests that we not be assigned the letter "N," "R," "L," or "J."

Mr. Joseph Holland
Ms. Jacquelyne Alexander
June 12, 2024
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We would be more than willing to provide you with the Resolution and the Tax Rate Statement in an electronic format in order to facilitate your work, or to assist with this process in any other manner. You may contact me or our bond counsel, listed below, for such information.

This letter also authorizes you to contact Carlos Villafuerte of Stradling Yocca Carlson & Rauth, our bond counsel, at (415) 283-2251 and cvillafuerte@stradlinglaw.com if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Hubbard", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Anne Hubbard
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Carlos Villafuerte, Esq.

RESOLUTION NO. 23/24-20

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HOPE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT ORDERING AN
ELECTION, AND ESTABLISHING SPECIFICATIONS OF
THE ELECTION ORDER**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Hope Elementary School District (the “District”) believes that basic upgrades to our schools continue to be needed, including upgrading inadequate electrical and communications systems, modernizing outdated classrooms, restrooms, facilities and multi-purpose rooms, improving blacktops and play fields for school and community use, and replacing temporary portables with permanent classrooms;

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to making basic health and security improvements to District facilities to ensure safe learning environments; and

WHEREAS, the State of California (the “State”) is not providing the District with enough funding for the District to adequately maintain its facilities and academic programs; and

WHEREAS, the Board has concluded that the District’s only remedy to improving its school facilities is to secure local funding that the State cannot take away; and

WHEREAS, all residents benefit from living in a community with good schools and whether or not residents have school-age children, protecting the quality of our schools, the quality of life in our community, and the value of our homes, is a wise investment;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that every penny from the bond measure authorized hereby shall benefit local schools, be controlled locally and shall not be taken by Sacramento, and be subject to mandatory taxpayer protections, including an independent citizens’ oversight committee and audits to ensure funds are spent properly; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 46, approved by the voters of the State on June 3, 1986, amended Section 1(b) of Article XIII A of the California Constitution by adding a provision which exempts from the 1% of full cash value limitation, those *ad valorem* property tax levies used to pay for debt service of any bonded indebtedness for the acquisition or improvement of real property, approved on or after July 1, 1978 by two-thirds of the votes cast by voters voting on the proposition; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2000, the voters of California approved the Smaller Classes, Safer Schools and Financial Accountability Act (“Proposition 39”) which reduced the voter threshold for *ad valorem* property tax levies used to pay for debt service of any bonded indebtedness to 55% of the votes cast on a school district general obligation bond; and

WHEREAS, concurrent with the passage of Proposition 39, Chapter 1.5, Part 10, Division 1, Title 1 (commencing with Section 15264) of the Education Code (the “Act”) became operative and established requirements associated with the implementation of Proposition 39; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to make certain findings herein to be applicable to this election order and to establish certain performance audits, standards of financial accountability and citizen oversight that are contained in Proposition 39 and the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to authorize the submission of a proposition to the District’s voters at an election to authorize the issuance of bonds to pay for certain necessary improvements and enhancements to District educational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby determines that, in accordance with Opinion No. 04-110 of the Attorney General of the State of California, the restrictions in Proposition 39 which prohibit any bond money from being wasted or used for inappropriate administrative salaries or other operating expenses of the District shall be monitored strictly by the District’s Citizens’ Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Code Section 15270, based upon a projection of assessed property valuation, the Board has determined that, if approved by voters, the tax rate levied to meet the debt service requirements of the bonds proposed to be issued will not exceed the Proposition 39 limits per year per \$100,000 of assessed valuation of taxable property; and

WHEREAS, Section 9400 *et seq.* of the Elections Code of the State of California (the “Elections Code”) requires that a tax rate statement be contained in all official materials relating to the election, including any ballot pamphlet prepared, sponsored, or distributed by the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to authorize the filing of a tax rate statement and ballot argument in favor of the proposition to be submitted to the voters at the election; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Elections Code, it is appropriate for the Board to request consolidation of the election with any and all other elections to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and to request the Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters to perform certain election services for the District;

NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the Board, pursuant to Education Code Sections 15100 *et seq.*, 15264 *et seq.*, and Government Code Section 53506, hereby requests the Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters to conduct an election under the provisions of Proposition 39 and the Act and submit to the electors of the District the question of whether bonds of the District in the aggregate principal amount of \$40,300,000 (the “Bonds”) shall be issued and sold for the purpose of raising money for the projects described in Exhibits “A” and “B” hereto. Both exhibits are directed to be printed in the voter pamphlet. The District’s Superintendent, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to make any changes to the text of this Resolution, the measure, or to the abbreviated form of the measure, as may be convenient or necessary to comply with the intent hereof, the requirements of County election officials, and applicable requirements of law.

Section 2. That the date of the election shall be November 5, 2024.

Section 3. That the purpose of the election shall be for the voters in the District to vote on a proposition, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked Exhibit “A”, incorporated by reference herein, and containing the question of whether the District shall issue the Bonds to pay for improvements to the extent permitted by such proposition. In compliance with Proposition 39 and the Act, the ballot propositions in Exhibit “A” and “B” are subject to the following requirements and determinations:

(a) the proceeds of the sale of the Bonds shall be used only for the purposes set forth in the ballot measure and not for any other purpose, including teacher or administrator salaries or other school operating expenses;

(b) that the Board, in establishing the projects set forth in Exhibit "B", evaluated the safety, class size reduction and information technology needs of the District, as well as the importance of the projects to student achievement and high quality instruction;

(c) that the Board shall cause an annual, independent performance audit to be conducted to ensure that the Bond monies are spent only for the projects identified in Exhibit "B" hereto;

(d) that the Board shall cause an annual, independent financial audit of the proceeds from the sale of Bonds to be conducted until all of the Bond proceeds have been expended;

(e) that the Board will cause the appointment of a Citizens' Oversight Committee in compliance with Education Code Section 15278 no later than 60 days after the Board enters the election results in its minutes pursuant to Education Code Section 15274. The Citizens' Oversight Committee shall consist of at least seven (7) members and at no time consist of less than seven (7) members, with the possible exception of brief periods to fill any vacancies. The Citizens' Oversight Committee may not include any employee or official of the District or any vendor, contractor or consultant of the District. The Citizens' Oversight Committee shall include all of the following: One (1) member who is active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District; One (1) member who is active in a senior citizens' organization; One (1) member who is active in a bona fide taxpayer association; One (1) member who is a parent of a child in the District schools; One (1) member is both a parent of a child in the District schools and active in a parent-teacher organization (e.g. school site council or PTA). In furtherance of its specifically enumerated purposes, the Citizens' Oversight Committee may engage in any of the following activities relating solely and exclusively to the expenditure of the Proposition 39 bond proceeds:

(i) Inspect District facilities and grounds to ensure that Proposition 39 bond proceeds are expended in compliance with applicable law;

(ii) Receive and review copies of all deferred maintenance proposals or plans developed by the District;

(iii) Review efforts of the District to maximize Proposition 39 bond revenues by implementing cost-saving programs;

(iv) Receive and review copies of the annual, independent financial and performance audits performed by independent consultant(s);

(v) Receive from the Board, within three months of the District receiving the above-described audits, responses to any and all findings, recommendations, and concerns addressed in said audits, and review said responses; and

(f) that the tax levy authorized to secure the Bonds of this election shall not exceed the Proposition 39 limits per \$100,000 of taxable property in the District when assessed valuation is projected by the District to increase in accordance with Article XIII A of the California Constitution; and

(g) that the Bonds of this election shall be structured so that the tax levy necessary to secure the payment of all outstanding general obligation bonds of the District shall not exceed \$59 per \$100,000 of taxable property in the District, when assessed valuation is projected by the District to increase in accordance with Article XIII A of the California Constitution.

Section 4. That the authority for ordering the election is contained in Education Code Sections 15100 *et seq.*, 15264 *et seq.*, and Government Code Section 53506. In connection with ordering such election pursuant to the provisions hereof, the District has obtained reasonable and informed projections of assessed property valuations that take into consideration projections of assessed property valuations made by the County assessor, if any, that are available to the District.

Section 5. That the authority for the specifications of this election order is contained in Sections 5322 of the Education Code.

Section 6. That the Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors are hereby requested to consolidate the election ordered hereby with any and all other elections to be held on November 5, 2024, within the District. Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10403, the Board acknowledges that the consolidation election will be held and conducted in the manner described in Elections Code 10418.

Section 7. That the Secretary of the Board is hereby directed to deliver a certified copy of this Resolution to the Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters no later than June 27, 2024.

Section 8. That any Bonds shall be issued pursuant to the Education Code Section 15264 *et seq.* hereto or pursuant Government Code Section 53506. The maximum rate of interest on any Bond shall not exceed the maximum rate allowed by Education Code Sections 15140 to 15143, as modified by Government Code Section 53531.


Section 9. That the Board requests the governing body of any such other political subdivision, or any officer otherwise authorized by law, to partially or completely consolidate such election and to further provide that the canvass of the returns of the election be made by any official or officer authorized by law to canvass such returns, and that the Board consents to such consolidation. The Board further authorizes the submission of a tax rate statement and primary and rebuttal arguments, as appropriate, to be filed with the Santa Barbara County Registrar of Voters by the established deadlines.

Section 10. Pursuant to Section 5303 of the Education Code and Section 10002 of the Elections Code, the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County is requested to permit the Registrar of Voters to render all services specified by Section 10418 of the Elections Code relating to the election, for which services the District agrees to reimburse Santa Barbara County, such services to include the publication of a Formal Notice of School Bond Election and the mailing of the sample

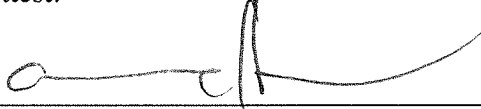
ballot and tax rate statement (described in Section 9401 of the Elections Code) pursuant to the terms of Section 5363 of the Education Code and Section 12112 of the Elections Code.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 10th day of June, 2024.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HOPE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

By 
President

Attest:


Secretary

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)ss
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY)

I, Anne Hubbard, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 23/4-10, which was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Hope Elementary School District at the meeting thereof held on the 12th day of June, 2024, and that it was so adopted by the following vote:

AYES: 4
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1
ABSTENTIONS: 0

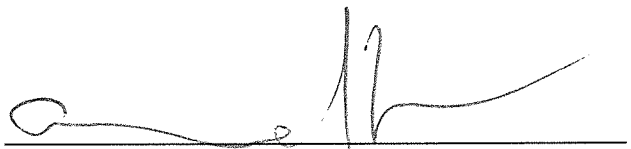
By  _____
Secretary

EXHIBIT A-1

“To modernize outdated classrooms, restrooms/school facilities; make health, safety/security improvements to improve the quality of education; acquire, construct/equip school sites/facilities, shall Hope Elementary School District’s measure be adopted issuing \$40,300,000 of bonds at legal rates, generating on average \$2,500,000 annually as long as bonds are outstanding at a rate of approximately \$18.26 per \$100,000 assessed value, with annual audits, independent citizens’ oversight, NO money for salaries and no money taken by the State?”

Bonds -- Yes

Bonds -- No

EXHIBIT B-1

FULL TEXT BALLOT PROPOSITION OF THE HOPE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND MEASURE ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024

The following is the full proposition presented to the voters by the Hope Elementary School District.

“To modernize outdated classrooms, restrooms/school facilities; make health, safety/security improvements to improve the quality of education; acquire, construct/equip school sites/facilities, shall Hope Elementary School District’s measure be adopted issuing \$40,300,000 of bonds at legal rates, generating on average \$2,500,000 annually as long as bonds are outstanding at a rate of approximately \$18.26 per \$100,000 assessed value, with annual audits, independent citizens’ oversight, NO money for salaries and no money taken by the State?”

PROJECT LIST

The Board of Trustees of the Hope Elementary School District is committed to safe and secure schools with upgraded classrooms to keep pace with 21st century learning standards. The Board evaluated the District’s urgent and critical facility needs, including safety issues, class size and computer and information technology in developing the scope of projects to be funded. The Board concluded that if these needs are not addressed now, the problems will only become more pressing and expensive to address. **Therefore, in approving this Project List, the Board of Trustees determines that the District should:**

- (i) make health, safety and security improvements to District facilities;**
- (ii) upgrade inadequate or potentially unsafe electrical and communications systems;**
- (iii) adhere to specific FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY safeguards including:**
 - (a) Sacramento must be prohibited from taking any of the funds raised,**
 - (b) All expenditures must be subject to annual independent financial audits,**
 - (c) No funds can be used for administrators’ salaries and pensions,**
 - (d) All funds must be subject to local control,**
 - (e) All funds must be subject to PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, including independent citizens’ oversight committee must be appointed to ensure that all funds are spent only as authorized.**

The Project List includes upgrades and improvements and District sites and facilities as described below, including Monte Vista School, Viejo Valley School and Hope School:

School Renovation, Repair and Upgrade Projects

- **Modernize classrooms, restrooms and school facilities, including multi-purpose rooms**
- Replace temporary portables with permanent classrooms to meet current educational specifications.
- **Improve blacktops and playfields for school and community use.**
- Purchase land for an early childhood center.

Health, Safety and Energy Efficiency School Projects

- **Upgrade inadequate electrical and communications systems.**
- Replace or replace outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.
- **Make health, safety and security improvements.**
- Replace old or inefficient windows to lower utility costs.

The listed projects will be completed as needed. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, program management, staff training expenses and a customary contingency, and escalation for unforeseen design and construction costs. In addition to the listed projects stated above, the Project List also includes the payment of the costs of preparation of all facility planning and master plan updates, facility assessment reviews, environmental studies, construction documentation, inspection and permit fees, and temporary housing of dislocated District activities caused by bond projects. The upgrading of classroom computer and technology infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, the repair, replacement or acquisition of computers, handheld devices, projectors, fiber optic wiring, portable interface devices, servers, switches, routers, modules, sound projection systems, printers, digital white boards/smart boards, cooling systems, upgrade voice-over-IP, phone systems, micro-grid, battery storage units, electric vehicle charging stations, network security/firewall, expanding wireless internal access/connectivity, audio/visual systems, cloud computing and data storage, and other miscellaneous equipment and software.

In addition to the projects listed above, the acquisition, construction, repair and equipping of school facilities includes some or all of the following: the acquisition or improvement of various instructional, maintenance and operational equipment; land acquisition; improve campus accessibility; repair or replace heaters/boiler and water/sewer/electrical lines and utilities; repair or replace playground equipment, security fencing, play fields (including turf) and hard court surfaces; improve shade structures and covered eating areas for student assembly and the protection of students from inclement weather; repair, improve or replace covered walk columns, libraries, multipurpose rooms, District support facilities (administrative, physical education, gyms, music, art, performing and fine arts classrooms or facilities, science, computer labs/classrooms, libraries and buildings), student and staff restrooms, fire sensors, walkways, sidewalks and asphalt; improve student drop-off areas and staff parking; improve interior and exterior painting of building surfaces, security, safety and communication systems and equipment, fire alarms and bells, window and floor coverings (including

tiles and carpeting); install signage; construct new school buildings; repair/replace irrigation systems; repair and replace electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; repair or replace leaky or worn out roofs; modernize/improve food service facilities; and any other projects described in the District's current Master Facilities Plan. The Project List also includes the refinancing of any outstanding lease obligations or other bridge loans taken to initiate voter approved projects.

The budget for each project is an estimate and may be affected by factors beyond the District's control. The final cost of each project will be determined as plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded and projects are completed. Based on the final costs of each project, certain of the projects described above may be delayed or may not be completed. Demolition of existing facilities and reconstruction of facilities scheduled for repair and upgrade may occur, if the Board determines that such an approach would be more cost-effective in creating enhanced and operationally efficient campuses. Necessary site preparation/restoration and landscaping, may occur in connection with new construction, renovation or remodeling, or installation or removal of relocatable classrooms, including ingress and egress, removing, replacing, or installing irrigation, utility lines, trees and landscaping, redirecting fire access, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property.

Bond proceeds shall be expended only for the specific purposes identified herein. Proceeds of the bonds may be used to pay or reimburse the District for the cost of District staff when performing work on or necessary and incidental to the bond projects. The District shall create an account into which proceeds of the bonds shall be deposited and comply with the reporting requirements of Government Code § 53410.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY: IN ACCORDANCE WITH EDUCATION CODE SECTION 15272, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL APPOINT A CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND CONDUCT ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDITS TO ASSURE THAT FUNDS ARE SPENT ONLY ON DISTRICT PROJECTS AND FOR NO OTHER PURPOSE. THE EXPENDITURE OF BOND MONEY ON THESE PROJECTS IS SUBJECT TO STRINGENT FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS. BY LAW, PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL AUDITS WILL BE PERFORMED ANNUALLY, AND ALL BOND EXPENDITURES WILL BE MONITORED BY AN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS ARE SPENT AS PROMISED AND SPECIFIED. THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MUST INCLUDE, AMONG OTHERS, REPRESENTATION OF A BONA FIDE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION, A BUSINESS ORGANIZATION AND A SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATION. NO DISTRICT EMPLOYEES OR VENDORS ARE ALLOWED TO SERVE ON THE CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

No Administrator Salaries: Proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized by this proposition shall be used only for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and school administrator salaries and other operating expenses.