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CCSD Board of Trustees requests question on November ballot for a capital improvement program

LAS VEGAS – At a special meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2012, the Clark County School District (CCSD) Board of Trustees requested that staff take steps to place a question before voters in November for a capital improvement program to renovate older schools.

The proposal being sought will be for a six-year program, projected to raise \$669 million for school rehabs/modernization, HVAC, electrical, technology and other equipment needs and will serve as a “bridge” until other long-term needs can be addressed. The funding would come from a \$.212 (twenty-one point two cents) increase in property tax per \$100 of valuation that would provide for school needs on a “pay-as-you-go-basis” as funds become available over time, if no further declines occur in local assessed property values.

The meeting discussion also covered identified needs at the schools and another capital improvement option with the same \$.212 increase for two years to cover only the projected gap in funds from the decline in property values.

The board action comes at a time when the district is experiencing the end to school improvement funds provided by the 1998 bond program. The district postponed a ballot initiative in 2008, during the worst part of the economic downturn. The Trustees clarified that the proposal being sought is not a bond campaign and does not address a previous estimate for long-term school improvements, technology and capital equipment needs.

The decision to pursue a capital improvement program follows a presentation and discussion on April 26 on survey findings from a community-based committee indicating support for a capital improvement program. The School Improvement Committee was formed by Sandy Miller, Bonnie Bryan, Dema Guinn and Dawn Gibbons.

“We greatly appreciate our four former first ladies coming forward and forming the political action committee,” said Board President Linda E. Young. “Without this type of support from the community, the district would have a difficult time helping the public under the dire circumstances in our schools.”

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