

RESOLUTION NO. 17/18-27
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 the Lease-Purchase Program and School Facility Program, Title 1, Division 1, Part 10, Chapters 12 and 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, as of December 5, 2017, there was a more than \$3.2 billion backlog in project applications filed by school districts seeking matching state bond funds; and

WHEREAS, many school districts that filed their School Facility Program grant fund applications back in 2013 and are still waiting on state funding to pay for school construction projects; and

WHEREAS, it has been more than one year since voters approved \$7.0 billion for K-12 state school bonds in Proposition 51, and only approximately \$600 million of K-12 Proposition 51 funds will be sold in 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, this current pace of school bond sales does not meet the \$3.2 billion backlog of submitted applications by school districts across the state; and

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

WHEREAS, at the current pace of state school bond sales, it will be almost a decade before 90 percent of Proposition 51 K-12 funds will be committed; and

WHEREAS, school districts face rising construction cost inflation the longer the state delays bond sales to fund the submitted applications backlog, resulting in fewer students having access to new and renovated classrooms from Proposition 51; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is increasing interest rates resulting in taxpayers having to pay higher interest costs for school bonds the longer the state delays bond sales; 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 Coalition for Adequate School Housing proposes \$3.0 billion in Proposition 51 bond sales in 2018-19 to meet most of the \$3.2 billion application backlog as of December 2017, so that school districts receive the resources voters promised to adequately serve students, families and their communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the William S. Hart Union High School District/County Board of Education calls on the State of California to process and apportion \$3.0 billion in application backlog by December 31, 2018 and sell \$3.0 billion in Proposition 51 state school bonds during 2018-19 to honor the will of California voters.

APPROVED, ADOPTED, AND SIGNED, this 28th day of February, 2018.

Mr. Steven M. Sturgeon, President of the
Governing Board of the William S. Hart Union
High School District

Mr. Robert N. Jensen, Jr., Clerk of the Governing
Board of the William S. Hart Union High School
District