



Monroe School District #1J  
365 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Monroe, OR 97456  
541/847-6292 541/847-6290 Fax

October 18, 2017

Dear Community Members,

The Monroe School District and its Board of Directors would like to express our deep gratitude for your passage of a \$6 million bond last November to improve the physical infrastructure of our schools and to support us in providing the best possible education for our students. Along with the \$6 million bond passed by our local voters, we were able to secure \$4 million in matching money from the state of Oregon and a \$1.5 million seismic renovation grant.

We have made significant progress since securing the bond money last spring. We have replaced a large portion of the roof at the Grade School building along with seismic safety retrofits, removed the grade school boiler and replaced it with new heat pump systems throughout the building, replaced the high school gym bleachers, and replaced the outdated water exchange system in the high school gym/commons with heat pumps. All of these improvements will help us to provide a safer and more efficient environment for our students.

We have recently hired Pivot Architecture from Eugene to help us in the planning stages for work to be done over the next two school years and summers. Future projects will include classroom space, security, water and electrical system upgrades, ADA compliance and accessibility, and technology upgrades among many other things. We are very excited about the opportunity to improve our schools and are working hard to make sure this money is spent wisely and with an eye on the future.

The Monroe School District had not passed a bond since 1988 leaving us with little to no institutional knowledge on working with bonds. In addition, we have seen turnover in the Superintendent and Business Manager positions at the district office level over the last nine months. The Oregon Department of Revenue has very strict regulations. Two components required to allow us to levy taxes on our constituents were missed last spring, and we will not be allowed to levy any bond related taxes this fall. We will however still have a bond debt that must be paid during the 2017-18 school year and we do not have the reserves needed to do this. We are in the process of securing a short term loan that will need to be repaid in 2018-19 along with our bond debt payments. This will cause us to have a double property tax payment in 2018-19 and then return to a single property tax payment in 2019-2020. The single payment will be in effect for the remaining life of the bond.

The Monroe School District and the Board of Directors would like to apologize for the inconvenience this process may cause and again thank you for your support of our schools. Please contact Bill Crowson, Superintendent with questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Thank you,

Bill Crowson  
Superintendent

Nancy Burnett  
Board Chair

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**Local  
Postal Patron**

**Upcoming Events:**

October 31: Free Halloween Carnival 5-8 PM @grade school. Costume Contest, carnival games, dinner available for purchase.

November 1: Thanksgiving Food Drive begins, grade school

November 3: No School, end of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter teacher workday

November 6: Dragon Pride Booster Club meeting, HS commons 7:30 PM

November 8-9: No School, K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 10: No School, Veteran's Day observed

November 13: School Board meeting, HS Library 6:30 PM

November 17: No School, Professional Development

November 23-24 No School, Thanksgiving Break

December 4: Dragon Pride Booster Club meeting, HS commons 7:30 PM

December 11: School Board meeting, HS Library 6:30 PM

December 20-January 2: No School, Christmas Break

January 8: School Board meeting, HS Library 6:30 PM

January 15: No School, MLK Jr. Day

January 16: No School, Professional Development

January 26: No School, End 1<sup>st</sup> Semester teacher workday