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Construction bond would bring needed improvements to Southwest schools

By Jillian Daley
The Southwest Portland Post

If the school construction bond passes on November 6, it would gen-

erate \$482 million in revenue, funds that would support reconstructing and improving buildings at Portland Public Schools, including several here in Southwest.



Portland School District spokeswoman Erin Barnett and Portland School Board member Ruth Adkins delivered a presentation on the proposed school construction bond at the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association meeting in September. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)

The bond aims to bring schools into this century. More than half of the district's 78 schools were built before 1940, and several are more than 100 years old, according to school district documents.

During a presentation at the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association meeting in September, school district spokeswoman Erin Barnett and Portland School Board member Ruth Adkins delivered a bond presentation, which included how the bond would affect the Southwest.

Southwest schools that stand to reap the benefits of the bond revenue include:

- Roof replacement and seismic bracing at Ainsworth and Hayhurst elementary schools.
- New roofs at Bridlemile, Maplewood and Stephenson elementary schools as well as Jackson Middle School and Wilson High School.
- Seismic strengthening at Ainsworth and Hayhurst and Jackson Middle School.
- Upgrades for greater access for people with disabilities at Ainsworth

and Markham elementary schools as well as West Sylvan Middle School and Lincoln and Wilson high schools,

• Science lab improvements at Robert Gray and Jackson middle schools and Hayhurst.

For the first eight years of the measure, the cost to homeowners would be \$1.10 per \$1,000 of assessed property value; the bond would dip to 30 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value for an additional 12 years, according to school district documents.

For a house with an assessed property value of \$150,000, the cost would be \$165 per year for the first eight years and \$45 per year for the additional 12 years.

A "citizen accountability committee" will oversee the bond program. The bond money only can be used to rebuild or improve schools, not for salaries or educational programs. There will be a dedicated funding stream to ensure that the new buildings can be maintained.

To make the decisions about what
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Historic home at Eagle Point, one of two viewpoints along Terwilliger Parkway, is up for sale

By Lee Perlman
The Southwest Portland Post

The 1912 Olmsted Plan for Southwest Terwilliger Parkway called for two public viewpoints. One was Elk Point, now partially occupied by the Chart House restaurant. The other, Eagle Point (4099 SW Lowell Lane), was never acquired and eventually abandoned by planners – but is now for sale.

Friends of Terwilliger Parkway member Susan Egnor told the Homestead Neighborhood Association last month that she was on Terwilliger during the parkway's centennial celebration in July, and was startled to see owner Kirk Kenwood set up a card table with a sign saying, "House for Sale."

Kenwood has since held several open houses on the 1.2-acre property. However, he later told *The Post*, he would prefer to sell it to a public

agency such as the City of Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

City officials contacted by the Post refused to discuss the matter. However, Hillsdale community activist Wes Risher told Homestead that there have been discussions with officials of the park bureau about acquiring and maintaining the property, with Metro about using some of its Nature in Neighborhoods funds for the acquisition, and that both expressed interest.

The current driveway originally circled the property's perimeter, but part of it was vacated in 1963; in that year also, 0.2 acres of the property was sold off. Tree growth has obscured the original view to some extent, but it still offers a spectacular vista of downtown, the Willamette Valley, and Mount Hood.

Kenwood said the four-bedroom house was built in 1892 by Frederick Walpole. Later occupants included the naturalist John Muir (not the



Kirk Kenwood's four-bedroom house at Eagle Point was built in 1892 by Frederick Walpole. Kenwood said he would prefer to sell the house and property to the Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation (Post photo by Lee Perlman)

creator of Yosemite National Park), and Kenwood's father John.

The elder Kenwood served as director of the Portland Development Commission for 20 years under Commission chair Ira Keller and Mayor Terry Shrink. Both of Kenwood's parents were military pilots during World War II who met at a USO Show.

Kenwood said the house's features include stone fireplaces in every room and old growth fir floors, harvested from trees on the

property. The house is now surrounded by second-growth trees as high as 100 feet.

Some of them, including a Japanese maple and a sequoia, were planted to commemorate the birth of his three children, he said.

Kenwood has lived in the house all his life, and loves it, but said, "I don't need all that room, and I do need the money. I'd rather sell it to Parks and have them care for the house than sell it to a developer who'd tear it down."

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