

ROWLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# BUILDING FUTURES

Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2008-09

## 8 NEW ELEMENTARY LIBRARIES OPENED THANKS TO COMMUNITY



New libraries that opened in 2008-09 left to right are Northam Elementary, Rowland Elementary, Hurley Elementary and La Seda Elementary.

Rowland Unified neighborhood schools are being modernized thanks to voters who approved the \$118 million Measure R General Obligation Bond. The District has aggressively pursued state bond matching funds. Some of those funds have been captured and the District is in the process of applying for an additional \$14 million to augment the community's investment.

Dedicated to school facility construction projects that include classroom modernization, electrical, plumbing and energy modernization, new construction and federally-mandated upgrades to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 at schools, this 2008-09 Annual Report by the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee highlights recent projects.

Thriving communities have great schools. We will continue to do our part in providing exceptional education programs at safe and vibrant schools that help protect property values and the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

**8 New Libraries!** The District is proud to have opened eight new elementary libraries – with more to come – thanks to the Measure R Bond and a partnership with The Wonder of Reading nonprofit foundation. These beautiful libraries have doubled the space available to our students. Each of the libraries at Hollingworth, Hurley, Jellick, La Seda, Northam, Rorimer, Rowland and Villacorta Elementary Schools feature a mini-amphitheater for story telling, computer research and tutoring stations, along with inviting reading areas. The Wonder of Reading program replaces outdated books with \$10,000 worth of new books. It also trains volunteers to read one-on-one with students for an hour every week for the entire school year to increase their reading skills. *Next in 2010: Ybarra Academy of Arts and Technology Library!*

If you would like to become a reading volunteer, please call (626) 854-8352.

### NEWS FLASH!

Rowland Unified is one of the few public school districts in the state that just received an upgraded credit rating by Standard & Poor's, the financial industry's independent source of credit risk evaluation, to AA- due to the District's strong financial position and management. "This will save taxpayers millions of dollars in property taxes over many years on the Measure R general obligation bonds," said Superintendent Dr. Maria Ott.

# MEASURE R PROJECT UPDATE 2008-09

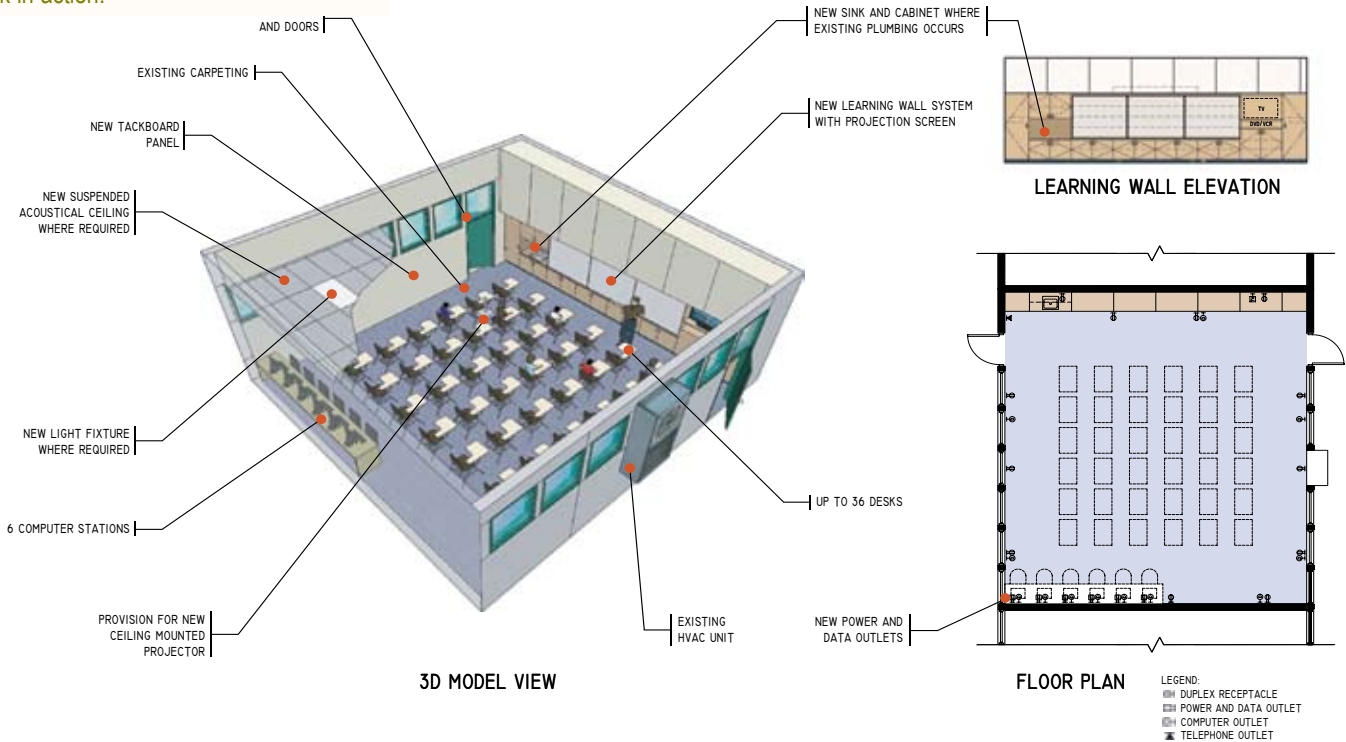
## Features of Classroom Modernizations

The following features will be part of standard classroom modernization efforts that will take place at schools across the District:

- **Learning Wall System** (wall units for teaching tools such as white boards, storage area and space for multimedia technology/projection screen)
- **New Power and Data Outlets**
- **Lighting Replacement** (if needed)
- **Plumbing Infrastructure Replacement**
- **Ceiling Repair/Replacement**
- **New Windows and Doors** (if needed)



Rowland Elementary has the first modernized classroom in the District. 5th grade teacher Ms. Mauk in action!



ROWLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROTOTYPICAL CLASSROOM - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (FINGER TYPE)

HENRY WOO ARCHITECTS, INC.  
1210 BREA CANYON ROAD  
DIAWORLD BLDG. CA 92718

## NEW SCIENCE LABS PLANNED FOR GIANO

Giano students and staff such as Science Teacher Mike Cody (pictured) are excited about plans for new science labs that will feature a teacher's demonstration table, chemical-resistant science furniture, new sinks, lab preparation area, storage cabinets for microscopes and other science equipment, and upgraded electrical and technology systems. Plans have been approved by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) and are in the pre-construction phase.



# REVVED UP AND READY...

## Revamped Nogales AutoShop

Our District is one of the leaders in the state for receiving approval of matching funding by the State Allocation Board for Career Technical Education Projects. **More than \$4 million in modernization grants** has been approved for the Auto Repair Program at Nogales High School, the Culinary Arts/JAR program at Rowland High School, and the Business and Information Technology programs at both high schools.



The Automotive Repair Program at Nogales prepares and trains students aspiring to enter careers in the automotive and transportation fields. The modernized facility features upgraded electrical power and technology outlets/drops, replacement of rollup doors for moving donated cars and engines in and out of the shop, and equipment equivalent to current industry standards for auto repair and smog checks. New high-tech auto repair equipment includes in-ground auto lifts, tire machine, balancer, valve grinder, lathe, welder, tube bender, and drill press. Nearly 50 years old, the existing structure is retrofitted with new workbenches, storage area and installation of proper ventilation and waste disposal systems. The State has approved a matching grant of \$1,080,003 for a total project amount of \$2,160,006.



**Auto Shop at Nogales:** Automotive teacher Mike McCarthy and Erickson-Hall Construction Superintendent Bob Lathrop Sr. install a new chassis dynamometer for testing overall car operation. The facility opens this Fall and offers students interested in a technical education in the auto industry the opportunity for state-of-the-art learning experiences.

## BOND PROJECTS AT A GLANCE

PROJECT	STATUS
<i>Ybarra Academy Portables</i>	SUMMER '09 Construction Completed
<i>Blandford ES Portables</i>	SUMMER '09 Construction Completed
<i>Nogales High School – CTE: Autoshop</i>	FALL'09 Now Under Construction
<i>Ybarra Academy Modernization</i>	Now being Bid; Construction Nov. 2009 – July 2010
<i>Rowland High School – CTE: Culinary Arts - JAR</i>	DSA-approved ( <i>Preconstruction Phase</i> )
<i>Giano IS Modernization</i>	DSA-approved ( <i>Preconstruction Phase</i> )
<i>Hurley ES Modernization</i>	DSA-approved ( <i>Preconstruction Phase</i> )
<i>Blandford ES Modernization</i>	DSA-approved ( <i>Preconstruction Phase</i> )
<b>Division of the State Architect (DSA) Review 6-8 months</b>	
<i>Rincon IS Modernization</i>	Dec. 2008 – Nov. 2009
<i>Nogales High Modernization</i>	Jan. 2009 – Nov. 2009
<i>Oswalt Academy Modernization</i>	April – Nov. 2009
<i>Alvarado IS Modernization</i>	March – Dec. 2009
<i>Rowland High School Modernization</i>	Aug. 2009 – Feb. 2010
<i>Nogales High School Library Floor Repair</i>	Oct. 2009 – April 2010
<b>Remaining Projects:</b>	<b>Fall 2010 - 2013</b>

## FREQUENTLY ASKED MEASURE R BOND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **Why were the new tracks and football field projects at both Nogales and Rowland High Schools completed first?**

Safety of our students and cost-savings. For several years there were parent complaints about the quality of the fields. There were significant long-term cost-savings for installing synthetic turfs and tracks, including rebates for water conservation and overall field maintenance costs. Safety for student athletes has improved.

### **When a project is DSA Approved – how long until the work is finished?**

Every project has multiple variables to determine a completion date. However, the typical construction process is as follows:

- 1) Program and Planning
- 2) Architect design
- 3) Division of the State Architect (DSA) Review Process (Generally takes 6-8 months)
- 4) Pre-construction Phase (logistics such as temporary housing, moving classrooms and school scheduling)
- 5) Bidding process for contractors (2-3 months)
- 6) Construction Phase

Rowland Unified School District is proud to serve 16,500 students at 23 elementary and secondary schools in the communities of Rowland Heights, Walnut, West Covina, La Puente, and City of Industry. Permits allow students from other communities to attend our schools. More than 5,000 adults (16+) are also served by the Rowland Adult and Community Education School. For more information, please call the Public Information Office at (626) 854-8352 or visit [www.RowlandSchools.org](http://www.RowlandSchools.org)

## Independent Audit Reports Give Rowland Unified High Marks

Every year, the District is mandated by the state to have an audit performed on the Measure R 2006 Bond finances. The audit is comprised of two separate audits: financial and performance.

The financial audit verifies that funds are being spent in compliance with state laws and guidelines. The performance audit shows the local community how the District has expended the bond proceeds. Audit subjects include: compliance with ballot language, compliance with District policies and guidelines, best practices for procurement and procedures of construction.

The auditors, Vincenti, Lloyd and Stutzman, LLP, concluded for the 2007-08 audit reports that the District had complied with all applicable accounting standards for governmental agencies. In addition, they found the Measure R financial statements free of material misstatements and no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Governmental Auditing Standards.

The auditor also concluded that the District had properly accounted for the expenditure of funds held in the Bond Building Fund and that such expenditures were made for authorized bond projects. They further concluded that the bond funds were not expended for salaries of school administrators or other operating expenditures.

**On December 3, 2009, the Committee will receive the 2008-09 Financial Audit and Performance Audit reports for review and approval.**

### **2008-09 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Activities**

The Committee met four times between September 2008 and June 2009 to receive, review and discuss the following: Program Status Updates, Program Financial Reports, Project Status Reports and Bid Status of Various Projects. The Committee approved the Program Financial Reports at each meeting.

### **2008-09 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Members**

Dr. Nimesh Ladhawala, *Committee Chairperson*  
Mrs. Kathi Delegal, *Committee Vice Chairperson*  
Mr. Gilbert Acevez  
Dr. Theodore Ebenkamp  
Mrs. Josefina Baella  
Mr. Siong Yap

\*If you would like more information on how to become a committee member, please call (626) 854-8520 ext. 8309.



**ROWLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
1830 S. Nogales Street  
Rowland Heights, CA 91748-2993  
[www.RowlandSchools.org](http://www.RowlandSchools.org)

Superintendent: Maria G. Ott, Ph.D.

Board of Education:

Robert F. Hidalgo, PRESIDENT

Gilbert G. García, Ph.D., VICE PRESIDENT

Heidi L. Gallegos, CLERK

Gloria Burt, MEMBER

Judy Nieh, MEMBER

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