

CUSD

Bond Update

Carmel Unified School District

Vol. 4, Number 2

May, 2004

Dear Parents and Community Members,

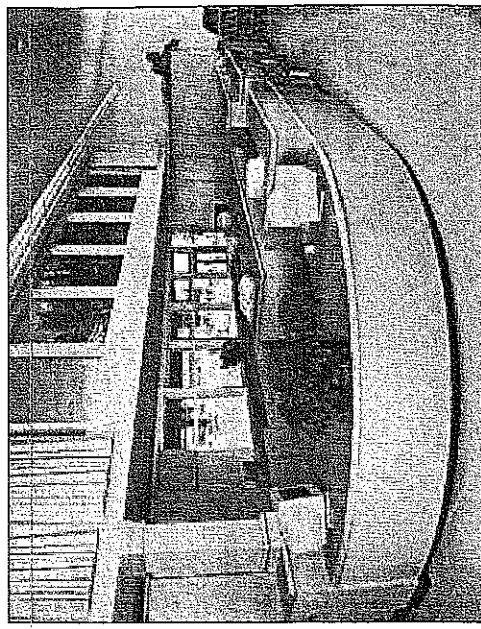
With the voter-approved modernization work nearly complete, it is gratifying to see the transformation of our schools. Take a tour of the schools yourself, and we think you'll agree that the results benefit both our students and community. The following is an update on the current status of our projects and anticipated next steps:

What did the District do with the bond money?

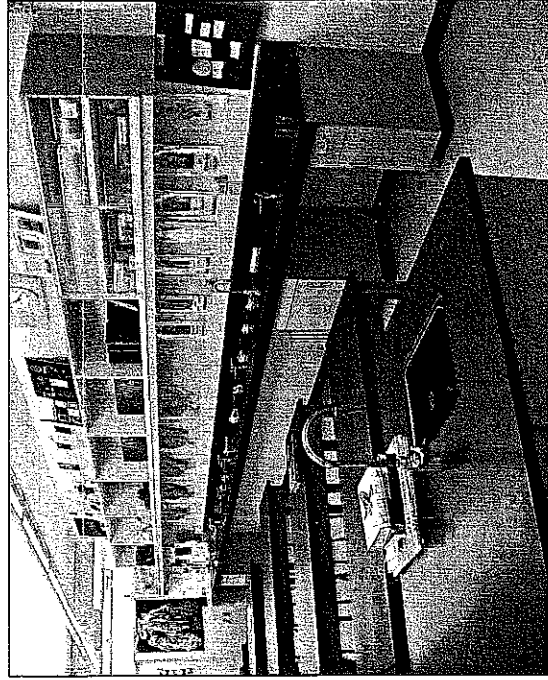
Before a single dollar was spent, the Board carefully reviewed the lists of projects that were developed through extensive input from all stakeholders and then made decisions that addressed our top priorities. Classrooms were modernized, new restrooms were built, infrastructure needs and safety concerns were corrected, and the gymnasiums, libraries, and cafeterias were all remodeled.

Have the projects been coming in on time and within budget?

Whenever you begin the renovation of an older building, you can find any number of surprises. While this certainly happened at some of our schools, overall our projects have been completed on time and on budget.



I think our Library has made a big improvement in space, books, computers and organization.
- Claire Greco, Gr 5, Carmel River School



Our new science rooms are simply smashing! The room is light, airy, spacious, and functional.
- Susi Bradley, Science Teacher, Carmel Middle School

What is the status of the bond proceeds and the tax impact on the community?

The District issued bonds in the spring of 2001 for the second half of the \$20,000,000 approved by the voters. The District was rated AA+ by both Standard & Poor's and Fitch, the highest rating of a school district in the State of California.

We'd also like to offer you a pleasant reminder that the property taxes required to pay for both series of bonds are substantially lower than anticipated at the time of the bond election of May, 2000.

Specifically, low interest rates for the bonds in combination with the community's strong growth in property value over the last two years resulted in a reduction of the average annual tax by nearly 25% (from the projected, voter-approved \$19.43 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation to an average of \$14.66 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation).

What are examples of the major remaining projects that we weren't able to tackle yet because of insufficient funds?

Captain Cooper Elementary School

- Replacement of access road

Carmel River Elementary School

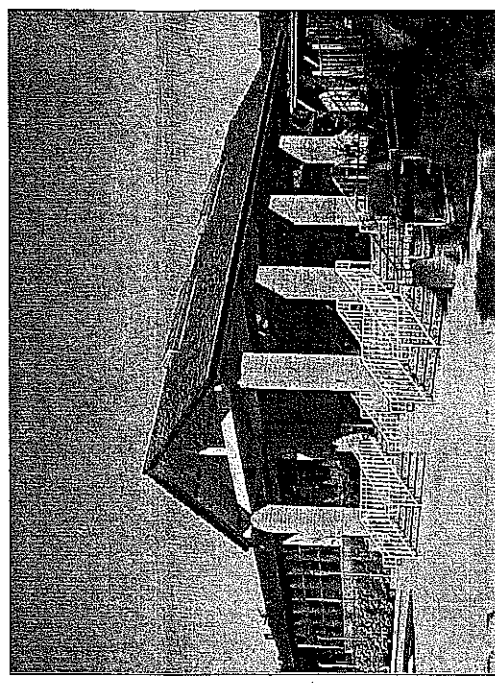
- Replacement of heating system in multi-purpose room
- Replacement of walkways

Tularcitos Elementary School

- Addition of covered walkway between classroom wings

Carmel Middle School

- Addition of foyer at school gym to provide an entry that will protect the refurbished wood floor and honor athletic achievements
- Application of slurry seal in parking area to preserve the life of the asphalt



The improved breezeway has been not only an aesthetic improvement, but it has also helped the Associated Student Body. We are able to hold contests and lunchtime activities in the breezeway ... When students hear, 'Come to the breezeway,' over the bulletin in the morning, they know it will be something fun.

-Tim Jaconette, Junior, Carmel High School

Carmel High School

- Conversion of existing drama room into two classrooms and ASB office
- Addition of school theatre for drama and music performances and to provide instruction in lighting, sound, and set production
- Replacement of existing swimming pool with expanded pool that meets today's program and safety needs
- Addition of foyer at school gym to provide an entry that will protect the new wood floor and honor athletic achievements
- Addition of multi-use room at school gym to support the instructional needs of existing programs
- Improvement of outdoor eating areas for students

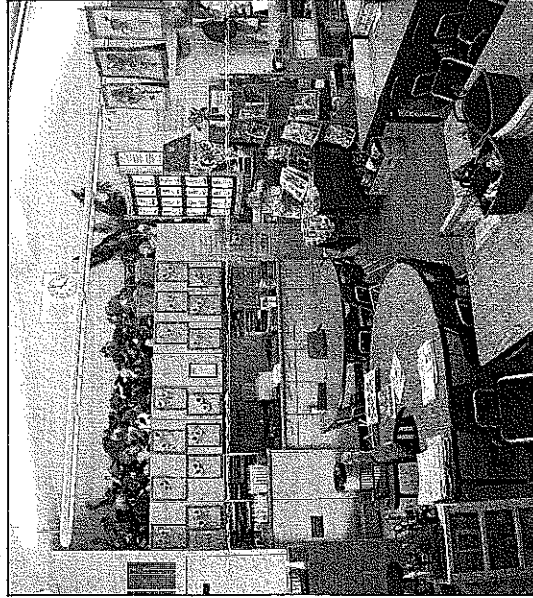
Carmel Valley High School

- Addition of covered walkway

How is the district planning to meet its unfunded needs?

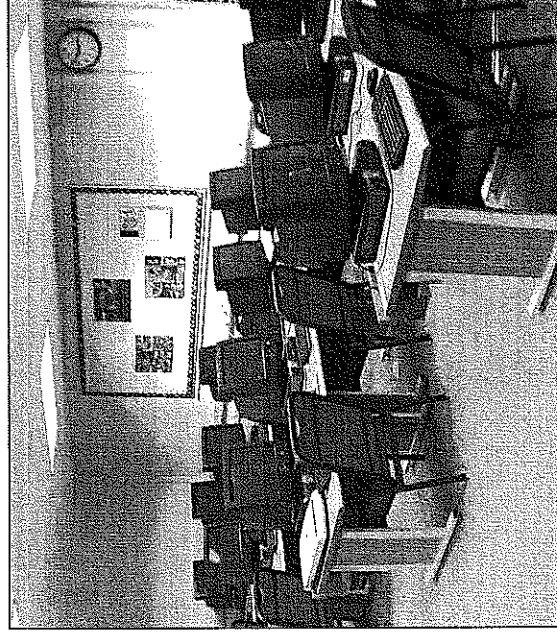
We knew from the start that the bond measure and state modernization money combined could only take care of the district's most basic modernization needs. At the present time, the projects described above do not have a funding source.

To address these needs, the district is currently investigating a combination of district and community resources, including use of the district's existing capital outlay budget, exploring the feasibility of another local bond, determining the availability of state funding, and inviting private donations.



The new classrooms are good. They have more room and new white boards. I like the new desks because they are bigger and you can put more stuff in them.

-Maddy McInurff, Gr 2, Tularcitos School



When I walk into the new computer lab, I feel like I'm in a research facility, which inspires me to open my mind.

- Lacey Lutes, Junior, Carmel High School

Finally...

Once again, the District extends a heartfelt thank you to the entire community for the successful passage of the school bond of May, 2000, and also to our staff and students for their flexibility and support as we continue to proceed with creating learning environments of which we can all be proud.

Sincerely,
Judy Long, Director of Business Services

Comments/Suggestions about the newsletter?

Please contact Judy Long by email at jlong@monterey.k12.ca.us or call 624-1546.

Please contact any site principal to arrange a visit if you would like to view the improvements first-hand.

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