




Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_



# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager 

**FROM:** Mayor Pro Tem, Portia Cohen  
Councilmember, Nick Tell

**DATE:** October 7, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Resolution to Support the Manhattan Beach School Improvement Bond Measure BB

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### RECOMMENDATION:

The Manhattan Beach City Council Ad Hoc School Committee representatives, Mayor Pro Tem Portia Cohen and Councilmember Nick Tell, recommend that the full City Council adopt Resolution NO. 6155 supporting passage of the Manhattan Beach School Improvement Bond Measure BB.

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There is no fiscal implication related to the recommendation.

### BACKGROUND:

Measure BB is a local school General Obligation bond measure on the ballot this November authorizing \$67.48 million that will provide funding to rebuild and renovate parts of 58-year old Mira Costa High School and relieve approximately \$1.3 million of school district general fund monies that can be used for essential classroom needs at all of the district's schools. If approved by local voters, Measure BB will allow the school district to improve the quality of our community's outstanding neighborhood schools without increasing property tax rates. Measure BB will extend the District's existing bond obligations at the current tax rate of \$37.50/\$100,000 of assessed value for 12 years. So Measure BB will not increase annual property tax bills. To pass, Measure BB must be supported by 55% of those who cast a ballot.

Measure BB would provide the following improvements to Mira Costa High School with the final designs to be created by an architect with input from teachers, parents, and the community:

- Two new two-story instructional buildings, one for math and science, and the other for core academic classes
- Technology upgrades throughout the campus
- Renovate classrooms to improve college and career readiness and arts education
- Infrastructure upgrades throughout the campus, including restrooms, plumbing, fire safety, lighting, fencing, and emergency and security systems.
- Reconfigure some student support services to make them more accessible to students

**DISCUSSION:**

The City Council has expressly stated its support of the Manhattan Beach Unified School District through public discussion and actions intended to bolster the District's ability to continue its excellence in education. The City Council recognizes that we are all one community and that the success of our children through their school experience is vital to the community. The Manhattan Beach School District has consistently ranked among the top districts in the state. The District's reputation attracts families looking for an excellent public school system, which in turn attracts quality businesses and employees and protects property values.

The City Council commends the Manhattan Beach Unified School District for their continued efforts and the highest quality of educational productivity. The City Council also recognizes that 58 year-old Mira Costa High School is an excellent school—in the top 4% of high schools in California. However, the facility does not match the excellence of the faculty and students. The buildings are not only deteriorating physically, they are substandard academically.

**CONCLUSION:**

The passage of Measure BB will allow the Manhattan Beach Unified School District to make critical improvements to Mira Costa High School and to further its endeavor in academic excellence. The City Council Ad Hoc School Committee recommends that the full City Council adopt Resolution No. 6155 in support of the passage of Measure BB.

Attachment: Resolution NO. 6155

cc: The Board of Trustees for the Manhattan Beach Unified School District  
Superintendent, Beverly Rohrer, Ed.D

RESOLUTION NO. 6155

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA ENCOURAGING VOTER  
SUPPORT FOR PASSAGE OF MEASURE BB (THE MANHATTAN  
BEACH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MEASURE)

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH CALIFORNIA, DOES  
HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, Measure BB will enable the Manhattan Beach Unified School District to maintain the quality of the outstanding neighborhood schools and is intended to provide bonds of \$67,480,000 for the purpose of upgrading Mira Costa High School and refinancing old construction debt which would free \$1.3 million/year in the school district General Fund monies; and

WHEREAS, the construction and renovation of Mira Costa High School's original 1950's classrooms, outdated wiring and technology, deteriorated plumbing and restrooms, and inadequate support services is necessary to improve the campus safety, energy efficiency, and college and career readiness of the students; and

WHEREAS, Measure BB will authorize school improvements that keep property values high, attract and retain the best teachers, and help the children of Manhattan Beach continue to soar in academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Manhattan Beach Unified School District Board will appoint a Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure the District's compliance with authorized expenditures; and

WHEREAS, no bonds funds shall be used for administrators' or teachers' salaries or any other school operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, Measure BB will not raise existing property taxes but simply extend the current rates previously approved by voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA DOES HEREBY DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS  
FOLLOWS:

That the City of Manhattan Beach does hereby encourage voters to support Measure BB on November 4, 2008.

SECTION 1. The City Clerk shall make this Resolution reasonably available for public inspection within thirty (30) days of the date this Resolution is adopted

SECTION 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.

Ayes:  
Noes:  
Absent:  
Abstain:

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Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By   
City Attorney