

General Obligation Bond Summary Points

(9/11/2012)

Overview

- The School Board and Florida Department of Education have approved a long term plan to modernize and provide educational technology upgrades to publically owned district buildings.
- On November 6, 2012, voters in Miami-Dade County will have the opportunity to decide whether to fund the projects through a \$1.2 billion General Obligation (GO) Bond.
- The state is not able to provide adequate school long-term capital funding for the current and future generations of Miami-Dade students. GO Bonds are the most common funding source for long-term capital needs and approval of such bonds is a local decision.

Facilities Needs

- Nearly one-half of the District's school buildings are over 40 years old, and more than one-third are at least 50 years old.
- This is a national problem that in Miami-Dade is more severe, due to state funding cut-backs and the more recent attention on complying with the Class Size Constitutional mandate and critical overcrowded conditions at our schools. Over the last 10 years 105,000 student stations have been created by building new schools
- Numerous studies have concluded that students in substandard school buildings, without technological capabilities, perform at lower levels than students in newer functional buildings.
- Enhancing the safety and security of school buildings is the number one priority and guiding principle of the new 2012 Bond Referendum. The lack of technology equity throughout the school system is another high priority for the Bond Referendum and will be addressed from the first year of implementation.
- The district will design and create more sustainable buildings with reduced long-term operating costs, adhering to LEED for Schools design standards.
- Students in modern facilities using the state of the art educational technology will be better prepared for the 21st Century Global Economy.

Oversight

- Being sensitive to the burdens of local taxpayers the School Board has reduced the taxes that the School Board controls; the total taxes have been reduced by \$195 million, since 2008.
- To provide transparency a citizen's advisory and oversight committee will be established. The committee will ensure the timely and equitable distribution of projects and jobs to the community.

Effect on homeowners and the Local Economy

- First year (2013) estimated impact to homeowners with a taxable value (less applicable exemptions) of \$100,000 will pay approximately \$5 annually or \$0.45 monthly; see Estimated Tax Calculator on web site to determine individual estimated impact.
- As the 1988 Bonds are paid off, the new bonds to be authorized on November 6, 2012 will replace them.
- Washington Economics Group, Inc., in a recent economic study, has concluded that:
 - The modernization of school facilities and improvement to technology capabilities yield a greater Return on Investment to taxpayers than the cost of servicing the debt.
 - Over 9,000 jobs will be created in the first 3 years and over 18,000 sustainable jobs during the GO Bond course of construction.
 - There will be recurring benefits from increased student performance that will result in a projected increase in the number of students who will attain higher education levels, which will lead to higher average earnings by Miami-Dade County Public Schools alumni.
 - Postponing the GOB will carry significant added costs to the taxpayers since construction costs are off their peak and interest rates are at historical lows.
- All communities in Miami-Dade will benefit as the GO Bonds will provide funding upfront from investors outside of Miami-Dade in the financial markets and 100% of that money will be reinvested in the local economy.

For more information please visit the website:

<http://bondsfor.schools.dadeschools.net>

