

The Chimacum School District Board of Directors has approved a Capital Projects Levy that will be coming before the voters this February. This Capital Projects Levy will be used to make needed repairs and improvements to various systems in the district. The district has made a concerted effort to maintain these systems until the existing bonds are retired that built Chimacum Creek Primary and additions to the high school. By doing this there will be zero or less tax burden on our community.

Using a site and survey conducted by outside engineers, architects, and efficiency experts the district has identified system upgrades within the long range plan that desperately need improvements. Many of the areas to be upgraded are becoming nearly impossible to maintain. Roofs, heaters, electrical, siding, phone system, technology and lighting are the major systems that need upgrades. There are heaters, for example, that have long outlasted their expected life. The parts used to make repairs to these heaters have become nearly impossible to find. They are also very inefficient. Some of the roofs in the district have been repaired to the point that they need to be replaced. Our electrical and phone system have outlasted their life expectancy and the parts difficult to find. Most of the teaching staff does not have voice mail and there is not the capacity to receive outside calls into the classrooms. Our lighting systems are very inefficient and replacing them would have long term savings. We have outgrown our electrical capacity and getting enough outlets in rooms becomes impossible as our technology needs for student use continues to grow. State online testing requirements will increase the demand for computers and the infrastructure to support their use.

We will also be making improvements to our auditorium with appropriate lights and heating system. This facility is a valuable community resource that we want to maintain. We will also be improving the gymnasiums with improved lighting, flooring and an upgrade of the bleachers.

The time is right to make this investment in our facilities. Waiting until now when our bonds will be coming off will not create any additional burden on our community. We have a plan. Our plan will continue our efforts to be good stewards of our school facilities. Taking care of our facilities will allow us to maintain our educational programs. Without this Capital projects levy we would be left with existing resources designated for student programs.

We value the traditional support we have received. This Capital levy is a significant part of growing our capacity to be an excellent school system the entire community can be proud of.