

Strategies for a Successful School Bond Measure

OSBA Bonds, Ballots and
Buildings

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Presenter:

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District 5J, Superintendent

OUR SUCCESS STORY

- Baker School District passed a \$4 million school bond in May 2021 after being awarded a \$4 million Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) grant contingent on the passing of the general obligation bond.
- A school bond had not passed in Baker School District since 1948 (73 years!).

CHALLENGES

- Trust
 - We made moves toward on-going, increased transparency, communication, and community involvement.
 - We established a solid Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee.
- Scope
 - We listened to our community, scaled back the bond ask, and ran an under-stated campaign, without a PAC.

PROCESS

- 2015-16: Internal Facilities Master Planning Committee completed evaluation.
- 2017-18: Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee comprised of 18 community members and 6 staff members developed a 10-year District facilities plan for school board approval.
- 2018: \$48 million bond request was defeated.
- 2019: Community group recommended a \$7.5 million bond request focused on Safety and Security upgrades and investments to solve capacity issues. Ultimately removed from the 2020 ballot by the school board due to pandemic.
- 2021: New proposal included \$4 million OSCIM Funds, \$2 million District capital project funds, \$2 million SIA Funds, and \$4 million through a bond. The bond measure passed.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Have a solid process involving important stakeholders
- Adjust based on community feedback
- Work overtime on transparency and communication

QUESTIONS

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