



Canyon Springs High School

# 1998 BOND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## A REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2012

**Building Leaders,  
Building  
Global Citizens –**

**Clark County  
School District  
Exceeds  
Expectations  
to Build and  
Improve Schools**

When voters approved the Clark County School District’s school construction ballot question in November 1998, no one could have predicted the onslaught of growth our valley was about to undergo. The explosion in population over the last decade in Southern Nevada resulted in one of the largest school construction programs in the nation. Along with the need to recruit highly-qualified teachers and administrators to educate the influx of school-aged children, quickly providing quality school buildings to match that growth created a daunting challenge. With the voter-approved 1998 bond that eventually provided \$4.9 billion, the district projected, planned, designed and completed the construction of **101 new schools**. In addition, the district **delivered 19 replacement schools not included in the initial program and is completing more than \$1.6 billion worth of school improvements**.

The population boom of the past decade has relented, allowing CCSD a much-needed respite from its construction program. With a population growth history of more than 100,000 new students since 1998, nearly all of the more than 300,000 CCSD students have been impacted by one of the most aggressive capital improvement plans in an educational system.

By way of efficient planning and strategic spending, CCSD successfully extended the life of the program for two years beyond projections and far surpassed plans and expectations. The district combined a winning combination of creating a building plan that provides the educational environment necessary to build global leaders and ensure success is within reach at any level.

**The Clark County School District’s commitment to build state-of-the-art facilities supports its mission to provide high quality education to our community’s most vital investments – our students.**

**Mission Statement**

All students will graduate from high school having the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values necessary to achieve academically, prosper economically, and participate in democracy.



Northwest Career and Technical Academy



## Improving Existing Learning Spaces

Nearly a third of the funding from the 1998 CIP was spent on renovation and modernization projects at 229 existing schools. A total of \$1.6 billion provided replacement of older schools, phased replacements, additions, portable classrooms, auxiliary gyms and equipment replacement.

Renovations at existing schools vary and are far-reaching and ongoing. As promised during the 1998 bond campaign, a major portion of renovation funds has been expended for life cycle replacements – a systematic replacement of major components of a school when they reach the end of their useful life. Included in this category are necessities such as air conditioners, plumbing, electrical work, asphalt and concrete replacement, playground upgrades and roof replacements, in order for the buildings to remain an excellent environment for teaching and learning. Also included in the renovation category are ongoing technology projects that provide the infrastructure necessary to bring and keep our schools up-to-date.

School additions are also part of the program. For example, several existing high schools received theater additions so they can offer auxiliary educational programs similar to those available at new schools. Other schools are receiving multi-purpose rooms, ball/track fields, classroom equipment and additional classroom space.

## School Replacements

### Dollars Reinvested for Long-term Planning

In 1999, the Nevada State Legislature passed a law requiring all Nevada school districts to develop a policy to determine when an existing school should be replaced rather than renovated. Another bill passed in 2001 requiring the Clark County School District to reconstruct at least five existing schools. In the 2003 legislative session, that requirement was expanded, requiring the district to replace a total of 10 existing schools (including one middle school and one high school) with bond dollars.

In addition to the 10 replacement schools required by the legislature, an eleventh school, Roy Martin Middle School, was affixed to the school replacement list when a fire destroyed significant portions of the school in 2005. Due to the age of the school, funds allocated for renovations at the campus, and the expense of replacing the destroyed portions, it was determined that replacing the school was more cost-effective.

## Effective Funding Formula, Voter Dedication and Fiscal Responsibility

The 1998 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is funded from a combination of three revenue sources. The original component of the funding model comes from a portion of the property taxes paid by Clark County residents, which requires voter approval. The Nevada State Legislature in 1997 passed Assembly Bill 353, which authorized two new sources of funding for school construction in Clark County. Sixty cents per \$500 in real estate transactions was earmarked for school construction with an additional 1 5/8 percent of the tax collected on hotel room rentals within Clark County being dedicated to school construction.

Revenues from these three sources were projected to generate \$3.5 billion in bond proceeds over 10 years. In actuality, due to strong economic conditions combined with prudent fiscal management, the revenues generated funding of \$4.9 billion over a 12-year span.

## Where We've Been

With the continuous growth of the community and reliable funding sources, it was projected that 88 new schools would be constructed under the current program. The chart below shows the district exceeded the promises made to the voters.

## Promises Kept

	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools	Replacement	Total
Schools Promised	50	22	16	0	88
Schools Completed*	61	22	18	19	120

\* Revisions to the 1998 CIP approved by the Board of School Trustees (through Revision 16) include the construction of one alternative school (the Distance Learning Center/ Virtual School), one specialty school (Miley Achievement Center), 61 elementary schools, 22 middle schools, one alternative high school, six Career and Technical Academy high schools, and 10 comprehensive high schools. The program also includes 19 replacement schools, renovations and upgrades at 229 schools and two transportation satellite facilities.



Northwest Career and Technical Academy

The schools included in the replacement program are:

- Gordon McCaw Elementary School
- J. E. Manch Elementary School
- Kermit Booker Elementary School
- Lyal Burkholder Middle School
- Rancho High School
- Robert E. Taylor Elementary School
- Sunrise Acres Elementary School
- Tom Williams Elementary School
- Virgin Valley Elementary School
- Wendell P. Williams Elementary School  
(formerly Madison Elementary School)
- Roy Martin Middle School
- Variety School
- John F. Miller Elementary School

Since the legislature specified use of the 1998 CIP revenue to fund these mandates, the money used for replacement schools was taken from the renovation dollars originally allocated for renovation at the replaced schools, from savings achieved by completing construction projects ahead of the original schedule and from the revenues generated by the funding formula.

### Phased Replacements – Strategic Spending

The Clark County School District has adopted a program of phased replacements at some of its schools. Throughout the 1994 and 1996 building programs, the district improved some of the oldest school campuses in the valley by adding classroom space, multi-purpose rooms, libraries and other necessary learning spaces. Even with the new additions, older portions of these schools met the qualifications for replacement under CCSD Regulation 7112. Instead of tearing down the entire school, including the newer section added in the past 10 years, the more mature components of the campus are reconstructed in stages until the older buildings have been replaced. The newer buildings are designed to match the additions, and when the project is complete, an entirely new school exists.

John S. Park Elementary School was the first phased replacement school completed under the

program. Other phased replacements that have been completed or are under way include Boulder City High School, Mabel Hoggard Elementary School, Southeast Career and Technical Academy, Twin Lakes Elementary School and Western High School.

### Cost-Saving Measures

The Clark County School District takes its supervision of public monies very seriously and constantly monitors its management practices and building program protocols to ensure that taxpayer dollars are consumed wisely and efficiently. The district's building program has become a national model of success with deliverables on-time and under budget.

**Prototype Designs:** Unlike many other communities with robust school construction programs, the district utilizes a policy of prototype designs for new schools. Seasoned architects with years of experience in school design carefully formulated the current prototype. They met with educators who are in the schools on a daily basis to ensure the prototype model incorporates the space needed for educational requirements and programs utilized within the schools. The architects also provided the most economical life cycle cost to operate and maintain the facility. The current 2008 prototype is being used for most new schools and this practice continues to save the district time and millions of dollars in design and construction fees.

Other measures resulting in significant savings include packaging of multiple projects for bidding, peer reviews, an eye toward energy-efficient designs, multiple reviews of change orders and carefully monitored inspection practices. Moreover, value engineering, the process of reviewing the design of the building before it is advertised for bids, also helps save precious school construction dollars and incorporates lessons learned.



Burkholder Middle School

## Oversight Panels – Ensuring Dollars are Spent Responsibly

The CIP also has many oversight groups monitoring the practices and progress of the district.

- **The Bond Oversight Committee (BOC)**, created by the Board of School Trustees as a supervisory committee, consists of community members with specific areas of expertise related to construction. Members are appointed by the Board of School Trustees, and meets monthly to monitor building program expenditures. Recommendations by the BOC are forwarded to the Board of School Trustees for their consideration.
- **The Debt Management Commission** comprises representatives and elected officials from county commissioners and city councils, municipal representatives, school board members and the general public. It reviews and approves bonds issued by a public entity.
- Required by Nevada law, the **Oversight Panel for School Facilities** includes community representatives and elected officials from each of the entities within Clark County – the Cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite, North Las Vegas and the Clark County Commission. The oversight panel meets periodically and approves district proposals to issue general obligation bonds for school construction. Approval for bond sales must also go through the county’s Debt Management Commission.
- **The Board of School Trustees** serves as the final recommending body for all building program expenditures.

## Where Are We Going?

Historically, the Clark County School District has been one of the fastest-growing school districts in the nation. Over the past 10 years, the district welcomed an average of 12,000 new students each year and nearly doubled the student population.

In the immediate future, the focus will be to create greater equity between older and newer schools for program support and educational features, in addition to making strategic recommendations regarding replacement of its oldest schools or those most in need. Recognizing that new schools and additional modernization will be necessary in the coming years, the district is planning its next steps in presenting a new bond to voters.



### Student Actual Enrollment

- ➔ **Fiscal Year 2012 Enrollment – 308,373 Students – Decrease of 0.5% from Prior Year**
- ➔ **District’s Enrollment has Grown by 63,689 Students or 26% over Last 10 Years.**



IF YOU HAVE  
ADDITIONAL  
QUESTIONS,  
PLEASE VISIT

[www.bondinfo.ccsd.net](http://www.bondinfo.ccsd.net)

Based on 4th week enrollment in September (i.e., fiscal year 2012 enrollment reflects count as of September 2011).

# 2011 MODERNIZATION REPORT



Howard A. Wasden Elementary School

## Older schools receive more than \$1 billion in improvements

Since the approval of the 1998 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the Clark County School District has completed nearly \$1.552 billion worth of school improvements and modernization at older existing schools, while an additional \$48 million worth of school improvements are nearly complete.

The terms modernization and renovation are often used interchangeably - meaning modifications are made to schools to bring the facility up-to-date in design or function. Modernization is not just a cosmetic fix, it is the work that will extend the life of a solid building and provide additional resources for student education. **Almost every existing school has received a new state-of-the-art security system, new shade structures over elementary school playgrounds, telephones in every classroom, access to the wide area network, upgrades in the schools' local area networks, new computers, replacement of worn out furniture and equipment.** Additions to some schools have been a part of the modernization program to bring some older schools in line with current standards.



Deciding which projects will be completed is determined through a detailed process with five priority levels. Each school is thoroughly and continually assessed to determine its needs, and each need is placed onto a modernization needs list. School needs are ranked or prioritized depending upon the urgency of the project and listed in priority.

■ **Priority One – SAFETY:** project conditions require immediate action in order to address safety code and accessibility violations. Safety needs are first and foremost, therefore are awarded the highest priority within the modernization needs list.

■ **Priority Two – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING:** projects that are addressed in the near future to accommodate current educational program requirements. Included are systems that are functioning improperly or at limited capacity, and if not addressed, will cause additional system deterioration and added repair costs.

■ **Priority Three – SYSTEMS:** projects maintain the integrity of the building and address building systems, building components, and site work that have reached or exceeded their life cycle replacements based on industry standards.

■ **Priority Four – UPGRADES & AESTHETICS:** projects address system upgrades and aesthetic issues that represent sensible improvements to the existing building condition such as, but not limited to, new carpet, paint and ceilings.

■ **Priority Five – NEW STANDARDS:** projects identify deficiencies that do not conform to current codes but are “grandfathered” into their existing condition. These items are addressed if any significant work is performed on the building.

## Looking Ahead

Even with nearly \$1.6 billion in modernization projects, there are still hundreds of outstanding projects for which there is no available funding. The Bond Oversight Committee has reviewed the unfunded needs and will continue to prioritize the projects as funding becomes available. The Committee has projected that CCSD will need \$5.3 billion over the next 10 years to provide and maintain an equal educational environment for the district's schools.

For a detailed list of what specific projects have been completed at each school, please visit <http://www.ccsd.net/divisions/facilities/bond> through the Clark County School District website.