



PLEASE VOTE!

Ballots are due February 9, 2016

Look inside for details about the projects so you can make an informed choice on your ballot!

Important Facts

ABOUT THE 2016 BOND PROPOSAL

Camas School District will ask residents to vote on a capital projects bond on February 9, 2016. The bond will fund much-needed district building projects to support student population growth, along with improving and caring for current facilities to keep pace with security and technology needs.

The projects outlined inside are a result of the efforts of our Facilities Advisory of Citizens, Teachers, Staff and Students (FACTSS), which met this past

spring and summer to study the district's facilities challenges and make recommendations. The FACTSS committee included over 50 people representing our community. The district took the FACTSS committee's recommendations and presented them to the community at listening posts this fall. Using input gained through this process, the project recommendations have been prioritized, refined and now approved for public vote by the school board.

{ MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT }

Excellence in education... now and in the future.



Dear Patrons,

It's hard to believe the first third of the school year is almost over, the holiday season is already upon us, and we will soon ring in a New Year. Growing up in the Midwest my family had a tradition every New

Year of sitting around our fireplace eating oyster stew, reflecting on the past year, and looking to the future and the possibilities of the New Year. Recently, although without the oyster stew, I spent time reflecting on the history of our great school district, and I couldn't help but think about the important responsibility we have to preserve and honor the great legacy gifted to us by past educators, school boards, parents, patrons, community, and business leaders. Because they all cared deeply about education, we are the beneficiaries of an exceptional school system. Their vision, commitment and hard work shaped what we have today.

In a recent poll, 84% of community members gave the district a grade of A or B—the highest percentage we've ever seen. A major factor for those high marks and the reason our schools and students have been so successful is that our community believes education is a shared responsibility. Education is valued in the Camas community as evidenced by the consistent levy and bond support seen for decades.

Community support is absolutely crucial to quality schools, and, in turn, quality schools are essential for strong communities. That support has provided our students with the staff, facilities, technology and learning opportunities for a world-class education in learning environments that are safe and secure. Word is out about our great schools, and, as a result, our community continues to grow by leaps and bounds. As part of a recent community-wide survey completed to get input for our upcoming bond, we found that over 70% of families that moved to Camas in the last ten years did so because of our schools.

In order to maintain the excellence in education that our community expects, we need to keep pace with the growth in student enrollment. This past March, the Camas School Board commissioned a Facilities Advisory of Citizens, Teachers, Students and Staff (FACTSS). FACTSS, made up of a diverse group including patrons, parents, staff and students, researched and studied the capital project needs of our district. In June, this committee unanimously passed and presented a recommendation for a future bond to the School Board. In addition to gathering insight through the community survey, the School Board held several listening posts open to community members to discuss the bond recommendation and to garner additional input.

We don't know exactly what the world will look like when tomorrow's students enter the workforce. I recently came across a saying *"The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating."* Fortunately, we see the future clearly emerging with challenges and opportunities related to a growing and prosperous community. Our children deserve no less than our best efforts in equipping them with the skills and abilities, tools and facilities to compete and collaborate in a continually changing global economy. In February, you will have the opportunity to vote on an important bond measure that will have an impact on the future of our students, schools and our community. This publication should answer in detail the questions you might have about the measure. I urge you to read the materials, visit our schools, and visit our website or call to ask us any additional questions you might have.

Camas is a unique community and very special school district. I am honored to serve as your Superintendent and take great pride in what the Camas School District represents. On February 9, 2016, please take time to consider the bond proposal and exercise your right to vote.

Sincerely,
Mike Nerland



Earning High Marks from Our Community

In a recent poll, 84% of community members gave the Camas School District a grade of A or B—the highest percentage ever seen.

Bond Project Overview

Projects Recommended by the FACTSS Committee:

- Build a new, standalone, 600 student capacity high school next to the CHS campus.
- Improve traffic around CHS by creating new entry points and traffic flow patterns for drivers, and increase parking capacity on campus.
- Replace the 50 plus years old Lacamas Heights Elementary with a larger new school north of Lacamas Lake near new housing developments.
- Purchase property for future schools.
- Improve student safety and security by remodeling the entry/office areas of Prune Hill Elementary, Dorothy Fox Elementary, Skyridge Middle School, Liberty Middle School, and Hayes Freedom High School.
- Improve student safety and security across the district by upgrading fencing, lighting, and security technology.
- Make repairs to major building systems such as roofing, flooring, HVAC, lighting, ADA access and mechanical systems in schools throughout the district.
- Renovate Garfield Building to house community education programs and preschool programs.
- Restore historic Garver Theater within the Garver Building for community use and school performances.

ESTIMATE PROJECT COSTS (in millions)	
SERVING A GROWING POPULATION	102.7
Build two new schools, (a small secondary on CHS campus, an elementary north of Lacamas Lake); buy property for future school sites	
IMPROVING STUDENT SAFETY	1.8
Standardize school entry controls and electronic access; expand video surveillance, lighting, fencing	
TAKING CARE OF EXISTING FACILITIES	8.3
Repairs to major building systems in schools throughout district, air quality upgrades	
ENHANCING STUDENT & COMMUNITY RECREATION*	16.2
Renovate Garfield building/Garver theater and upgrade sports fields at CHS, including turf and lighting	
Subtotal	\$129.0*
Less State Match	(8.0)
Less Impact Fees/Earnings	(2.0)
Bond Costs	0.7
TOTAL DISTRICT BOND COST	\$119.7

*While the recommended bond proposal actually totals \$129 million, the district stands to gain approximately \$8 million in state matching funds plus \$2 million in impact fees. As a result, the district is able to capitalize on and grow local bond funding. Local support is significant in capturing these additional dollars for school facilities.

A Phased Approach to Growth

This bond is a component of the district's long-range plan which aims to protect and maintain our taxpayers' current investment in school buildings, keep costs manageable for future Camas generations, and stimulate local economy.

PHASE 1 | 1994-1999

Skyridge Middle School

PHASE 2 | 1999-2007

Prune Hill Elementary, Liberty Middle School, Camas HS

PHASE 3 | 2007-2016

Grass Valley Elementary, Helen Baller Elementary, Woodburn Elementary, Hayes-Freedom High School, Doc Harris Stadium expansion

PHASE 4 | 2016-2021

New Lacamas Heights Elementary, new Project-Based Learning High School, Garfield Building renovation

PHASE 5 | 2021-?

Possible second comprehensive high school, third middle school



A Well-Earned Reputation for Quality Schools

76% of residents who moved to the Camas School District during the past 10 years said the quality of schools influenced their decision.

Bond Q&A

Didn't we vote for school funding recently?

The last funding measures for Camas School District were our Maintenance and Operations and Technology levies passed in 2013. The last bond for school construction was passed in 2007.

What is the difference between a bond and a levy?

Levies are used for day-to-day school expenditures not covered by the state, but they cannot be used for facilities or capital investment. Bonds are for buildings and other capital investments like land or equipment.

Why run a bond now?

The community of Camas is growing rapidly, and our schools need to keep pace with that growth. In the last 10 years, we have seen our student population increase by one third, and that trend is projected to continue. We need to insure school quality by reducing overcrowding.

If passed, when will these projects be completed?

Improvements to the high school parking situation have already begun with the first new lot to be completed in Fall 2016. Lacamas Heights Elementary and the new secondary school will undergo construction simultaneously with groundbreaking projected for Spring 2017 and anticipated completion the fall of 2018.

Where can I learn more about this bond?

For more information visit www.camas.wednet.edu/2016bond, talk to your school's principal or call the superintendent's office at 360.833.5512.

Projected Bond Cost*

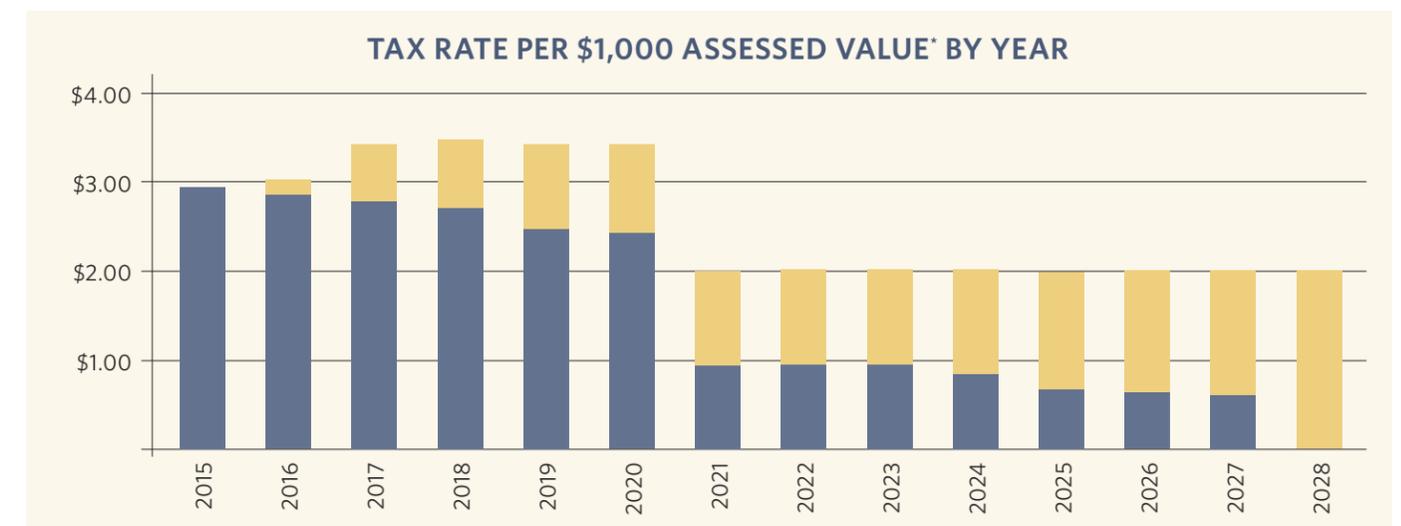
Bond Tax Rate Comparison

The projected increase in the bond rate is \$0.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value over the current bond taxes. If approved in 2016, homeowners will begin paying for the bond in 2017.

Assessed Home Value	2015 Bond Rate per \$1,000	2015 Bond Taxes	Projected 2017 Rate per \$1,000*	Projected 2017 Bond Taxes	Total Increase
\$300,000	\$2.95	\$885	\$3.43	\$1,029	\$144 (\$12/mo.)
\$500,000	\$2.95	\$1,475	\$3.43	\$1,715	\$240 (\$20/mo.)
\$700,000	\$2.95	\$2,065	\$3.43	\$2,401	\$336 (\$28/mo.)

Current and Projected Bond Rates

The Camas School Board strives to keep a fairly level tax rate for community members. Phase V of the bond planning, which could include a second comprehensive high school (see sidebar), would likely occur sometime near 2021 when existing bonds are repaid.



*Tax rates are estimates.



Super-Fly

Garver Theater has a full-size fly space, which means the tower height is roughly 2.5 times the height of the proscenium. This allows a full-height curtain or set piece to be located completely out of view of the audience without exceeding the travel distance of standard (single-purchase) counterweight arbors.

Questions explored by the FACTSS Committee

How will the Garfield Building be used?

It will be a versatile, mixed-use building for the community. Use would include:

- All district preschool programs
- Community Education classes for ages 3 to adult
- After-school programs
- Programs for seniors
- Rental to outside organizations
- School and community performances

Why renovate Garver Theater when it would cost about the same to build a new theater?

The Joyce Garver Theater is a treasured landmark in our community, and was home to the first Camas High School (see sidebar). However, what some may not know is its acoustics are very high quality. Its use as a home for underserved fine arts programs will pay tribute to its namesake and strengthen community bonds.

How will the old Lacamas Heights Elementary building be used?

The old elementary will be reconfigured and modernized for additional education opportunities, which could include robotics, science programs, and other extra-curricular activities. The gym space will be maintained and available for school and community use.

What are the plans for accommodating middle school growth?

Middle school growth is projected to be significantly slower than high school and elementary growth over the next five years. However, we are in the early stages of addressing current overcrowding through learning opportunities in other locations.

Will these projects eliminate the need for portable buildings?

The use of portable classrooms for instructional space will be reduced on the CHS campus, but as we continue

to grow, portables could continue to be used to relieve overcrowding throughout the district.

Why are we spending money on turf and lighting for CHS?

The new secondary school will be located on the site of two CHS sports fields. The new turf will be installed in the baseball/softball fields and some surrounding area. This installation will replace the fields previously located at the new high school site. The addition of lights allows the fields to be used later in the day and several more months out of the year, which means the fields will be used more widely by schools and community.

Why not build a second, traditional, comprehensive high school? Is it because we don't want separate sports teams?

The district currently doesn't have enough student enrollment to support two comprehensive high schools that would offer the depth and variety of educational



Historic photo courtesy of Bob Howe

A Starring Role in Camas History

The original Garfield building was built in 1913 and was home to both Camas Senior and Junior High until the mid-1950's. The theater was named in honor of Joyce Garver, a beloved art and drama teacher who spent most her life teaching fine arts to Camas students.

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Red Light, Green Light

Anyone who travels to or near Camas High School on a school day can tell you that we have a traffic and parking problem. The bond funds would improve traffic around CHS by creating new entry points and traffic flow patterns for drivers, and increase parking capacity on campus.

Questions explored by the FACTSS Committee (continued)

and extra-curricular opportunities our students now enjoy. Additionally, a comprehensive high school would require at least 50 acres of land, which the district hasn't yet had the opportunity to purchase; however, property acquisition is a component of this bond. Also, if we built another high school, it would require all of this bonding capacity, which would make us unable to fund any other important needs throughout the district. Athletics played no role in the FACTSS Committee's recommendation to build the smaller high school.

With the possible addition of a new high school, what are the current high school options for students?

Currently, students can select Hayes Freedom High School, a smaller learning community with a "block" schedule that allows for more time with fewer classes per grading period, or Camas High School, a comprehensive, traditional, model with a wide variety of courses and smaller programs within it. The smaller programs include the MST Magnet, with a focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) and a research-based internship; Integrated Arts Academy, which has an integration of selected classes using

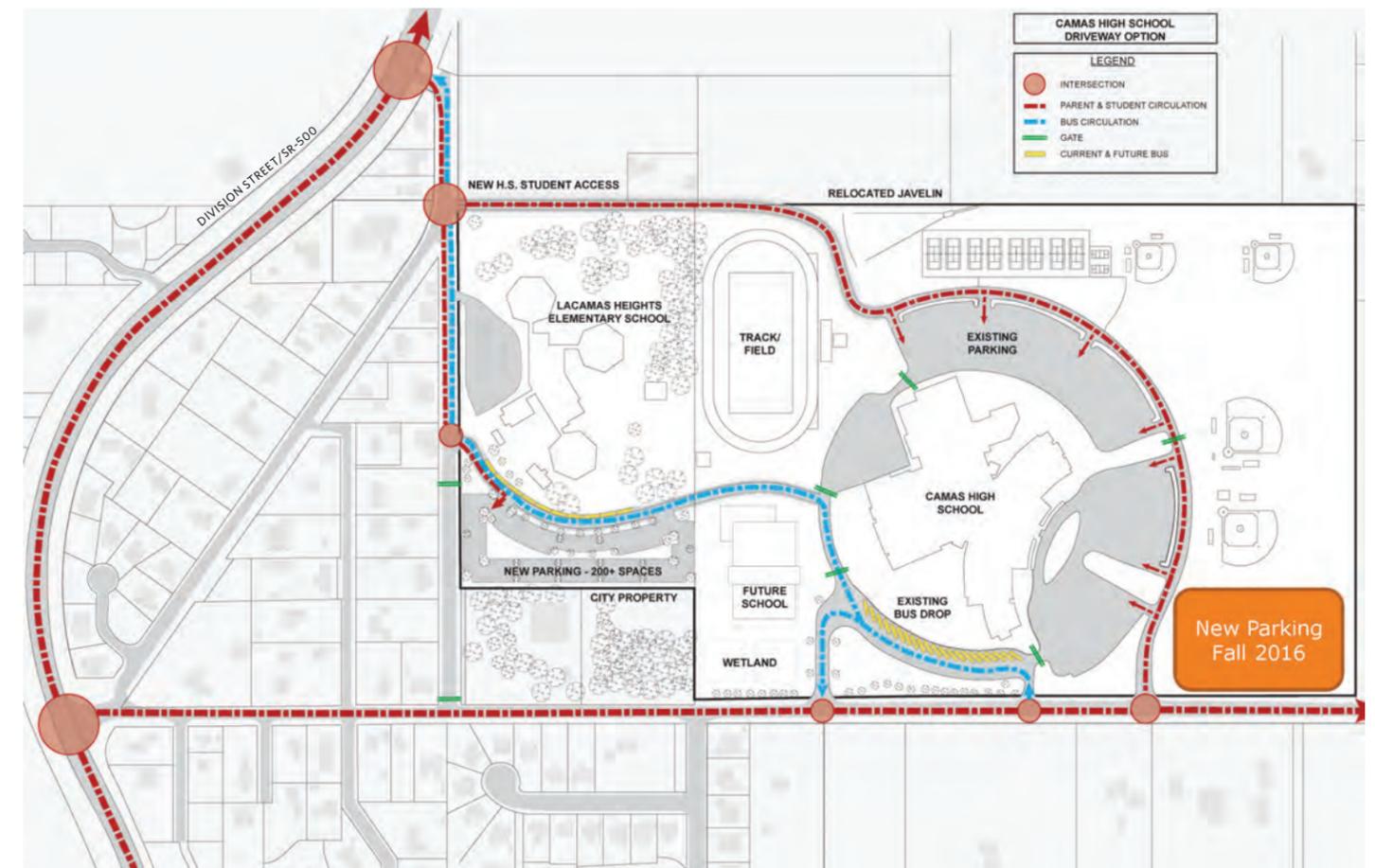
visual and performing arts as a common theme; and Cam Tech, a program of study within Camas High School focused on career and technical education. This new high school, focused on project-based learning, would provide yet another option for students.

What is the plan to address traffic and parking issues at CHS?

We are currently working with the City of Camas to develop the best traffic flow pattern for the high school. In addition, we have just completed a parking study and will be constructing two new lots; one will be completed next fall and will include an estimated 191 new student parking spaces, the other will be completed when the new school is constructed.

If traffic is a problem at the high school, why build another school on that campus?

The new secondary school would take students from the overcrowded CHS—students who are already on that campus. In addition, relocating Lacamas Heights Elementary will alleviate traffic near the campus.



Plans for traffic flow changes and new parking at Camas High School.



“We are excited to add another choice to the menu of options available for our high school students and ensure that each student has the opportunity to thrive wherever their dreams take them, in their career, college, citizenship, and beyond.”

{ MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT JEFF SNELL }

A New High School, A New Way to Learn: Project-Based Learning



The world we are preparing students for is changing. After graduation, students will be asked to collaborate, create, design and problem-solve more than ever before. And because the world is changing, the learning experience of students must evolve as well. In Camas School District, we’re tackling changes head on—and leading our students into the future.

Addressing Growth While Enhancing Opportunity

No one can deny that we must address the growing population at Camas High School. In considering how to do this, the facilities committee discovered there was an opportunity to do more than just provide additional space: we found that creating a new secondary school gives us a chance to build on the success of our current models by developing another option for the students of Camas. Through in-depth research, intense analysis of data and statistics, numerous brainstorming sessions, consultation with nationally recognized education leaders, and conference with pioneering, high-achieving schools in our region, the facilities committee and district team believe a solution is in sight.

In proposing that a new, 600-student secondary school be built on the existing CHS campus, both high schools will receive more parking spaces, see traffic improvements, and provide greater safety measures due to work currently being carried out in cooperation with the City of Camas. The new school will have its own name, principal, and staff, and will serve not only to reduce crowding at CHS, but to provide more educational options for our Camas students, as well.

Merits of Project-Based Learning

The new school will be centered on a powerful teaching and learning concept called “project-based learning.” Through project-based learning, students will acquire knowledge and skills by collaborating on complex questions, problems, and challenges, rather than largely

independent work. Projects generally take place over an extended period of time, like a quarter or semester, rather than wrapping up in a single class period or two. Additionally, projects integrate multiple subject areas and address real-world problems. Instead of learning biology for one period and then moving on to math, students who are learning about colonization and migration patterns, for instance, might construct a model of a ship (art, math), compose a journal from the perspective of the fictional persons aboard the ship (literacy), and conduct experiments to determine the point at which seawater becomes drinkable (science). In this way, students are engaged, inspired, and invested in learning—together.

We envision that many of the projects undertaken will propel students to explore real-world problems such as improving water quality at Lacamas Lake or tackling traffic patterns in our growing community, ending in actual recommendations being proposed to a live city council or relevant organization. Beyond the projects, students will also have the opportunity to connect with our community through mentorships, partnerships, and internships, further enriching their learning experience. While students will experience more in-depth, hands-on learning, they will also experience traditional classroom instruction like taking notes, writing reports, and working math problems. Additionally, instructors will have the flexibility to adjust the daily schedule to ensure that the deep inquiry of project-based learning can take place.

Continuing a Legacy of Excellence

Make no mistake, students of this new secondary school will be held to the same high academic standards, participate in the same assessments, fulfill the same

national and state requirements, and graduate with a “real” diploma—just like all of our high school students, wherever they are enrolled.

In the Camas School District, we are extremely fortunate to support our students with diverse academic and extra-curricular offerings led by world-class educators who are committed to preparing their students for the world, equipped, energized, and excited to take part. In turn, we are excited to add another choice to the menu of options available for our high school students and ensure that each student has the opportunity to thrive wherever their dreams take them, in their career, college, citizenship, and beyond.

With your support, this new secondary school will be open to any Camas students based solely on their interest in attending. If interest exceeds capacity, a fair system of enrollment will be developed. What’s more, because a great deal of the school’s focus and framework would be developed by its staff members, a team would begin planning and making the school come to life during the time of construction, with a target opening in September 2018. We truly believe the possibilities are endless.

If you’re interested in learning more about the proposed secondary school, please explore the project-based learning resources below or contact the district for more information.

Learn more online:

The Buck Institute: <http://bie.org>

High Tech High: <https://vimeo.com/10000408>

Examples of Projects: <http://videos.hightechhigh.org>



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Important Bond Facts



**ELECTION DAY IS
FEBRUARY 9, 2016!**

Look inside for details about the projects so you can make an informed choice on your ballot!

NOTE: Some senior and disabled homeowners may be eligible for an exemption, based on income. Please call the Clark County Elections Department at (360) 397-2345 for details.

The Camas School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its hiring, programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. If you have concerns, questions, or complaints about alleged discrimination, you can contact Rita Pakenen, HR Director, Title IX Officer at 841 NE 22nd Ave, Camas, WA 98607 or by phone at 360-335-3000.