



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2025

Gregory-Portland Independent School District

CONTACT: Crystal Matern, Chief Communications & Engagement Officer
Office: (361) 777-1091, ext. 1031 | **Cell:** (361) 332-1476 | **Email:** cmatern@g-pisd.org

**Gregory-Portland ISD Trustees call for \$205 Million
School Bond with No Increase to the Total Tax Rate**

During a special called meeting Monday, the Gregory-Portland ISD School Board called for a four-proposition \$205 million school bond to appear on the May 3rd ballot. The bond proposal will be offered with no increase to the existing total tax rate at a time in G-P history when currently 90 percent of school bonds are funded by tax contributions from local industry. Given this fact, should voters approve of this proposal, local industry would cover approximately \$185 million of the total bond cost and residential contributions would total \$20 million.

Among the projects listed in Proposition A of this bond proposal are Career and Technical Education (CTE) Additions and Renovations; G-P High School Additions and Renovations; safety district-wide security upgrades; elementary playground improvements; and more. Proposition B consists of a reimbursement resolution tied to the All-Purpose Practice Facility/Fieldhouse which would allow \$50 million to be “moved over” from the Interest & Sinking (I&S) Debt Service (bond-only) Fund to the district’s Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Fund – an allowable reimbursement with a limited window of opportunity under existing law. Proposition C includes a rotation / replacement of technology including classroom devices for every student, as well as other technology equipment for district and school use. Proposition D is offered for voter consideration of a Visual & Performing Arts Academic Center.

Board President Tim Flinn said the total cost to fund this bond is less than the recommendation proposed by the district’s bond stakeholder committee that met throughout the Fall. “After meetings were held the last several months with this committee, the board heard from representatives who indicated that they wanted to see all projects proposed appear on the ballot. All the projects considered would have been a \$318 million bond package.”

Flinn said that the Board then reviewed feedback from a voter survey conducted by the district in December and January, and they were able to take recommendations both from the committee as well as the survey respondents. “It’s important that we take everything into consideration – what feedback receive, what we know as board members, and what makes sense at this time for G-PISD. I believe the Board made the right decision with the (\$205 million) bond package we have approved, and we thank everyone who served on the bond committee and completed the survey. Their feedback was vital to helping us finalize what is now ‘Bond 2025.’”

The school board voted unanimously, 7-0, to call for a bond after discussing various project options tied to community feedback. Superintendent Dr. Michelle Cavazos said the district is committed to conducting a sound process for stakeholder input and remains dedicated to financial transparency. “We are in a unique period of time for G-PISD where our community can consider bonds with zero tax impact – meaning whether a bond passes or fails, our total tax rate will be exactly the same as it is today,” Cavazos said. “Additionally, the overall debt obligation for a bond is similar to buying a mortgage on a home. It’s essentially a loan, yet in the case of G-PISD industry pays 90 percent of that loan. This means that if you were buying a \$205 Million home ... local industry is paying \$185 Million and you, ‘the homeowner (resident)’ are paying \$20 Million.”

Cavazos expressed gratitude for the leadership of the board and feedback received from the bond committee as well as those who submitted the survey: “For the last few years, we’ve been telling our community that we would continue to consider bonds while our current financial situation allows us to do so with significant industrial contributions. As we approach the May election, we will continue to be transparent and forthcoming with information for our community and encourage all to be informed and actively participate in this process by casting a vote in the upcoming election.”

##