Pollock Pines School District - Measure K
Frequently Asked Questions Handout

Although it appears our schools are in good shape based on achievements by our students, our classrooms need significant repairs. Faced with aging classrooms and the need to bring school facilities up to current standards, the Board of Trustees of the Pollock Pines School District has voted to place Measure K, a general obligation (G.O.) bond measure, on the June 5, 2012, ballot to modernize and renovate our aging schools.

The following information is provided to assist voters in understanding the facts behind the possible bond measure and how its passage will affect the District and our community.

**What is Measure K?**
Measure K is a $9.0 million local school improvement measure. Measure K is intended to address the needs of the student population through modernization projects. In addition, the measure will make major facility improvements like upgrading classrooms, restrooms, and multipurpose rooms; improving energy efficiency; making health and safety improvements; improving technology; and replacing or modernizing portable classrooms.

**What is a general obligation (G.O.) bond?**
G.O. bonds fund projects such as the renovation of existing classrooms and school facilities, as well as the construction of new schools and classrooms. Similar to a home loan, G.O. bonds are typically repaid over 25 to 30 years. The loan repayment comes from a tax on all taxable property - residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial - located within the District’s boundaries.

**Why did the District place Measure K on the ballot?**
The District operates Pinewood Elementary (built 1958), which serves grades K-4, and Sierra Ridge Middle (built 1988), which serves grades 5-8. Our schools are outdated, and major upgrades and renovations need to be made. While facilities have been well-maintained, our schools are over 50 years old and do not meet 21st century education and technology standards. Measure K would allow the District to improve the quality of the school facilities and education provided to local children.

**Have neighboring school districts placed school improvement measures on a ballot?**
Yes, two-thirds of the districts in the County have brought a school improvement measure before voters in their community. Of the ten districts that have done so, eight had a successful bond measure to improve their local schools: Lake Tahoe Unified SD, Gold Oak Union SD, El Dorado Union High SD, Buckeye Union SD, Black Oak Mine Unified SD, Placerville Union SD, Gold Trail Union SD, and Rescue Union SD.

**Why can’t the District meet its facilities needs with its current budget?**
Today, the scope of improvements needed in the Pollock Pines School District is far more than the current funding sources available. The per-pupil funding which the District receives from the state is intended to be used for the day-to-day business of educating children and not the cost of upgrading, modernizing, and repairing facilities.
Is state money available for these improvements?
Yes, the District is eligible to receive a total of $2.5 million in state matching modernization funds to improve Pollock Pines schools, if the District can provide matching funds from a local bond, such as Measure K.

How did the District come up with the project list for Measure K?
Over the last several months, with input from staff, teachers, parents, community leaders, and the District architect, the District has prepared a School Facilities Master Plan. The Master Plan identifies the major repairs and upgrades that need to be made.

Examples of the specific types of projects identified include:
- Improving energy efficiency, such as replacing old heating and cooling systems
- Upgrading outdated technology and inadequate electrical systems
- Modernizing aging classrooms, restrooms, and school facilities
- Replacing or modernizing old, temporary-portable classrooms
- Making health, safety, and handicapped accessibility improvements

What will the passage of Measure K mean for our students and the community?
Measure K will provide our children with a better learning environment by making repairs and upgrades to existing classrooms and school facilities; many of which are also available to and used by the community. The District currently supports a variety of community and school based programs. In addition, if Measure K passes, general fund dollars will be freed up so that money can stay in the general fund and be kept in the classrooms.

What will happen if Measure K does not pass?
If Measure K does not pass, our classrooms and school facilities will continue to deteriorate. Funds that would otherwise go to classroom instruction will be needed to make critical safety repairs and improvements at each school. Major repairs will need to be postponed and, as a result, will potentially be more expensive to make. In addition, the District will not be eligible to receive the $2.5 million in state matching funds for school modernization projects.

What will Measure K cost?
The tax rate per property owner is estimated to be $25 per $100,000 of assessed valuation per year or less than $4.00 per month for as long as the bonds are outstanding. (Do not confuse assessed valuation with market value. Assessed valuations are the values placed on property by the County and are almost always lower than market values. Check your property tax statement for your current assessed valuation.)

Is now the right time for the District to ask voters to support a bond measure?
The District conducted a facilities needs assessment that shows the District has significant facility needs. As a result, the School Board authorized a voter opinion survey to assess support for a school improvement measure. Survey results indicate a majority of the voting community believes the District has facility needs and would strongly support Measure K.

How can I be sure Measure K will be spent on improving our local schools?
By law, all Measure K funds have to be spent locally and cannot be taken by the state. Furthermore, an independent citizens’ oversight committee will be established to ensure that funds are properly spent. Also, by law, there must be annual audits, and no money can be used for teacher or administrative salaries.