

Superintendent Rick Schmitt's Monthly Update

March 2015

Superintendent Schmitt plans to update the greater San Dieguito Union High School District community through our local media with a monthly update. Topics covered will include curriculum, facilities, budget, enrollment, safety, and other specific and special interest topics. Today's update focuses on Prop AA building projects.

Prop AA Building Projects

When the San Dieguito Union High School District placed Proposition AA on the ballot, we made many promises to the community. We promised that the improvements to our schools would prepare students for 21st Century colleges and careers. We also promised that we would use the bond funds in a responsible, cost-efficient way.

I am proud to say we are keeping those promises.

We are nearing completion of a new science building at Torrey Pines HS (TPHS), we will be starting a new math & science building at San Dieguito High School Academy (SDHSA) this summer, media center upgrades are coming to Oak Crest MS, and we will continue to expand our network and wireless bandwidth throughout the district. Pacific Trails MS will open this fall in Pacific Highlands Ranch to meet the growing population. One elementary school just opened nearby, with another planned.

Over the next two years, we plan to rebuild Earl Warren MS (our oldest middle school) and renovate the 40 year-old academic classrooms at TPHS with modern, energy-efficient infrastructure. We will also begin design and construction of the final classroom building at Canyon Crest Academy to expand its enrollment capacity due to a rapidly increasing student population in the southern portion of our district. A new two-story English, social sciences and arts building at SDHSA is also in the works.

All of the projects we have completed so far have been on-time and at or below budget. A tribute to the efficient work of our staff and the competitive processes we have in place to drive down costs, award contracts, and hold contractors responsible.

I would also like to thank the members of the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee who hold us equally accountable to our community.

We are working on issuing our next series of bonds to fund all of the work mentioned above. We will not be issuing capital appreciation bonds that other districts have used that drive up interest costs. The current market conditions are favorable and we expect to keep the

payback ratio below 2:1 as we did with our first series of bonds issued in 2013. Our commitment to honor the estimated tax rate promised to voters is solemn.

Our Board of Trustees will consider the issuance of our next series of bonds at its meeting on March 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Carmel Valley Middle School in the Media Center, located at 3800 Mykonos Lane, San Diego, CA 92130. Once we have completed the bond sale, I will report back to you on the results.

SPECIAL HS Enrollment Important Announcement

On Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at exactly 3:30 pm, the SDUHSD will tweet ([Twitter](#)) information regarding the **2015-16 High School Selection** requests. A follow up [Facebook](#) post will follow exactly at 3:45 pm. Later in the week, specific details will be sent via email to each family.

You can follow Superintendent Schmitt on [Facebook](#), (<https://www.facebook.com/sduhsd>), and [Twitter](#), (https://twitter.com/SDUHSD_Supt).