

How this Plan was Developed

In 2013-2014, a community-based building task force reviewed the state of the District's schools and community support for improvements. As more and more needs became apparent, this group recommended a comprehensive educational, architectural and engineering assessment of the District's buildings.

In 2015, local architecture firm HGE partnered with national firm DOW-IBI Group, which specializes in school design and construction, and IGI Engineers, to perform a Needs Assessment. These firms reviewed both the District's existing buildings and the actual space needs of the District's current and planned future programs. The Needs Assessment identified over \$90 million in needed upgrades, plus outright replacement of Blossom Gulch and the Harding Building.

In 2016, a group of citizens formed the Best Committee (named for Building Excellent Schools Together). This team reviewed the Needs Assessment, analyzed costs and priorities, considered options for improvements, and surveyed the community. From this work, the Best Committee recommended the proposal for a \$66.5 million bond issue that appeared on the May, 2017 ballot. The estimated cost to taxpayers was \$1.85/\$1000 of assessed value.

The May measure failed by 35 votes out of about 7000 cast. After the May election, the Best Committee reviewed the proposal again, and HGE Architects reviewed the estimated costs of each project. Plans for interior remodeling of Sunset and Millicoma were simplified and streamlined to cut costs. The District also qualified for a \$4 million matching grant from the State.

With the plan changes, revised costs estimates, and matching grant, the Best Committee recommended that the District place a \$59.995 million bond measure on the November ballot, with an estimated cost to taxpayers of \$1.60/\$1000 of assessed value.