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Aug. 18, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RGSD School Board Votes to Put \$15 Million Bond Proposal on Nov. 3 Ballot

Members of the Riverview Gardens School Board unanimously voted at their Aug. 18 meeting to ask voters to decide a \$15 million bond issue proposal on Nov. 3. If approved by a 4/7 majority, the bonds would address critical capital improvements identified by a facilities study.

During the 2008-09 school year, the district's Great Expectations Committee of parents, staff and community leaders reviewed a lengthy facilities study that summarized a list of critical safety issues that should be a priority to address as well as other capital needs that should be addressed over the next five years. The report outlined plumbing, electrical, ADA and other safety and security upgrades that totaled close to \$30 million.

"The \$15 million bond issue will provide crucial upgrades in our buildings that ultimately improve the educational climate for our students," said School Board President Rev. Tommie Pierson. "This will address outdated equipment and declining infrastructure that has occurred over time."

The district's stronger financial management over the past two years has given the district the ability to propose a \$15 million bond issue **without raising the debt service tax rate**. Furthermore, if voters pass this bond issue, the district will be in the position to apply for federal stimulus money.

The bond issue will cover improvements at all nine elementary schools, both middle schools, Riverview Gardens High School and Central Office. Older buildings in the district have more significant needs than some of the newer buildings. Improvements include:

Health & Safety Upgrades:

- Adhering to the Americans with Disabilities Act
- Improving restrooms
- Replacing outdated electrical panels
- Replacing dangerous outdoor walkways

Security Upgrades

- Improving Security Camera System
- Securing perimeter of some campuses

Classroom Upgrades

- Improving lighting
- Replacing asbestos flooring
- Replacing some HVAC systems
- Painting classrooms