



For Immediate Release: October 11, 2022  
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## **Oak Harbor Public Schools Board of Directors Places Bond Measure on February 2023 Ballots to Enhance Safety and Address Critical Needs of Schools and Community**

Oak Harbor, WA - During the October 10, 2022, board meeting, the Oak Harbor Public Schools Board of Directors approved a [resolution](#) that would place a \$121 million school bond measure on the February 2023 election. The bond renews the district's commitment to enhancing safety at all OHPS schools, while addressing critical needs of schools and the community.

"The approval of this bond measure would allow us to rebuild schools that are beyond repair because of their poor condition and locations, while allowing us to prepare for the continued growth and needs of our schools and community," said Oak Harbor Public Schools Superintendent Michelle Kuss-Cybula.

Based on the input from the community, the Board of Directors narrowed the scope of projects to focus on the highest areas of needs, while also utilizing existing funds from the state and federal government. If approved by the voters, the bond measure would do the following:

- Enhance safety at all of the Oak Harbor Public School sites
- Rebuild Crescent Harbor Elementary on its current site to address critical infrastructure and facilities needs of the school
- Rebuild Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center and HomeConnection to move the schools out of the military flight path and address critical infrastructure needs of the school
- Build a new school on the OHPS-owned fields next to Fort Nugent Park to address the growth in the area
- Renovate and reutilize the Oak Harbor Elementary school site to address the growing need for early learning and child care in Oak Harbor and critical infrastructure needs of the building

The bond proposal utilizes available funds provided by the Department of Defense to reduce the cost on taxpayers. Due to the poor condition, overcrowding, and the locations of Crescent Harbor Elementary and Hand-in-Hand Early Learning Center/HomeConnection, the Department of Defense is providing 80 percent of the funding to rebuild these schools. The school district must have the funds available to



begin the projects because the Department of Defense funding is reimbursed along the way.

“In an effort to be responsible fiscal stewards of taxpayer dollars, the Oak Harbor Public Schools continues to seek out additional funding sources to address the critical facilities needs of schools in the District, but this is not forever money,” said Superintendent Michelle Kuss-Cybula, “This money is time bound and if the bond is not passed, the funding from the Department of Defense goes away.”

If the bond is approved by voters, the tax rate for taxpayers is expected to be approximately \$1.24 per 1,000 assessed property value, which would be 30 cents less than what taxpayers paid in 2022 for the previous bond measure passed by voters.

More information including projects and frequently asked questions, is located on the Oak Harbor Public Schools website.

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