

Port Townsend School District
Capital Bond Fact Sheet

23 November 2015

1. What does this proposition authorize?

When approved by voters, the School District will be authorized to issue up to \$40.9M in bonds to cover the cost of a new school at the Grant Street location and required ADA and security improvements at the High School.

2. What will this cost a property owner?

Current estimates indicate that a levy rate of \$1.24/\$1000 of assessed value (AV) for 20 years will be required to finance this bond. Property owners are currently paying \$0.54/\$1000 AV for a capital improvements levy that will be retired in 2016. Payment for the proposed bond measure will begin in 2017 resulting in a net increase of \$0.70/\$1000 AV for school capital improvements. Thus, the annual property tax for a \$150,000 property will increase by \$105.00.

3. How does this compare to previous levies?

Property owners began repaying the bond issued to construct Blue Heron Middle School in 1993, while additional payments were still required for bonds issued earlier. In total, the levy rate property owners were paying for school capital improvements in 1993 was \$2.95/\$1000 AV.

5. What does this provide?

It provides a new elementary school that promotes education and community by:

- getting all Pre-K – 5th grade students out of portables – across the district
- returning 4th and 5th graders from Blue Heron Middle School to a more age-appropriate elementary school setting
- providing a teaching kitchen and cafeteria for elementary students
- facilitating outdoor access and associated learning activities
- supporting community outreach and engagement activities
- providing elevators and other ADA requirements at PTHS

6. Why not re-furbish the existing Grant Street School?

Grant Street School has served the community well over the past 59 years. However the school is now well beyond its useful lifespan and is seriously undersized for the school district's elementary school population. Estimates provided by architectural professionals indicate little cost difference between a

major remodel and expansion of the existing Grant Street School and building an entirely new school. Also, the logistics involved in removing students from the site in order to remodel and modernize the existing facility would dramatically disrupt students and their families for several years, in addition to greatly increasing the expense of such a project.

7. How will this improve education?

- Better age distribution and program alignment across district campuses (4th and 5th back to Grant Street) with a true elementary continuum Pre-K-5 at Grant Street.
- Proposed school design enhances hands-on learning activities (especially outdoor learning experiences)
- Promotes healthier diet and food understanding (working teaching kitchen) with students and families
- Dovetails with the Maritime Discovery Schools initiative - “No child left indoors!”- by designing a facility that promotes and enables the use of the outdoors for learning activities

8. How is the student population changing?

With state funded full-day kindergarten, we’ve added an additional kindergarten classroom to the existing elementary program. We expect to see steady growth at the elementary level over the medium term and beyond as the new building and programs come on line.

9. Is there room for growth? Will it meet future needs?

The proposed facility provides for this steady growth over time. Based on current demographic projections, we believe this facility will meet the future needs of our community. Relocating the 4th and 5th grade classes from Blue Heron Middle School to Grant Street Elementary restores Blue Heron to its intended purpose (6th – 8th grades) and provides some capacity for future growth of student population at that campus also.

10. How long will this facility last?

This building is intended to have a 50 year useable lifespan, minimum.

11. What will happen if voters do not approve this ballot measure?

The district and its students, staff and families will be in a very serious situation with an inadequate, overcrowded facility to manage. There will need to be a rapid reconsideration process and quick return to the voters with any subsequent proposal that seems more viable. This ballot measure represents urgent, carefully considered needs, not wants.