

## November, 2016 Bond Election, CG Elementary

### Citizens' Committee Members:

Colleen Bechtel	Shea Nieto
Breanna Boland	Larry Rains
Evelyn Casuga	Orlenda Roberts
Nancy Caywood	Mary Lou Rosales
Steve Chasse	Richard Rosales
Fernando Cornejo	Moh Saleh
Rona Curphy	Norm Sam
Frank Davidson	Adelphia Sisson
David Fitzgibbons	Jerry Stabley
Bryan Harris	Kay Steward
Bob Jackson	Jeff VanHise
Kevin Kelty	Blanca Varela
Jeff Lavender	Ralph Varela
Matt Lemberg	Ken Waddill
Renee Louzon-Benn	Brett Wallace
Roger Lyle	Grant Walton
Tim Mace	Eric Wilkey
Donna McBride	Barbara Wright
Craig McFarland	Chuck Wright
Helen Neuharth	Dennis York

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### Frequently Asked Questions

Following the recommendations of a 40-member committee, the CGESD Governing Board approved a resolution calling for a \$44.66 million bond election this November. The vote by the Board was unanimous.

#### 1. Will this result in a tax increase?

No. In fact, the average tax rate over the repayment period for new bonds would be around ten cents lower than the current secondary property tax rate of \$0.55 for existing bond debt.

#### 2. Why did the citizens' committee recommend the sale of \$44.66 million in bonds?

A consultant was employed to identify the facility needs throughout the district. \$52 million in needs were identified. \$52 million in bonds would have resulted in a tax increase, and both the citizens' committee and school board members were opposed to a tax increase. It was determined that the sale of \$44.66 million in bonds would address most of the facility needs throughout the district without increasing taxes.

#### 3. How will the funding be used?

Proceeds from the bonds would be used to increase safety at the schools, to repair and replace equipment and facilities throughout the school district, to construct replacement space for Saguaro Elementary School and Casa Grande Middle School, and to replace older buses in the district's fleet of 70 buses.

#### 4. Why replace Saguaro and Casa Grande Middle Schools?

The citizens' committee determined that it made more financial sense to replace rather than to renovate the schools. Needed repairs to the two schools would cost over \$11 million, whereas replacing the schools with space that could serve the community for several more decades would cost an additional \$6 million.

#### 5. Doesn't the state provide funding for facilities?

In 2008 when state appropriations for school districts' capital funding fell dramatically, all major repairs and vehicle replacement stopped in the district. Today, the state appropriates just 15% of the capital funding to school districts that is stipulated in statute. All told, funding cuts since the Great Recession amount to a loss of \$23 million in funding that could have been applied to the District's capital needs. There is no indication that this funding will be restored anytime soon.

#### 6. Why should voters support this proposal?

The primary reasons for the committee's recommendations were that this approach would:

- Avoid a tax increase,
- protect the community's investment in its schools,
- recognize the fact that the world is a different place today than it was 10 or 20 years ago, and employ security measures to account for that change,
- strengthen neighborhood schools, and
- improve facilities long overdue for renovation.