

# Novato Unified School District School Bond and Parcel Tax Report 2007-08

**Community Supported Funds at Work!**

**Winter 2007-08**

The Novato Unified School District Trustees and staff are grateful to the Novato community for your generous support of our ongoing parcel tax and 2001 bond project approval. With your support, we have modernized 16 campuses and enhanced educational programs for our students.

Bond and parcel tax funds are restricted funds. They can only be used on ballot language expenditures. The Bond and Parcel Tax Oversight Committees ensure compliance and alignment with ballot language expenditures.

Thank you for your generosity. We appreciate your continued support of our students, our learning environments, and academic program achievements. We have accomplished these improvements, with you as partners, on behalf of the students of Novato. We wish to express our thanks to each of you.

Dr. Jan La Torre-Derby  
Superintendent



## PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Thank you for your continuing support through a parcel tax measure originally passed in 1992, renewed in 1997, and most recently renewed in March 2005. Your tax dollars directly benefit the students in NUSD through class size reduction (20:1), school libraries, counseling services, visual and performing arts, and technology. In the 2007-08 school year, the community-supported parcel tax generated over \$2.7 million for our schools.

As the chairperson of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee, which was formed in Fall 2005, I am pleased to report that the NUSD is allocating the funds in alignment with the ballot language to directly benefit our children. Our parcel tax committee, comprised of nine members, oversees the \$2.7 million annual budget and provides an annual report to the NUSD Board of Trustees.

Our parcel tax is a much-needed stabilizing source of revenue for our school district. As the State cuts funding to our school district, we can count on our local parcel tax to continue funding such programs as our libraries, music and technology.

When the 2005 parcel tax was passed, a reserve was built in to enable program funding to continue even as expenses increased throughout the life of the tax. That reserve has grown so that it can now provide some relief to the NUSD during the current budget crisis.

Thank you for supporting our children.

Sincerely,

Leslie Benjamin - Chairperson  
Dave Buoncristiani - Rep. Realtors  
Ann Marymor - NMCPTA Rep  
Bill King - Senior Representative  
Steve Ussery - Parent, Hill MS

Martin Sleath - Community Member  
Diane Gasson - Community Member  
Ross Millerick - Trustee  
Leslie Schwarze - Trustee

## CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Novato community should be proud of the work of the Bond Construction Department. At one-third the expected administrative cost, Dave Ashe and his crew have set the schedule of work for each year's projects and, with a minimum of class disruption, set about to upgrade the school facilities as outlined in the Measure A Bond issue. Not only were construction administrative costs far less than most other such projects, but Dave and his crew were also able to come almost 15% under budget on the work performed as of June, 2007.

There is more good news! Because the Measure A Bond funds were made available by the voters of Novato, John Silvestrini, as Executive Director of Facilities/Construction, and his department were able to file for matching grants with the State of California in amounts of slightly more than \$25 million. Thus, the District was able to parlay the \$107 million bond money into \$133 million plus the \$15 million that was under budget to significantly increase the amount available for school facility upgrades.

NUSD will complete the original work funded by the Measure A Bond by the end of 2009. Having said all this, THE JOB IS NOT YET DONE!!! Prior to the passage of Measure A, a NUSD facility survey identified over \$200 million in facility needs, but Measure A was only able to fund one-half the identified needs. Additional needs not originally funded include support facilities such as gymnasiums, multi-use buildings, food service areas and administrative offices. Thus, although Measure A has enabled us to improve and enhance our facilities, more dollars are needed to complete the work.

On the Bond Oversight Committee annual tour of the schools, the Committee members noted the need to upgrade doors and windows - many of the windows are inoperable and single-pane - and replace classroom furniture including student and teacher desks. Many of the

(continued on page 3)

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*Below is a site-by-site summary of the projects completed to date, as well as the projects that are planned for the near future.*

## HAMILTON ELEMENTARY

2001-07

- Improved fire alarm & signal system
- Paved kindergarten area
- Replaced roofing
- Heating system upgraded
- Upgraded electrical system/exterior lighting
- Classrooms/library modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements

**Future projects include:** Fire protection access improvements, paving improvements for pathways and parking and playing field renovations

## LOMA VERDE ELEMENTARY

2002-07

- Replaced roofing/skylights
- Paved parking area
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Heating system upgraded
- Upgraded electrical system/exterior lighting
- Improved fire alarm & signal system
- Classrooms/library modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Playing field renovations

**All projects completed**

## LU SUTTON ELEMENTARY

2003-07

- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Improved access for fire protection
- Upgraded exterior lighting
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Structural repairs
- Classrooms modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Upgraded heating system
- Site accessibility improvements per (ADA) requirements
- Playing field renovations phase 1

**Future projects include:** playing field renovations

## LYNWOOD ELEMENTARY

2003-05

- Replaced roofing/skylights
- Improved access for fire protection
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Upgraded fire alarm & signal system
- Paved Kindergarten area
- Restrooms renovated
- Improved exterior lighting
- Upgraded electrical system
- Classrooms modernized
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements

**Future projects include:** playing field renovations

## OLIVE ELEMENTARY

2003-06

- Replaced roofing
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Restrooms renovated
- Improved exterior lighting
- Upgraded electrical system
- Improved access for fire protection
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements

## OLIVE ELEMENTARY (continued)

- Classrooms modernized
- Upgraded heating system
- Improved drainage

**Future projects include:** playing field renovations.

## PLEASANT VALLEY ELEMENTARY

2002-06

- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Improved exterior lighting
- Replaced roofing
- Upgraded electrical system
- Improved access for fire protection
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing fields renovated
- Classrooms modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Site accessibility addressed (ADA) requirements

**All projects completed**

## RANCHO ELEMENTARY

2002-06

- Replaced roofing
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Improved exterior lighting
- Upgraded electrical system
- Improved access for fire protection
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Playing fields renovated
- Classrooms modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Structural repairs

**All projects completed**

## SAN RAMON ELEMENTARY

2003-06

- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Replaced roofing
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Improved exterior lighting
- Playing fields renovated
- Classrooms modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Upgraded electrical system
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements

**Future projects include:** paving of play areas

## HILL MIDDLE

2002-07

- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Improved exterior lighting
- Upgraded electrical system
- Improved parking lot drainage
- Paved parking lots
- Improved access for fire protection
- Replaced roofing
- Classroom modernization
- Restroom renovations
- Structural repairs
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements

**Future projects include:** classroom modernizations, restroom renovations, and structural repairs

## SAN JOSE MIDDLE

2002-06

- Replaced covered patio roofing
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system

## SAN JOSE MIDDLE (continued)

- Restroom renovations
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements
- Upgraded heating system
- Improved exterior lighting
- Upgraded electrical system
- Improved access for fire protection
- Playing fields renovated
- Classrooms modernized
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Structural repairs

**All projects completed.**

## SINALOA MIDDLE

2002-06

- Upgraded fire alarm and signal systems
- Renovated playing fields
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Improved exterior lighting
- Upgraded electrical system
- Improved access for fire protection
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Roofing replaced
- Classrooms modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements
- Classrooms modernized
- Restrooms renovated

**All projects completed.**

## NOVATO HIGH

2002-07

- Upgraded fire alarm and signal systems
- Renovated playing fields
- Replaced gymnasium roofing
- Improved exterior lighting
- Upgraded electrical system
- Improved access for fire protection
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Repaired and painted exteriors
- Structural repairs
- Classrooms/labs modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Locker rooms renovated
- Upgraded heating system
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements
- Installed synthetic turf field and all-weather track facility
- Installed bleachers
- Replaced roofing
- Roofing repairs

**Future projects include:** classroom, shop renovations, playing field renovation

## SAN MARIN HIGH

2002-06

- Upgraded heating system
- Upgraded electrical system
- Upgraded fire alarm and signal system
- Renovated playing fields
- Improved exterior lighting
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Classrooms/labs modernized
- Restrooms renovated
- Improved access for fire protection
- Paved pathways and parking areas
- Site accessibility addressed per (ADA) requirements

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## Site-by-site summary of the projects (continued)

### SAN MARIN HIGH (continued)

- Installed synthetic turf field and all-weather track facility
- Classroom modernization
- Restroom renovations
- Structural repairs
- Site accessibility improvements per (ADA) requirements
- T building replacement
- Library modernization
- Science building modernization

**Future projects include:** visitor bleacher installation

#### OTHER PROJECTS

State law mandates that these bond funds be utilized to provide partial funding of the facility needs of our charter school. To date, the obligation has been met for the Novato Charter School facility.

### AN ACCOUNTING OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS

The Measure A facility bond approved by Novato voters in 2001 provided \$107 million for the improvement of all school campuses in the Novato Unified School District. State matching funds and interest earnings will provide another \$26 million, resulting in a \$133 million facility program for our schools. To date, about \$85 million of these dollars have been spent.

These funds have been utilized to provide for a variety of repairs, renovations and improvements, most significantly to address health and safety issues and to modernize classrooms. Classroom modernization typically includes the installation of:

- new flooring
- ceilings and lighting
- paint and tackable wall surfaces
- cabinets
- learning wall, a casework system that includes rolling whiteboards
- heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (existing systems)
- electrical plugs and fire alarm systems
- computer connection for students and staff

### Bond Oversight Committee (continued from page 1)

current desks are in terrible condition and were used by my children who graduated from NUSD 25 years ago!!!

A new upgrade that should seriously be considered is solar electricity. By investing in solar electrical panels as an upgrade, the District can save a considerable portion of the electricity cost that is currently paid from the general fund. Additional support facilities such as bleachers, a performing arts center, stages, pools, and dance studios are needed. Also, facilities components such as underground piping degradation, paving and drainage deficiencies, hazardous material removal, additional ADA upgrades, and security systems installation need to be addressed. I personally would like to suggest the school district ask the City of Novato to partner on some common desired projects such as a visual and performing arts center and gyms.

In summary, the Citizens of Novato did the right thing in voting to have their schools refurbished; the Bond Construction staff did an excellent job in executing the construction projects; District staff did a great job building on the bond funds by getting state grants. It's time to move forward to finish the job.

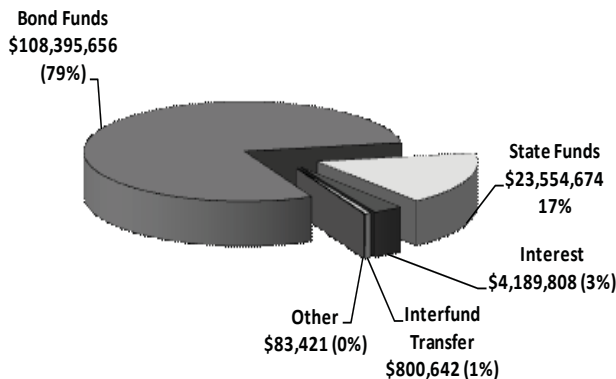
Sincerely,  
 Dean Moser, Chairperson  
 Paul DeLoria, Senior  
 Rick Goodrich, Parent  
 Thomas James, Community

Stuart Kennedy, Community  
 Thomas Meehan, Parent  
 Scott Raymond, Taxpayer Organization  
 Jack Watson, Community

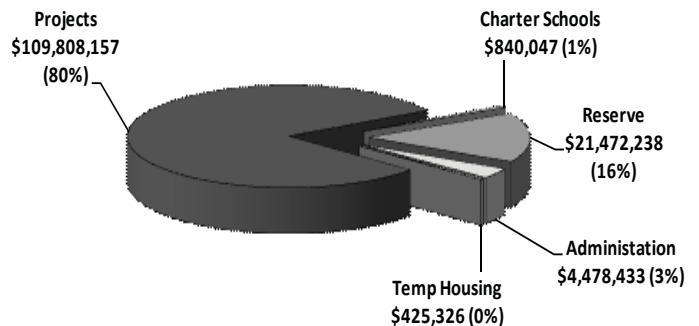
### NEW SCIENCE LAB AT SAN MARIN HIGH SCHOOL



### Bond Program Source of Funds



### Bond Program Use of Funds



## THE NUSD REPORT 2007-08



## THE ARTS ENHANCE THE EDUCATION OF NOVATO'S STUDENTS K-12



Students from Lynwood Elementary, San Marin HS and Novato HS demonstrate their visual and performing arts skills.

### PARCEL TAX SUPPORTS VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) is inherently a subject that both requires and helps in the development of academic skills. With the support of the Novato Community, the VPA programs have received ongoing financial support from the Novato Parcel Tax and the School Fuel foundation.

The study of general music in our elementary schools focuses on the development of music appreciation and music literacy. Students participate in a formal music class each week that is taught by credentialed music specialists. Students experience music through a variety of related activities that include listening, singing, moving, and playing melodic and choral instruments. Students study basic note recognition and sight-reading. They apply their skills using proper vocal music techniques. The music curriculum is aligned with the music standards for visual and performing arts while integrating music with other curriculum areas.

Students have the opportunity to continue with a formal program of VPA in sixth grade and continuing through grade twelve. We are proud of the recognition that Novato's secondary music programs have received through numerous awards within the Bay Area and throughout the state. One recent award was the California School Boards Association State Golden Bell recognition for exemplary programs awarded, to the Marin School of the Arts.

The community's commitment to ensure that visual and performing arts is an integral part of Novato's educational programs has provided equal opportunities to all students who are enrolled in our schools.

### Great schools matter!

**SCHOOL FUEL'S** mission is to support and enrich education in Novato schools...

School Fuel is building on its success and raising its profile so that we can do more than ever to enrich the experiences of every student in Novato schools. Please contribute to this year's fundraising campaign so that we can make progress toward our goals of continued and growing excellence in the Novato schools. Elizabeth Sleath, President **SCHOOL FUEL**

The Novato Foundation for Public Education  
448 Ignacio Boulevard, #410  
Novato, CA 94949  
<http://www.novatoschoolfuel.org/>



### Parcel Tax Expenditures 2007-08

