



# Facilities Bond Q&A

To submit a question, send an email to [questions@lincoln.k12.or.us](mailto:questions@lincoln.k12.or.us).

Updated Sept. 6, 2011

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**THE SOCCER FIELD AT CRESTVIEW HEIGHTS SCHOOL GETS WATER-SATURATED. I AM WONDERING IF THE NEW FACILITY WILL EITHER FIX THE DRAINAGE ISSUE OR IF AN ARTIFICIAL TURF SOCCER PRACTICE FIELD WILL BE BUILT. I HOPE THAT ADDRESSING THE FRONT FIELD'S DRAINAGE ISSUES ARE PART OF OUR NEW PLAN.**

No, the soccer field drainage issues are not a part of the school improvement projects being funded by the bond levy. Any improvements to that field would have to be made by the school district's Facilities & Maintenance department as funds become available. Nor are there any plans for a synthetic turf soccer practice field to be built.

However, the football field now being constructed at the site of the future Waldport High School, adjacent to Crestview Heights, will have soccer field markings. While there are no school-sanctioned soccer teams at Waldport High or Crestview Heights, there are community soccer leagues. It is the school district's intent to maximize community cooperation, involvement and access to the football field and others fields in the sports complex.

Plans are to complete the new football field and track by Oct. 1; to upgrade the existing softball field with synthetic turf on the infield by Nov. 1; build a new baseball field, with a synthetic turf infield, by Nov. 1; and construct grandstands by Sept. 1, 2012. (posted 9-06-11)

**WHY WAS WALDPOR'S FOOTBALL FIELD NOT THE FIRST FIELD TO BE COMPLETED SINCE THEY DID NOT HAVE A FIELD TO PLAY ON AND THE OTHER SCHOOLS HAD FOOTBALL FIELDS?**

Work began on all three projects at roughly the same time, but the projects faced different complexities. The Newport and Toledo football fields were already in place. It took seven days to excavate 3,000 yards of material to prepare the fields for the installation of synthetic turf. The fields at these two schools are complete, with some final details to be wrapped in the next few days (such as completion of the track upgrade at Toledo and installation of scoreboards at both fields).

In contrast, constructing an athletic field complex at the site of the future Waldport High School required major excavation work -- it took two months to excavate 50,000 yards of material. Work is progressing steadily at the site toward the Oct. 1 completion goal. (posted 9-06-11)

**WILL THE FOOTBALL FIELD AT THE NEW WALDPOR HIGH SCHOOL INCLUDE SYNTHETIC TURF AND HAVE LIGHTS FOR NIGHT FOOTBALL GAMES?**

Yes, we propose having lights and synthetic turf at the athletic fields to be built along with the new Waldport High School at a location adjacent to Crestview Heights School. (posted 5-10-11)

**I AM CURIOUS AS TO THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF THE SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS THAT ARE PROPOSED FOR THE NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL. WHAT WILL BE THE REPLACEMENT COST WHEN THE LIFE OF THE FIELD IS OVER? WHAT ARE THE CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH THE FIELDS THAT THEY HAVE IN PLACE? ARE THESE PROBLEMS ONLY AFFECTING THE FIELDS IN NEWPORT?**

Synthetic turf has a life 12-15 years. Of course, we do not know what the replacement cost will be in 15 years, but the cost today is \$350,000. The cost of maintaining grass fields over the next 12 to 15 years should be about the same as replacing the synthetic turf, but it is difficult to predict future costs.

We are proposing artificial turf on athletic fields at Waldport, Toledo and Newport high schools because all three fields drain poorly, cannot be used year 'round, and can be used only for football. Also, some coaches feel that natural turf fields are unsafe.

Our existing synthetic field at Taft 7-12 High School in Lincoln City has 10 times the use of the grass fields because it can be used year-round and in all weather by physical education classes, school sports teams, community adult and youth sports leagues, and other community groups without harming the field. It also can be used for a greater variety of activities: football, soccer, track and other sports and uses.

*For more questions and answers about synthetic turf fields, see item posted on 3-15-11. (posted 5-10-11)*

#### **WHAT IS THE AMOUNT THAT WILL BE BUDGETED FOR DEBT SERVICE FOR THE COST OF THESE FIELDS?**

We are spending just over \$60,000 per year on the three grass football fields. This does not include the \$40,000 that was spent on Toledo's field three years ago. (posted 5-10-11)

#### **YOU STATE THAT TAXES WILL NOT GO UP WITH THIS BOND. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE TAXPAYER IF YOU DO NOT OBTAIN THE FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS? THEN WHAT WILL THE COST BE TO THE TAXPAYER?**

Thank you for your question. First, to clarify...the school district doesn't have access to federal stimulus FUNDS; the school district has access to a federal stimulus PROGRAM. So, the quick answer to your question is: The federal stimulus program would have a hugely positive impact on county taxes if the bond measure passes, and it would have no impact on taxes if the bond measure fails.

**Here's how the federal stimulus program works...** The school district has been given the authority to sell \$15 million worth of bonds at a greatly reduced interest rate through a federal stimulus program known as Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB). Through this program, the school district and taxpayers could save approximately \$9 million in interest payments over the life of the bond.

The school district is guaranteed use of the federal stimulus program only if the bond measure passes. If the bond measure is not approved by voters, the school district loses its authorization to sell low-interest bonds because the district won't be selling any bonds.

**A bit of information about the tax rate...** Lincoln County voters approved a bond measure in 1995 that will mature in June 2012. If voters approve the proposed bond measure during the May 17 election, one bond would, in essence, roll over to another bond. The independent committee of citizens that is campaigning for the bond measure (K.I.D.S. Committee of Lincoln County) has used the phrase "bond renewal" to describe this process.

Currently, property owners pay 75 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation toward the 1995 bond. According to the school district's financial advisors, if the 2011 bond measure is approved AND the federal stimulus program is used, the levy would be approximately 73 cents per \$1,000. The actual rate would vary depending upon interest rates, assessed value growth and other factors. So, a taxpayer with a \$200,000 home currently pays about \$150 a year toward the school bond. If the bond is approved, that amount could drop to approximately \$144 a year, while helping to generate \$63 million for school improvement projects.

(posted 5-3-11)

#### **THE MAJORITY OF PARENTS OF BOTH THE HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN WALDPART HAVE SAID WE DO NOT WANT THE SCHOOLS COMBINED. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ASSURED PARENTS THEY WOULD NOT BE. HOWEVER, THE MODEL I HAVE SEEN CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THE SCHOOLS WILL BE LOCATED AT THE SAME LOCATION AND ARE BEING COMBINED.**

We appreciate community members sharing their opinions. However, this question and the following four questions (which were also printed as a letter to the editor in one of our local newspapers) contain inaccuracies that we wish to clarify.

As to the configuration of the proposed new Waldport High School -- While it is true that parents have said they do not want the schools combined, it is not true that the school district has promised to keep the two schools apart. The School District's goal has always been to create a high school that is safe, functional, and Lincoln County School District Bond Measure Q&A

cost effective. The best way to do this is to share resources (infrastructure and utilities) and the land at Crestview Heights School. The two schools will have separate entrances; students will not share classrooms, hallways or cafeteria; in fact, the two schools will very much retain their separate identities. (posted 4-20-11)

**YOU CLAIM THAT THE BOND WILL NOT INCREASE THE TAXES FOR LINCOLN COUNTY RESIDENTS. THE MATH SAYS OTHERWISE. YOU CANNOT HAVE A NEW BOND MEASURES WITHOUT INCREASING THE TAX, IT IS BASIC MATHEMATICS.**

The School District's financial advisors have said the bond measure could be approved without a tax rate increase. This is because an existing bond is scheduled to be paid off at the same time the new bond payments would begin. If the bond measure is approved, the estimated tax rate for bonded indebtedness would be 72 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation; the tax rate is currently 75 cents per \$1,000, so you can see that the tax rate could actually go down a few cents. (posted 4-20-11)

**WHY ARE YOU GOING TO BUY NEW FURNISHINGS FOR THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL INSTEAD OF USING THE FURNITURE THE DISTRICT ALREADY HAS. THIS IS JUST MISMANAGEMENT AND A WASTE OF MONIES. WHEN I PURCHASED MY NEW HOME I DID NOT GO AND BUY ALL NEW FURNITURE.**

The School District will use as many of the existing furnishings as practicable but will have to buy new furnishings, as well. Keep in mind that furnishings include interactive technology tools such as whiteboards, projectors and wiring. Ironically, after the last bond measure the School District was criticized for not buying new furnishings for its new schools. (posted 4-20-11)

**IT IS THIS SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CONTINUING POOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT THAT MAKES ME SAY NO! IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO THE DISTRICT THAT LANDSCAPING FEES BE WRITTEN INTO THE BUDGET THAN TO USE THAT MONEY TO KEEP THE TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM! IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO THE DISTRICT TO CONTINUE TO PAY A SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT MORE THAN THE GOVERNOR THAN IT IS TO KEEP TEACHERS IN THE CLASSROOM.**

Landscaping at existing and new schools is paid through the Facilities and Maintenance budget and is not a part of the bond measure proposal. This year, we budgeted less than \$20,000 for mowing, watering, planting, etc., with work performed by maintenance staff. We strive to make all of our schools presentable within their neighborhoods, using as much natural landscaping as possible. Not one of our schools has extravagant landscaping motifs.

As for Superintendent Tom Rinearson's salary, it is a matter of public record. The fact is, he is paid well below the state average for school superintendents, and that's not because he isn't worth more. In the Board's annual evaluation of Mr. Rinearson, we have publicly stated that he displays outstanding leadership, exceptional values and ethics, and open communication. He has developed an efficient and responsive district organization where decisions are data driven and the focus is on student achievement. (posted 4-20-11)

**TOO MUCH OF THIS BOND IS GOING FOR NON HIGH SCHOOL RELATED EXPENSES. THIS BOND WAS TO BE FOR A BADLY NEEDED HIGH SCHOOL IN A SAFER AREA! NOT FOR EVERY LITTLE PET PROJECT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT! WHY ARE YOU GOING TO USE A PORTION OF THE BOND TO PAY FOR THE DEMOLITION OF THE OLD HIGH SCHOOL? IT NEEDS TO BE SOLD AS IS AND LET WHO EVER PURCHASES IT PAY TO DEMOLISH WHAT THEY DO NOT WANT. THIS IS JUST A FLAT WASTEFUL MISUSE AND ABUSE OF THE BOND MONIES.**

It is not true that the bond project list contains "pet projects." The fact is the project list was developed after an extensive facilities review. After planning meetings with school and community groups, the list was pared down to a manageable level, retaining the most pressing needs, including relocating Waldport High School out of the tsunami zone. It also is not true that the bond measure proposal includes provisions for the demolition of Waldport High School. (posted 4-20-11)

## **IS THERE THE POSSIBILITY OF FEDERAL STIMULUS MONEY (GRANTS) TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE BOND TO LINCOLN COUNTY TAX PAYERS? IF SO, WHAT IS THE PLAN TO LET THE VOTERS KNOW THAT?**

Yes! Lincoln County School District has been allocated \$15 million through the Qualified School Construction Bond program, which is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – otherwise known as the Federal Stimulus Package. This could result in an overall savings to the school district of approximately \$9.4 million over the 15-year life of the bonds!

The purpose of the QSCB program is to help fund school construction, rehabilitation and repair. Through this program AND if the bond measure is approved, the school district could significantly reduce the cost of borrowing which could result in a lower property tax rate. If the proposed bond is not approved, the school district would not be able to participate in the QSCB program this year.

Taking QSCB into consideration, it is estimated that the proposed bond would cost the taxpayer approximately 72 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value each year. The actual rate would vary depending upon interest rates, assessed value growth and other factors.

Information about the QSSB has been shared with the public in various ways, including news releases and the district's quarterly community newsletter. (posted 3-18-11)

## **HOW DO WE KNOW THAT PROPOSED PROJECTS AT OUR SCHOOLS WILL ACTUALLY BE COMPLETED?**

Community members have been involved with this process from the beginning, and will continue to be involved through its completion. Should the bond measure be approved, a volunteer Citizens' Oversight Committee would be appointed. Members periodically would review progress on project improvements, and recommend project modifications to account for decreases or increases in construction costs.

### **On the topic of district accountability, LCSD Superintendent Tom Rinearson says:**

"While I cannot predict future costs perfectly, nor can I predict precisely how the bond sales will go or if one project has unexpected problems that could affect the other projects, please know this: Ethics and trust are very important to me as a superintendent and as a human being. Although I cannot promise beyond a shadow of doubt each and every project listed will be realized, I am committed to building what we say we will build. I am also committed to a very open community oversight process so if unexpected things occur, there will be transparency on the decision making." (posted 3-16-11)

## **THE BOND WILL IMPROVE SCHOOL BUILDINGS, BUT WHAT IS THE DISTRICT DOING TO IMPROVE ACADEMICS?**

Our teachers instruct, nurture, mentor and care for close to 5,000 students. They strive to inspire learning and give students the tools they need to succeed in academics and in life. How do we know if students are achieving? Here are just a few indicators:

**Total Instructional Alignment:** This is one of the basic cornerstones of student success. It involves the alignment of the system; alignment of standards, curriculum and assessment; and alignment of instructional practice. To ensure that all children have an opportunity to learn, these three processes are ongoing, responsive, and alive in Lincoln County School District.

**State Testing and Reporting:** The state and federal governments want to make sure the money they invest in K-12 education is well spent. They have a wide range of reporting tools to ensure that kids are learning and schools are improving; in turn, school districts use data from these reports to pinpoint areas of strength and weakness so they can focus on improvement. Among the reports are Adequate Yearly Progress, Oregon Report Card, and Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives.

**College Bound Grads:** 76% of students who graduated recently from LCSD's four public high schools and three charter high schools planned to continue their education at a trade school, community college, or four-year college or university.

**Keeping Kids in School:** Some students find it difficult to learn in a traditional classroom setting. LCSD offers alternatives – alt ed programs, teen parent program, online learning, English language learners program,

etc. – to keep them enrolled and interested in school because dropping out of high school hurts the entire community.

For complete information about any of these programs, please contact your local school principal or the LCSD District Office. (posted 3-15-11)

**HAS THE SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSIDERED CLOSING DOWN TOLEDO HIGH SCHOOL AND WALDPART HIGH SCHOOL AND CONSOLIDATING THEM BOTH WITH NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL? WOULD THIS BE COST EFFECTIVE?**

This option has been explored and determined not to be practical or cost effective. Here are some reasons why:

To accommodate the additional 500-plus high school students, West Area schools would need to be restructured and the Yaquina View building reopened as a school. This would displace the many social service and education agency tenants now located at Yaquina View.

Toledo and Waldport high schools draw students from as far south as the Douglas County line and east to the Benton County line. Students would have to travel an additional 8 to 16 miles beyond Toledo or Waldport to attend school in Newport; not only does this add to the school district's transportation expenses, it takes students further away from their homes.

The Toledo and Waldport communities would lose their high schools which often are the heart of smaller communities, and students would lose their community identity.

Although the school district could save money by eliminating teaching and administrative positions in the two closed high schools, that savings would be negated by the school district's loss of \$1.2 million in state "small schools" funding should Toledo and Waldport high schools be closed. (posted 3-15-11)

**PLEASE GIVE ME SOME IDEA OF THE DOLLAR COST FOR EACH OF THE THREE PROJECTS BEING CONSIDERED AS A PART OF THE BOND ISSUE: RENOVATING/INSTALLING SYNTHETIC TURF AT THE NEWPORT FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, AND SOFTBALL FIELDS.**

The estimated cost of renovating Newport athletic fields to include synthetic turf is: football field, \$900,000; baseball infield, \$300,000; and softball field, \$100,000. The cost to repair Newport athletic fields without synthetic turf would be approximately \$250,000 less.

After considering the long-term advantages of each type of playing field, district officials agreed that synthetic, all-weather turf is more cost effective than grass turf and would greatly expand the fields' use by students and community members. Some points to consider:

- The increased cost of adding synthetic turf will pay for itself through reduced maintenance costs within 8 to 10 years.
- Synthetic turf requires less water usage (after switching to synthetic turf, Taft High's water usage dropped from approximately \$5,560 to \$2,648).
- Synthetic turf requires approximately 20 hours of grooming per year per field, compared to 150 hours per year to mow, water and maintain a grass field.
- Without grass field maintenance, the school district's maintenance and facilities staff will be freed up to perform other work duties.
- The school district's tractor and pickup machine both will need to be replaced within the next couple of years, at an approximate cost of \$60,000, compared to the \$3,000 cost of a grooming machine for synthetic turf.
- Because of its quick drainage and lack of soil, synthetic turf can be used year-round by physical education classes, school sports teams, community adult and youth sports leagues, and other community groups without harming the field.
- The synthetic turf, all-weather field can be used for football, soccer, track and other sports and uses.

(posted 3-15-11)

**WHY CAN'T THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GUARANTEE HOW MUCH MY PROPERTY TAXES WILL BE IF THE BOND MEASURE PASSES?**

The school district's financial advisors can estimate the property tax rate, using known variables, and provide a good approximate amount. The unknown variables – the assessed value of taxable property within the district and the number of delinquent taxpayers – impact the tax levy. (posted 3-9-11)

**CAN BOND PROCEEDS PAY FOR TEACHERS' SALARIES?**

No. By law, school districts may use bond proceeds ONLY for capital improvements, not general operating expenses such as teachers' salaries. School district budgets continue to be tight, with reduced state and federal funding. If the bond measure is approved, the district would be able to make needed building improvements without going into the general operating fund. (posted 3-9-11)

**MY LINCOLN COUNTY PROPERTY TAX STATEMENT SHOWS "LINC CO SCHOOL UNIT" IN TWO PLACES. WHY?**

The amount listed at the top of the column is a fixed tax amount collected for general operations of the school district; this money cannot be used for capital improvements. The amount listed in the lower half of the column is to pay for the 1995 general obligation bond for school construction and improvements; this amount varies depending on the county's assessed valuation and property tax collections. The 1995 bond will be paid off in June 2012. (posted 3-9-11)

**HOW DOES LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RATES COMPARE TO OTHER DISTRICTS?**

See chart below with comparisons to school district with comparable student enrollment.

	Lincoln County SD (Lincoln Co.)	Newberg SD (Yamhill Co.)	Three Rivers SD (Josephine Co.)	Woodburn SD (Marion Co.)
<b>School District ADMw</b>	5,125 students	4,919 students	5,111 students	4,959 students
<b><u>2011 Property Tax Rates</u></b>				
Permanent Rate	\$4.9092	\$4.6616	\$3.7262	\$4.5247
G.O. Bond Rate	\$0.7501	\$3.6674	\$0.5657	\$2.2803
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5.6593</b>	<b>\$8.329</b>	<b>\$4.2919</b>	<b>\$6.805</b>
<b><u>2010 County Statistics</u></b>				
Population	44,700	95,250	83,665	318,170
Children age 0-17	8,051 -- 18%	22,843 -- 24%	16,782 -- 20%	82,897 -- 26%
Seniors age 64+	9,355 -- 21%	11,594 -- 12%	17,505 -- 21%	39,162 -- 12%
% population in poverty	17%	12%	20%	16%
% children in poverty	28%	17%	34%	25%
Unemployment rate	11%	11%	15%	12%
Housing Assessed Value	\$140,829	\$162,222	\$175,119	\$121,161
Median Income	\$38,808	\$51,441	\$34,754	\$42,760

Data provided courtesy D.A. Davidson & Co., prepared Jan. 26, 2011 (posted 3-15-11)

**HOW MUCH IS THE PROPOSED BOND AND HOW LONG WILL IT BE ON MY TAX BILL?**

The ballot measure calls for a maximum of \$63 million in bonds to be repaid within 18 years. The Lincoln County School District Board of Directors (School Board) has the option to issue a smaller amount and/or to repay over a shorter period of time. (posted 3-9-11)

**WHAT IS A GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND?**

A G.O. bond is a municipal bond backed by the credit and "taxing power" of the issuing jurisdiction (the school district). The bonds are issued with the understanding that the school district will be able to repay its debt obligation through taxation. No assets are used as collateral. General obligation bonds are the preferred

long-term financing method because districts don't have to use existing and scarce resources to pay debt.  
(posted 3-9-11)

**WHEN IS THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION AND WHO CAN REGISTER?**

Anyone who is an Oregon resident, a U.S. citizen, and age 18 or older may register to vote. The deadline to register for the May 17 election is April 26, 2011. Contact the Lincoln County Clerk's Office for details at 541-265-4131. (posted 3-9-11)

**WHEN WILL BALLOTS BE MAILED AND WHEN DO THEY NEED TO BE RETURNED?**

The ballots will be mailed on April 29 and must be returned to an official ballot drop box no later than 8 p.m. on May 17 to be counted. (posted 3-9-11)