SANTIAM CANYON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Turning A History of NO Into YES
The Santiam Story

- Santiam Canyon S.D. is a rural district located east of Salem, spanning a large geographical area spanning from Mill City to Marion Forks.
- We have approximately 600 students K-12
  - Santiam Elementary School (K-6)
  - Santiam Junior/Senior High School (7-12)
- Timber communities along Hwy. 22 with declining student population since the mid-90s, but in recent years trending back up.
- In 2008, SCSD went out for their first school bond ever, ultimately failing by a large margin.
- The district had a span of time that included leadership turnover, declining enrollment, loss of resources/programs, lacking maintenance and trust issues.
- We had a lot to overcome and prepare for prior to going out for a bond…
- In 2019, the District passed our first school bond EVER.
From NO to YES
Three Keys to Success

- The community must Trust your Vision (for facilities AND in the classrooms)

- Communicate the Need and be Transparent with all data and options

- Put forth a Plan that meets the needs of the Students and fits your Community
Build Trust

- Show the community:
  - That you are making gains in programs and student success
  - That you take care of the facilities you do have and that you can keep them maintained
  - That you are being financially responsible
  - That you have done your research and are putting the best plan in front of them

- Timing is everything!
  - Just because you want it doesn’t mean you are ready
  - Build the team of support (and let them advocate with you)
    - Staff
    - Parents
    - Students
    - Business
    - Retirees
    - PAC
Communicate Needs and Options

- **Needs:**
  - Tell the story of how you got into this spot
    - Example: Santiam Canyon and loss of local timber funding, enrollment changes -/+  
  - Show how the current facilities are not meeting the needs of the students
    - Example: Outdated educationally, unsafe, hazardous materials, overcrowded
  - Show the problems, BUT also show the excitement of what a new campus can offer
    - Example: Tell them what will improve and what programs could be added/increased

- **Options:**
  - Present all the options considered- Be transparent

- **Communication Plan:**
  - KNOW YOUR FACTS!
  - Work closely with your PAC
  - Go to your voters- they won’t come to you (social media, print, newspaper and meetings)
Function and Affordability

- LRFP Dream Plan started at $81 million
- Traditional Construction estimates ranged from $31-34 million
- “Fixing” our existing campus and adding some classrooms would cost $12 million
- Our community ultimately supported a new concept utilizing factory-built components
- We ended up passing a $17.9 million bond plus another $5 million in OSCIM grant and bond premium = $22.9 million

Construction to include:
- 3 new classroom buildings for the junior/senior high school (Factory-built buildings)
- Auxiliary gymnasium (Mass Plywood Panel construction)
- Elementary cafeteria (standard construction)

Factory-built saves by efficiencies and labor costs and is relatively quick to build
- A one year delay in construction could cost us $1,000,000 more
- Long-term maintenance on these buildings are not complex and can be done by local contractors
Factory Built buildings
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Auxiliary Gymnasium- Mass Plywood Panels (MPP)
Feel free to contact me for more information or questions:

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