

RESOLUTION NO. 23-2122

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ORDERING A SCHOOL BOND ELECTION,
ESTABLISHING SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION ORDER, AND
REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION WITH OTHER ELECTIONS
OCCURRING ON JUNE 7, 2022**

WHEREAS, the Sierra Sands Unified School District (the “District”) is a unified school district, serving transitional kindergarten through 12th grade, duly organized under the laws of the State of California;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the District (the “Board”) is authorized, upon a two-thirds vote of the Board, to pursue the authorization and issuance of bonds by a 55% vote of the electorate on the question of whether bonds of the District shall be issued and sold for specified purposes, under Article XIII A Section 1 paragraph (b) of the California Constitution (“Article XIII A”) and under the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000 at Education Code Section 15264 et seq. (the “Strict Accountability Act”);

WHEREAS, the Strict Accountability Act permits bonds to be issued only if the tax rate from a general obligation bond measure is not projected to exceed sixty dollars (\$60) per year per one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) of assessed value;

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that despite the growth in assessed valuation within the District, tax levies for the District’s Measure A, approved by at least 55% of voters on June 6, 2006, are projected to exceed sixty dollars (\$60) per year per one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) of assessed value;

WHEREAS, the Board has further determined that although at this time no Measure A bonds may be issued as a result of the tax rate limitation set forth in the Strict Accountability Act described herein, there remains a need for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, replacement, furnishing, or equipping of District facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for District facilities;

WHEREAS, as prudent fiscal stewards of taxpayer funds, the Board shall commit to cancel any remaining bond authorization from Measure A upon certification from the election officials of Kern County and San Bernardino County that a new general obligation bond measure of the District has been successful approved by at least 55% of the voters;

WHEREAS, under the Strict Accountability Act, a general obligation bond election may be ordered at a primary or general election, a regularly scheduled local election, or a statewide special election;

WHEREAS, under Section 10403 et seq. of the California Elections Code, it is appropriate for the Board to request consolidation of a general bond obligation election with any and all other elections to be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, and to request the Kern County Registrar of Voters

and the San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters (collectively, the “County Registrars”) to perform certain election services for the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary and advisable to call a general bond obligation election to submit to the electors of the District the question of whether District bonds shall be issued and sold for the purpose of raising money for the acquisition or lease of real property and the improvement, furnishing, and equipping of school facilities of the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of the Sierra Sands Unified School District, Kern and San Bernardino Counties, California, as follows:

Section 1. Election Order. The Board hereby orders an election and submits to the electors of the District the question of whether general obligation bonds of the District shall be issued and sold in the principal amount of \$52,800,000 for the purposes described in the ballot measure approved under Section 3 and attached hereto as Exhibit A and Exhibit A-1, and paying costs incident thereto. This Resolution constitutes the order of the District to call such election and shall constitute the “specifications of the election order” pursuant to Education Code Section 5322.

Section 2. Authority for the Election; Election Date. Pursuant to Education Code Sections 5304 and 5322, the Strict Accountability Act, and Article XVI, Section 18(b) of the California Constitution, an election shall be held within the boundaries of the District on June 7, 2022.

Section 3. Purpose of Election; Ballot Measure. The purpose of the election shall be for the voters in the District to vote on a measure, a full copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A and marked “Exhibit A, Ballot Measure, Full Text of the Measure” (the “Full Text of the Measure”), containing the question of whether the District shall issue the bonds for the purposes stated therein, together with the accountability requirements of Article XIII A and the requirements of Section 15272 of the Strict Accountability Act. The Full Text of the Measure, which commences with the heading “Ballot Measure, Full Text of the Measure” and includes all of the text thereafter on Exhibit A, shall be printed in the voter information pamphlet provided to voters, with such measure designation as is assigned to the measure. As required by Elections Code Section 13247 and Education Code Section 5322, the abbreviated form of the measure to appear on the ballot is attached hereto as Exhibit A-1 and is marked as “Exhibit A-1, Ballot Measure, Abbreviated Form” (the “Abbreviated Ballot Measure”).

Section 4. Use of Bond Proceeds.

a. Proceeds from the sale of the bonds may be used only for the purposes specified in Article XIII A, section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution.

b. The projects that may be funded from proceeds from the sale of bonds (the “Projects”), are listed in the Full Text of the Measure.

Section 5. Accountability Requirements.

a. Pursuant to Article XIII A, section 1(b)(3), the Board shall conduct an annual, independent performance audit to ensure that the bond funds have been expended only on the specific Projects listed in the Full Text of the Measure.

b. Pursuant to Article XIII A, section 1(b)(3), the Board shall conduct an annual, independent financial audit of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds until all of the proceeds have been expended for the Projects listed in the Full Text of the Measure.

c. Pursuant to Government Code section 53411, the Assistant Superintendent of Business & Support Services of the District shall issue an annual report to the Board containing the amount of funds collected and expended as well as the status of the Projects authorized in the Full Text of the Measure. The District's adopted budget or Audit Report will suffice for this purpose.

d. Pursuant to the Strict Accountability Act, if a citizens' oversight committee has not already been established for the bonds, within 60 days of the date the Board enters the election results on its minutes, the Board will appoint a citizens' oversight committee to review and report on the proper expenditure of taxpayers' money for school construction.

Section 6. Vote Required. Pursuant to Section 18(b) of Article XVI and Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution, the bond measure shall become effective only upon affirmative vote of fifty-five percent (55%) of those voters voting on the measure.

Section 7. Delivery of this Resolution; County Registrars of Voters to Call and Conduct Election. The Superintendent, or his designee, is hereby directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution, along with the Tax Rate Statement described in Sections 9 and 11 below and attached hereto as Exhibit B to (1) the County Registrars, (2) the Superintendent of Schools of Kern County, (3) the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Kern County, and (4) the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of San Bernardino County by no later than March 11, 2022, or such other date as is acceptable to each party.

Pursuant to Section 5303 of the Education Code, the County Registrars are hereby requested to take all steps to prepare for and hold the election within the boundaries of the District in accordance with law and these specifications.

Section 8. Consolidation with Other Elections. Pursuant to Sections 5342, 15121, and 15266 of the Education Code and Part 3 (commencing with Section 10400) of Division 10 of the Elections Code, the County Registrars and the Boards of Supervisors of Kern County and San Bernardino County (collectively, the "Boards of Supervisors") are hereby requested to consolidate the election ordered hereby with any and all other elections to be held on June 7, 2022 within the District. Pursuant to Section 10403 of the Elections Code, the Board hereby acknowledges that the consolidated election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed by Section 10418 of the Elections Code.

Section 9. Services of County Registrars of Voters. Pursuant to Section 5303 of the Education Code and Section 10002 of the Elections Code, the Boards of Supervisors are requested

to permit the respective County Registrars to render all services incident to the preparation for and holding of the election, for which services the District agrees to reimburse Kern County and San Bernardino County (collectively, the "Counties") in full from District funds upon presentation of the respective bills from the Counties, such services to include the publication of a formal notice of school bond election and the mailing of the Full Text of the Measure, the Abbreviated Measure, and the tax rate statement (described in Elections Code Section 9401) (the "Tax Rate Statement"). The Board hereby requests the County Registrars to publish in the ballot materials, the Full Text of the Measure, the Abbreviated Ballot Measure, and the Tax Rate Statement attached hereto as Exhibits A, A-1 and B.

Section 10. Canvass of Returns. The Boards of Supervisors are authorized to canvass the returns of the election pursuant to Section 10411 of the Elections Code.

Section 11. Cancellation of Measure A Bond Authorization. Following canvass of the returns of the election and upon certification by the County Registrars that the District's general obligation bond measure was approved by an affirmative vote of fifty-five percent (55%) of those voters voting on the measure, the Board hereby directs District staff to commence and complete proceedings to cancel the remaining Measure A bond authorization pursuant to the procedures set forth in Education Code sections 15200 through 15205. The Board shall not approve the issuance of any bonds under the new successful bond measure until the Measure A bond authorization is cancelled.

Section 12. State Matching Funds. Some of the Projects may require state matching funds for completion. Approval of the District's bond measure does not guarantee that the proposed Projects will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by this bond measure. The District's completion of some of the Projects may depend on receipt of State funds.

Section 13. Encumbrance of Bond Funds. For the purpose of making bond funds unavailable as rent within the meaning of Education Code section 17032, the Board hereby encumbers all funds to be generated by the sale of the bonds in order to pay for the acquisition and construction of the Projects authorized by the ballot measure.

Section 14. Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures. The District intends to undertake the acquisition, construction, renovation, furnishing, and equipping of the Projects as described in the Full Text of the Measure. The District intends to use the proceeds of its bonds described in this Resolution to finance the Projects. The District may pay certain capital expenditures (the "Reimbursement Expenditures") in connection with the Projects prior to the issuance of the bonds. The bonds, in the amount of \$52,800,000 will be issued for the purpose of financing the Projects on a long-term basis and certain of the proceeds of such debt obligations may be used to reimburse the District for the certain expenditures.

The Board hereby declares the District's official intent to use a portion of the proceeds of the bonds to reimburse the District for the Reimbursement Expenditures. The foregoing statement is a declaration of official intent that is made under and only for the purpose of establishing compliance with the requirements of Treasury Regulations section 1.150-2.

Section 15. General Authorization with Respect to the Bond Measure and with Respect to this Resolution. The members of the School District’s Board, the Superintendent and the other officers of the School District are hereby authorized and directed, individually and collectively, without further review and action by the Board, to do any and all things, to execute, deliver, and perform any and all agreements and documents they deem necessary or advisable in order to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution and to perform all acts necessary to place the bond measure on the ballot, including, without limitation, to prepare and submit for inclusion in the voter information pamphlet an argument in favor of passage of the ballot measure, making any changes to this Resolution, the Full Text of the Measure, the Abbreviated Ballot Measure, or the Tax Rate Statement (hereinafter the “Ballot Documents”).

In the event of any such modifications to the Ballot Documents, the Superintendent and the other officers of the School District are hereby further authorized to supplement or replace the original versions of such documents with the versions modified pursuant hereto. Such modified versions shall thereafter be deemed to constitute the final, complete and approved version of the Ballot Document, for all intents and purposes, including for delivery of the Ballot Documents to the County Registrars and other parties set forth in Section 7 above and for publication of the ballot materials set forth in Section 9 above. All actions heretofore taken by the officers and agents of the School District that are in conformity with the purposes and intent of this Resolution are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved in all respects.

Section 16. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

[Signature page follows]

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Education of the Sierra Sands Unified School District, Kern and San Bernardino Counties, State of California, March 7, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Houck, Johnson, Rockwell, Scott

NOES: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

ABSENT: Farris

SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Kurt Rockwell
President of the Board of Education

ATTEST:



Dr. Dave Ostash
Secretary of the Board of Education

EXHIBIT A

BALLOT MEASURE FULL TEXT OF THE MEASURE

Upon the passage of Measure _____, the Sierra Sands Unified School District (the “District”) shall be authorized to issue bonds in the aggregate amount of \$52,800,000 (the “Bonds”), bearing interest at rates not exceeding the statutory limit, for the purpose of funding the school facilities projects listed below (the “Projects”) at the District’s school sites and properties, subject to the accountability safeguards set forth below.

Bond Accountability Measures

The Board certifies that it evaluated safety, class size reduction, information technology needs, and community input in developing the list of the Bond Projects set forth below.

The Board will conduct financial and performance audits annually to account for the Bond funds and for their expenditure on the specific authorized projects.

The Board will appoint members to a citizens’ oversight committee having a minimum of seven members and including at least one member active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District, one member active in a senior citizens’ organization, one member active in a bona fide taxpayers’ organization, one member who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District, and one member who is both a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and active in a parent-teacher organization.

The Bond Project List set forth below describes the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds of the Bonds.

Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this measure shall be used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement, along with related costs, of school facilities as set forth herein, including the furnishing and equipping of said school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for said school facilities, and not for any other purpose, including teacher and administrator salaries and other school operating expenses.

Bond Project List

This Bond Project List, which is an integral part of this proposition, describes the specific Projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds of the Bonds.

In order to meet all identified facilities needs, the District intends to complete Projects using a combination of funding sources. These sources may include joint-use funds, development impact fees, state funds, federal funds, and other available funds. The District will pursue state matching funds if and when they become available, and if received, they will be used for and mainly applied to Projects on this Bond Project List or other high priority capital outlay expenditures as permitted in Education Code section 17070.63(c).

Specific Projects which may be funded by the Measure __ include, without limitation, the following:

- Modernize and upgrade classrooms and labs, acquire equipment, and acquire and provide technology needed to support high quality instruction for science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) and Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities
- Repurpose, repair, update, upgrade, modernize, and reconstruct James Monroe Middle School to occupy the District Office and other District operations
- Enhance, repair, update, upgrade, modernize, and reconstruct Murray Middle School to become a Junior High School for all District 7th and 8th grade students
- Modernize Vieweg Elementary School site to become a Middle School for all District 6th grade students, including construction of a gym
- Install solar panels
- Update, upgrade, modernize, repair, and reconstruct school facilities, including classrooms and labs, to provide equitable access to all students
- Repair, replace, upgrade, and modernize school and district facilities with energy efficient systems and equipment
- Acquire, repair, replace, upgrade, and modernize school, district, and administration facilities to meet current health and safety standards, including security systems and lighting
- Construct and equip classrooms, labs and school facilities
- Replace deteriorating plumbing, electrical, heating, and cooling systems
- Construction and installation of athletic facilities for physical education, school sports programs, and community use

Bond Program Management Costs

Project expenditures may also include:

- Staffing and other general and administrative costs to manage and execute the Bond program.
- Escalation Reserve for unforeseen price inflation costs.
- Program Reserve for unanticipated scope costs or for unanticipated opportunities to enhance project scope or schedules.

For any of the Bond Projects described above with respect to construction at an existing District site, the District is authorized to identify an alternate site and/or acquire land for such purpose and construct the approved Project at such site if the District has determined that the existing site does not satisfy the requirements of the Division of State Architect or other State laws, codes, and regulations, including, but not limited to hazardous substances, applicable to school district properties.

The final cost of each Project will be determined as plans are finalized 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. The allocation of Bond proceeds may also be affected by the final costs of each Project.

Necessary site preparation/grading/restoration may occur in connection with new construction, reconstruction, modernization, renovation, rehabilitation or replacement, furnishing and equipping, including ingress and egress, removing, replacing or installing irrigation, utility lines, trees and landscaping, relocating fire access roads, and acquiring any necessary easements, leases, licenses, or rights of way to the property and are authorized Project costs.

Additional Specifications

Listed projects, repairs, improvements, rehabilitation projects, and upgrades will be completed only as feasible, and the list of Projects does not imply a particular prioritization among such improvements. Such prioritization remains within the province of the Board of Education by subsequent action. The Projects may be completed at any and all school sites where such Project is determined necessary. Where economically feasible, buildings, fixtures, and equipment may be replaced rather than modernized, renovated, or repaired. Each Project is assumed to include its share of costs of the election and bond issuance, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, construction management, bond project staff, staff training expenses associated with new bond-funded equipment and systems, and a customary contingency for unforeseen design and construction costs. In addition to the Projects listed above, the Bond Project List also includes the acquisition of land, instructional, maintenance and operational furniture and equipment, payment of the costs of preparation of all facilities planning and project implementation studies, feasibility and assessment reviews, master planning, environmental studies, temporary housing for dislocated programs or activities caused or necessitated by construction projects, and construction, repairs, and improvements in the event of unforeseen emergencies or other circumstances in order to permit the continuance of existing educational services or to avoid danger to life or property.

Single Purpose. All of the purposes enumerated in this proposition shall be united and voted upon as one single proposition, pursuant to Section 15100 of the Education Code, and all the enumerated purposes shall constitute the specific single purpose of the Bonds and proceeds of the Bonds shall be spent only for such purpose.

Other Terms of the Bonds. When sold, the Bonds shall bear interest at an annual rate not exceeding the statutory maximum. The Bonds may be issued and sold in several series, and in accordance with a plan of finance determined by the Board pursuant to requirements of law.

Project Requiring State Matching Funds. Approval of Measure __ does not guarantee that the proposed District Projects that are the subject of Bonds under Measure __ will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by Measure __. Some of the District's Projects may assume the receipt of state matching funds, which could be subject to appropriation by the Legislature or approval of a statewide bond measure.

EXHIBIT A-1
BALLOT MEASURE
ABBREVIATED FORM*

To update and reconstruct local schools to expand science, technology, engineering, arts and math programs; provide equitable access to modernized classrooms/facilities; improve school safety and energy efficiency; construct and equip classrooms/facilities; shall Sierra Sands Unified School District issue \$52,800,000 in bonds, at legal rates, raising an annual average of \$2,800,000, at approximately \$60 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation while bonds are outstanding, with independent oversight, audits, no money for administrators' salaries/pensions, and all funds remaining local?

Bonds—Yes

Bonds—No

**As required pursuant to Education Code Section 5322 and Elections Code Section 13247.*

EXHIBIT B

TAX RATE STATEMENT SIERRA SANDS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

An election will be held in the Sierra Sands Unified School District (the “District”) on June 7, 2022, to authorize the sale of up to \$52,800,000 in bonds (the “Bonds”) of the District to update and reconstruct local schools to expand science, technology, engineering, arts and math programs; provide equitable access to modernized classrooms and facilities; improve school safety and energy efficiency; and construct and equip classrooms and facilities, with citizen oversight and all money staying local.

If the Bonds are authorized and sold, debt service thereon will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the Elections Code of the State of California. It is anticipated that the District will sell the Bonds in 3 separate series.

1. The best estimate of the average annual tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this Bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 5.99¢ per \$100 (\$59.90 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation. The final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2055-56.

2. The best estimate of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund this Bond issue, based on assessed valuations available at the time of filing of this statement, is 5.996¢ per \$100 (\$59.96 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation which would first occur in fiscal year 2027-28.

3. The best estimate of total debt service, including principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the Bonds are issued and sold is \$96,315,350. This estimate results in a debt service to principal ratio of 1.82:1, which is significantly less than the maximum ratio of 4.00:1 allowed by State law. This estimate is based on assumptions that interest rates will increase over time, and the Bonds will have a maximum term of 30 years per series.

Voters should note that the estimated tax rates are based on the ASSESSED VALUE of taxable property on the County’s official tax rolls, not on the property’s market value. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property’s assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District’s projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The actual tax rates, the years in which they will apply, and the final term of each series of Bonds may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of Bond sales, the amount of Bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the Bonds.

The dates of sale and the amount of Bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on the need for construction funds and other factors, including the legal limitations on bonds approved by a 55% vote. The actual interest rates at which the Bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: March 7, 2022



Dr. Dave Ostash,
Superintendent
Sierra Sands Unified School District

CERTIFICATION

I, Dr. Dave Ostash, Secretary of the Board of Education of the Sierra Sands Unified School District, Kern and San Bernardino Counties, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly approved and adopted by the Board of Education of the District at a meeting held on March 7, 2022, of which meeting all the members of the Board of Education had due notice and at which a majority thereof were present, and that at the meeting the resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Houck, Johnson, Rockwell, Scott

NOES: 0


ABSENT: Farris

ABSTAIN: 0

An agenda for the meeting was provided in advance of the meeting, as required by law, to all members of the Board of Education and to all media outlets that have requested notification. Further the agenda was posted in advance of the meeting, as required by law, at the District at 113 W. Felspar Avenue, Ridgecrest, California 93555, a location freely accessible to members of the public, and a brief description of the resolution appeared on the agenda.

I have carefully compared the foregoing resolution with the original minutes of the meeting on file and of record in my office, and the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of the original resolution adopted at the meeting and entered in the minutes.

Dated: March 7, 2022



Dr. Dave Ostash
Secretary of the Board of Education
Sierra Sands Unified School District