

SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS
Resolution 12-17-18 in Support of Accelerating the
Distribution of Proposition 51 School Facilities Funds

WHEREAS, Article IX Section 5 of the California Constitution finds public education is a State responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Article 1 Section 28 of the California Constitution states that public schools shall be safe, secure and peaceful; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the State of California have, since 1982, consistently approved statewide school construction and modernization bond measures to provide resources through programs contained in Division 1, Part 10, Article 12 and Article 12.5 of the Education Code; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2016, voters of California passed Proposition 51 that authorized the State of California to sell \$9 billion worth of statewide school facilities bonds; and

WHEREAS, state school construction and modernization bond funds, as authorized by Proposition 51, are matched with funds provided by local communities through the passage of local bonds and developers fees; and

WHEREAS, the State of California is facing more than a \$2.5 billion backlog in project applications filed by school districts seeking matching state bond funds under current law; and

WHEREAS, many school districts filed their school facility grant fund applications back in 2012 and are still waiting on state funding to pay for school construction projects; and

WHEREAS, estimates place projected K-14 school facilities needs between \$20 and \$60 billion over the next ten years; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz City Schools has more than \$300 million in identified facilities needs which may be partially funded by State bonds; and

WHEREAS, it has been one year since voters approved Proposition 51, the Kindergarten through Community College Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2016, and the State of California has not sold all of the bonds for Proposition 51 funds; and

WHEREAS, this current pace of school bond sales does not meet the outstanding facilities needs of school districts across the state and could deprive another generation of students access to safe school campuses that are built to meet their academic need; and

WHEREAS, an average of more than 90% of previous statewide school bond funds were committed within four (4) years of the measure's passage; and

WHEREAS, school districts face rising construction costs the longer the state delays appropriately-sized bond sales, which forces school districts and taxpayers to pay more for less; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 98 and the new Local Control Funding Formula are intended to improve educational achievement for all students but do not provide dedicated facilities funding; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that quality school facilities have a positive impact on student academic performance, attendance and teacher job satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, the California School Boards Association supports the acceleration of Proposition 51 bond sales so that school districts receive the resources voters promised to adequately serve students, families and their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz City Schools Board of Education calls on the State of California to accelerate the pace and scale of Proposition 51 school bond sales in 2018 to honor the will of California voters.

Adopted by the Governing Board of Santa Cruz City Schools on February 28, 2018.



Signature (Governing Board Secretary)



Date

Please forward a copy of the signed resolution to the California School Boards Association by emailing it to nchaires@csba.org.