



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Sharon Flores, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services - (760) 367-9191

Morongo Unified School District Refinances Bonds, Saves Taxpayers Money

Twentynine Palms, CA – April 5, 2018: In March, the Morongo Unified School District refinanced portions of its \$24.5 million Election of 2005, General Obligation Series B and Series C Bonds, which will save District property owners over \$8.2 million in taxes (or, 20% of refunded bonds).

The bonds were authorized by more than 55% of Morongo Unified School District voters at an election held in 2005 and were used to fund the addition of approximately 81,201 sqft of new classroom space (including restroom facilities), 20,376 sqft of new administrative space at school sites, and construct a new 51,815 sqft elementary school in Joshua Tree. Bond funds also supported various projects at sites throughout the district including, ADA access, parking renovation/expansion, drop off and pick up zones, bus lanes, shade/lunch shelters, landscaping, security cameras, security door hardware, electrical service upgrades, MPR modifications, production kitchen renovations, playground/playfield (P.E.) enhancements, stadium restrooms, locker room upgrades, and many other campus facilities improvements.

Interest rates on the old Series B and C Bonds ranged between 4.00% and 6.14%. The interest rates for the new bonds range between 1.40% and 3.59%, a difference that will save property taxpayers over \$8.2 million. The final payment of the new bonds will remain the same as the original August 1, 2039 payment of the Series B and Series C Bonds.

Superintendent Tom Baumgarten stated, “The Board of Education, District staff, and I identified an opportunity to refinance the District’s debt obligations and save taxpayers money; this was something we could not pass on.” Sharon Flores, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services added, “Interest rates were very low at the time of the refunding. This allowed us to capture significant taxpayer savings by refinancing the Series B and Series C Bonds when we did.”

The refinancing of the bonds was authorized unanimously by the Morongo Unified School District Board at the February 13th board meeting. “We are absolutely thrilled with this fantastic result for our community. To save local taxpayers money is a huge win for the District and its taxpayers.” said Board President Karalee Hargrove.

Property owners in the District will see a reduced tax rate on future tax bills.