



September 26, 2014

KFCS' District Newsletter
By Paul Hillyer, KFCS' Superintendent
Every Vote Counts

Recently, Pleasant Hill placed a school bond on the May ballot. The final day of the election a school supporter went to 40 friends and picked up ballots they had forgotten to mail in; their bond issue passed by 19 votes. A board member from the district commenting on the closeness of the vote said, "What do you mean close? We had 18 extra votes!"

This case is similar to countless others in the state and nation where bond issues pass or fail by the thinnest of margins. Another example happened with a McMinnville bond issue in 2006. It failed by 150 votes. Their Political Action Committee (PAC) checked to see how many staff members did not vote. They found that 200 had not. That likely was the difference between bond passage or failure.

I cannot tell you to vote yes on the upcoming KFCS' bond issue; however, I can tell you that your vote is extremely important and that every vote counts. Please remember to vote by the November 4th election deadline. If you are not registered, please do so at the following link: <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/voteinor.aspx>. Please do not delay. The final day to register is October 10th.

Other Important News:

1. A question we have been getting at presentations on the proposed KFCS' bond issue is: Will schools other than KU be improved should there be a successful bond issue? The answer is, "yes." First, technology infrastructure will be updated at all sites. Here is a summary of what else is included in the ballot for other schools:
 - a. Electronic entry systems at all schools
 - b. Auto lock-down systems at all schools
 - c. Heating, cooling, and ventilation controls at Ponderosa and Mills
 - d. Boilers at Conger and Pelican
 - e. Asbestos removal and new flooring at Mills and Roosevelt
 - f. Roof repair and/or replacement at Conger, Pelican, Roosevelt, and Ponderosa
 - g. Asphalt repair at Ponderosa and Pelican
2. A get-out-the-vote, door-to-door campaign will start at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, October 4th, at the Ponderosa Middle School cafeteria. All helpers are welcome! There will also be a get-out-the-vote calling campaign in late October. Please call 541-205-6538 if you are interested in assisting in either effort or just come to Ponderosa on October 4th.

3. Anyone wanting additional bond information please go the Klamath Falls City Schools' website at www.kfalls.k12.or.us and click on KUHS Bond Information under **District Announcements**.
4. Enrollment in the district is up 18 students from last year.
5. The district was awarded a \$50,000 per-year grant this week to help create a college-going culture at Ponderosa Middle School. This seven-year grant funds the coordination and activities to help students visit college campuses and take part in activities that will help them set goals to achieve high levels of education and go on to successful adult lives.
6. KFCS was also awarded a \$309,000 grant to promote student achievement through teacher professional development, teacher leadership opportunities, and pay for high student success. This grant is funded through the State of Oregon and administered through the Chalkboard Association.
7. Through the above-mentioned grant, the district is initiating a program called AVID. This supports rigorous and engaging teaching and learning strategies in classrooms. It also helps the district create grade 6-12 elective classes that help students develop the skills and strategies they need to be successful students both in our schools and in college.
8. This year's \$600,000 21st Century Grant is providing after-school programs at five of our schools. Many students have enrolled. If you know someone who would like to join this program, please have them sign up at their school office.
9. A special thank you to Fred Meyer who provided the food for the Modoc Field Grand Opening celebration. This event was a huge success with about 1500 people in attendance. The project is basically complete as the tennis courts were finished last week. Last month the school board approved leasing a small piece of land in an out-of-the-way location in the complex to a cell tower company. This will help pay for improvements. Paying for the project through more than \$500,000 in donations, grants, in-kind contributions, and a zero-interest loan (1% administration fee) saves the taxpayers about \$900,000 compared to the cost if it had been included in the bond issue.
10. The schools' state report card ratings were very good this year. We had no schools scoring at the 1 or 2 level. All buildings scored either 3 or 4 on the five-point scale. Mills, Conger, and Ponderosa all improved by one level while KU, Roosevelt, and Pelican retained their level 4 status. This speaks very highly of the hard work of everyone in our schools last year.

Please forward this to anyone you know who might have an interest in the information.