

Strong Schools for a Strong Community Fact Sheet **Palo Alto Unified School District**

Honorary Co-Chairs: Former Palo Alto Mayor Gary Fazzino; Barbara Gross of the Chamber of Commerce; Former State Senator Becky Morgan; Green Ribbon Task Force Chair Walt Hays

- The Palo Alto community highly values its schools, and strong public schools support a vibrant and thriving community
- The PAUSD bond measure appearing on the June 3, 2008 ballot will raise \$378 million to expand, upgrade and improve all 17 of the K-12 campuses in the district, extending the useful life of these facilities and accommodating enrollment growth
- Brand new facilities proposed for the bond funds include a new pool and gym at Gunn High School, a new theater at Palo Alto High School and new classrooms at all levels, as well as funds for technology and maintenance
- The new bond will not increase property tax rates but will extend the current school bond assessment on PAUSD-area tax bills of \$44.50 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. The current tax is projected to expire in 15 years but the new bond will extend the assessment by about another 20 years, thus assuring that families benefiting from the new facilities will be among those paying for them. A typical PAUSD homeowner, with property assessed at \$650,000, paid about \$289 on their 2007 property tax bill for the 1995 school bond measure
- Enrollment in the PAUSD, currently at 11,172, has increased more than 25 percent since the last school bond passed 13 years ago and is expected to increase by another 1,000 students by 2012. Last year's kindergarten class was the largest in 30 years
- The 1995 Building for Excellence school bond raised funds to improve school libraries, high school science labs and classrooms and provide basic seismic, plumbing, roofing, heating and structural retrofits
- In 2005, PAUSD voters passed the Measure A school parcel tax; it replaced a prior parcel tax that was expiring. Measure A provides approximately \$9 million in annual operating funds for programs and staff, offsetting, in part, state funding cuts, significant increases in enrollment, and higher costs. Measure A funds cannot be used to build or renovate facilities
- Funds from this bond cannot be used for teacher or administrator salaries, except for the salary of a bond manager. The funds must go only to asset improvements to facilities and/or the construction, rehabilitation or replacement of school facilities on the bond project list
- Early endorsers of the June 3 bond measure include the Chamber of Commerce Governmental Action Committee, all members of the Palo Alto City Council and the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto