



## **Pendergast District Community Passes Bond Election**

*District will use funds to benefit students and classrooms*

November 4, 2021 - (Phoenix, Arizona) – The Pendergast Elementary School District community passed the Bond Election on November 2, 2021 with 55 percent YES votes. This was a Bond Election for \$53.5 million that will not increase taxpayers' tax rate. The District will utilize the Bond dollars in the following manner:

- Renovate many of the district buildings which are aging and must be upgraded for health and safety standards to be met.
- New essential construction projects including classroom additions and renovations to accommodate potential growth in student enrollment.
- Continue to provide improvements to the learning environment for students, staff, and families at every school site.
- Address three primary areas to help the district create a user-friendly technology system that provides:
  - Maintaining the 1 to 1 computer initiative for students in Kindergarten - 8th grade
  - Increasing wireless capabilities throughout the district
  - Improvements, replacements and upgrades in the district's technology infrastructure, including security, network capability, wireless applications, school and student computer access
- Safety upgrades, maintenance, replacements, and refurbishing of schools and district facilities such as:
  - Replacement of aging playground structures
  - Energy efficient interior and exterior lighting
  - Upgrading of fire alarms and security system cameras
  - Replacement of roofs
  - Replace worn tile and carpets
  - Improving school grounds
  - Renovations and improvements of district facilities
  - Replacement of outdated furniture and equipment
- Replacement of aging buses and the vehicle fleet.

Dr. Jennifer Cruz, Pendergast Elementary School District Superintendent, said: "The passage of the Bond Election will allow the District to continue improving the learning environments in order to continue providing an exceptional education for our students. We are grateful to our voters for their continuous support and confidence. They understand our District's needs and most importantly, they recognize the

vital work we are doing to maintain their property values with high quality schools and programs. We deeply appreciate our Pendergast community.”

Governing Board President Jete White echoes Dr. Cruz’s sentiments and shares, “The passage of the Bond Election will allow the Governing Board and the District to continue having a positive impact in our communities. There is no denying that the significant cuts to educational funding in the past years have made it challenging for districts such as Pendergast to come up with new initiatives to enhance the learning experience for students. The voter approved funds will allow us to continue empowering excellence and success and provide a high quality education for all of our students.”

Joanne Fimbres, Chief Financial Officer for Pendergast Elementary School District states, “It is our job to be responsible stewards of taxpayer’s funds, and be fully accountable to spend the funds as they are intended. The District has always shown responsible stewardship of Bond funds and remains fully accountable on how these voter approved funds are spent. We will continue to update the community on the positive impact of the Bond Election. We invite everyone to connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, our District website, as well as to attend our numerous school and community events to see firsthand how outstanding the Pendergast District is.”

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