



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

County Counsel

**DATE:** June 7, 2005  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** June 21, 2005  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** None  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** County Counsel  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution Authorizing Formation of School Facilities Improvement Districts in the County of San Mateo

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the provisions of Chapter 2, Part 10, Division 1, Title 1 of the Education Code (School Facilities Improvement Districts) to be applicable in the County of San Mateo.

**VISION ALIGNMENT:**

**Commitment:** Sow the seeds of our future prosperity.

**Goal 19:** The skill level of new workers rises with improved K-12 education and training options.

The formation of a School Facilities Improvement District is intended to increase the funds available to the District for the development of additional facilities by allowing for the issuance of Improvement District general obligation bonds.

**BACKGROUND:**

Chapter 2, Part 10, Division I, Title 1, (commencing with Section 15300) of the Education Code (the "Act") provides for the formation of school facilities improvement districts consisting of a portion of the territory within a school district for the issuance of general obligation bonds by a school facilities improvement district. Section 15303 of the Act effectively provides that the Act will not be operative until the Board of Supervisors makes the Act applicable in the county by resolution adopted by a majority vote of the Board.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Governing Board of the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District (the "District"), on its own initiative, intends to establish a school facilities improvement district within the boundaries of the District and passed a resolution to that effect on May 19, 2005. The District has requested this action by the Board of Supervisors in support of the District's creation of a school facilities improvement district. Attached to this memo are the District's request letter, as well as the District's letter to the community and a fact sheet providing additional background to the request. A copy of the District's Resolution has been filed with the Clerk of the Board.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The passage of the proposed resolution will have no fiscal impact on the County.

**Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary  
School District**

2960 Hallmark Drive  
Belmont, CA 94002-2999

Telephone (650) 637-4800  
FAX (650) 637-4811

John T. McIntosh  
Superintendent

May 20, 2005

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
Attn: Lee Thompson, County Counsel  
400 County Center, 6th Floor  
Redwood City, CA 94063-1662

Dear Supervisors:

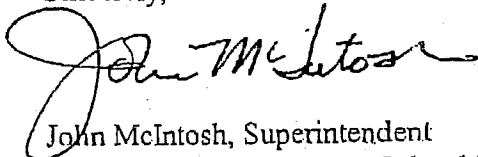
On behalf of the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District, I formally request that you adopt a resolution authorizing the provisions of chapter 2, part 10, division I, title 1 of the education code to be applicable in the County of San Mateo, allowing our school district to create a school facilities improvement district (SFID) within the boundaries of our district, for the purposes of issuing general obligation bonds. We would like to respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors hear our request at their June 21, 2005 meeting.

At our board's regular public meeting last night, following a scheduled and noticed public hearing, trustees adopted a resolution to create an SFID for a portion of our district that is experiencing significant over-enrollment and overcrowding at its neighborhood elementary school. It is the official policy of our district to promote neighborhood schools whenever possible, and the rapid increase in the number of young children in the Redwood Shores portion of our district means that a substantial number of students will not have that option if additional facilities aren't developed in the area.

The decision to pursue an SFID is the result of more than a year of public input and community meetings, including a survey of registered voters indicating 72% voter support for a bond measure to construct a new school in the area. As background, I've attached a letter to the community dated January 25, 2005 and a Fact Sheet created by the district to provide information to interested citizens.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John McIntosh, Superintendent  
Belmont-Redwood Shores School District

Enclosures: January 25, 2005 letter regarding enrollment  
SFID Fact Sheet

Board of Trustees:

Karen Clancy,

MJ Crousore,

Eric Shrader,

Sharon Thompson,

Cathy Wright

# Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District

2960 Hallmark Drive  
Belmont, CA 94002-2999

John T. McIntosh  
Superintendent

Telephone (650) 637-4800  
FAX (650) 637-4811

January 25, 2005

Dear Parents, Staff and Community Members,

After three years of study, beginning with the Enrollment Task Force in 2002-2003, the Magnet School Task Force in 2003-2004, and the series of Enrollment Study Sessions and Board Meetings in 2004-2005, the Board of Trustees took action to address our District's enrollment issues.

### **The following District enrollment options were adopted by the Board of Trustees at the January 20, 2005 Board Meeting:**

- District staff to begin the process for placing a Proposition 39 School Facilities Improvement District Bond Measure on the ballot for Redwood Shores to construct a new school in Redwood Shores.
- For the school year 2005-2006 – all Redwood Shores kindergartners will attend Nesbit School, and all other students in Redwood Shores, in grades one through five, will attend Sandpiper School.
- For the school year 2006-2007 – all Redwood Shores kindergartners through first grade will attend Nesbit School, and second through fifth grades will attend Sandpiper School.
- For the school year 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 – the process will continue.
- As soon as the school site is located, and the bond is passed, the Board will draw the attendance area boundaries to fit the new school,
- Or, if the bond does not pass and a new school site is not located, the boundaries will be redrawn in advance of the 2009-2010 enrollment.

### **Additional important information:**

- K-1 Shores students may apply to attend other Belmont schools through the Intradistrict Transfer process. Placement of those students who apply will be decided by lottery, if needed. Once an Intradistrict Transfer is approved, the choice school becomes the home school until fifth grade.
- The additional Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers needed at Nesbit will be selected as per the collective bargaining agreement: voluntary transfers (those teachers wishing to transfer to Nesbit) will be selected according to the collective bargaining agreement.
- The annual tax for the bond would be \$30 per \$100,000 of the current assessed valuation, the limit for bond elections conducted pursuant to Proposition 39 by an elementary school district.

- School-Force dollars for school programs will not be used in any way for the costs associated with the planning, implementation, and construction of the new school. School-Force dollars go to fund programs for students.
- Parcel Tax (Measure G) dollars will not be used in any way for the costs associated with the planning, implementation, and construction of the new school. There is a Citizens Oversight Committee, in addition to the School Board, that oversees the expenditure of the District's Parcel Tax funds. The funds may only be expended on programs communicated in the ballot language (programs for students and assuring high quality teacher retention).
- The assessed valuation of the proposed School Facilities Improvement District was \$2,845,110,400 in 2003-2004. This represents about 38% of the total assessed valuation of the District with about 35% of the 2,450 students in the District.

### **2005-2006 Budget Development**

The School Board will begin the budget development process for next school year at the February 3, 2005 Board Meeting. Staff will present the first draft at that time.

School staff and parents from each school will participate in a Board Study Session on the Budget to be held on February 17, 2005. You are invited to attend the Budget Study Session that will begin at 4:00 p.m. at Central School.

- Study Session participants will work together in groups, reviewing information provided by District staff, as well as their own alternative scenarios.
- Study Session participants will consider the menu of expenditure and revenue items/assumptions and make recommendations to the Board.

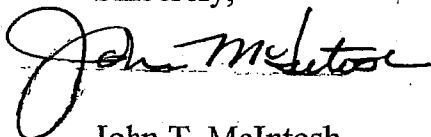
### **Community Involvement/Consensus Building**

Over the past year, the Board and our entire school community have faced some very difficult issues. In order to achieve success in addressing these issues, the solutions we choose and implement must incorporate the involvement of parents, staff, and others who live in our community.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the staff and community members for working so hard to pass Measure G; which will provide quality programs for our students over the next ten years. I would also like to thank all the participants in the Enrollment Study Sessions for their valuable input, and encourage you to work for full implementation of the Board's plan.

I am encouraged by the manner in which our school community has met the challenging issues we faced and built consensus around solutions. We will work most effectively when we work together for the future of our children and our schools.

Sincerely,



John T. McIntosh  
Superintendent

# Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District

2960 Hallmark Drive  
Belmont, CA 94002-2999

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Superintendent

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FAX (650) 637-4811

## Redwood Shores School Facilities Improvement District FACT SHEET

### Over-Enrollment and Overcrowding at Sandpiper Elementary

The Redwood Shores area (including Belmont Shores) has seen a sharp increase in young families and elementary school students over the past 8 years, and demographic analysis shows the trend will continue. Redwood Shores has only one elementary school – Sandpiper – but has the highest number of young children of any neighborhood in the school district.

- There are not enough classrooms at Sandpiper to accommodate children who want to attend their neighborhood school in Redwood Shores
- This year, 67 Redwood Shores kindergarteners were turned away from Sandpiper following a lottery among local parents. Early registration at next year's kindergarten classes at Sandpiper enrollment shows that the number of kindergarteners will exceed available space at Sandpiper by at least 140.
- Sandpiper was built to house 450 students, but currently has 530 enrolled. Parents and educators are concerned that overcrowding will diminish the individual attention children receive, as well as students' access to libraries, music rooms and science labs.
- Within the next five years, hundreds more students will be denied the opportunity to attend a neighborhood school in Redwood Shores. Demographic studies of the area show that by 2010, there will be over 900 elementary-school-age children in the Shores, all seeking access to Sandpiper Elementary.

### Use of Bond Proceeds and Citizen Oversight

The school district's Board of Trustees is considering a bond measure to generate funds to construct a new school in Redwood Shores. In order to accomplish this goal, the district would create a School Facilities Improvement District (SFID) serving Redwood Shores and Belmont Shores (all of the school district east of Highway 101).

- All of the money from the bond will be used to build a new school in Redwood Shores to complement Sandpiper Elementary, and cannot be used for any other purpose.
- Proceeds from a school bond cannot be taken by the state – they must be spent locally for voter-approved purposes.
- A volunteer citizens oversight committee, made up of parents, teachers, local retirees, taxpayers' association representatives and other local residents, will be created to monitor and audit bond funds and issue public reports.
- The bond would cost property owners \$30 annually per \$100,000 assessed value over the life of the bond. (In many cases, a home or property's assessed value is lower than its market value.)
- The district will conduct as much site identification and selection as possible for a new Redwood Shores school prior to a bond election, without incurring substantial costs to on-going school programs and operations. If a bond measure is approved by voters, the district will use bond proceeds to complete the process of site selection and acquisition.

### Public Input and Decision-Making

The board's decision to explore the possibility of a bond measure in Redwood Shores is the result of over twelve months of regular public meetings and special community meetings, demographic analysis and a survey of voters in the affected area.

- Survey results show that 72% of all Redwood Shores voters support a bond measure to build a new school in the Shores.
- 87% of Shores voters believe this issue is important, including 50% of all voters who believe it is "very important."

### Election Information

If the measure is placed on the ballot, it would require a 55% majority of votes in the SFID to pass. Trustees may consider adopting a resolution to place the measure on the ballot at its regularly-scheduled meeting on June 23. For more information, please contact the district at (650) 637-4800.