Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools Awarded $43 Million Project for New Middle School

Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools is proud to announce that the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) has awarded the district funding for a new middle school project totaling $43 million. This transformational investment will ensure our students have access to safe, modern, and high-quality learning environments for years to come.

This achievement represents the collective effort of many individuals and partners who worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality.

The journey began several years ago with Senator Brantley, who helped initiate the process and later by writing a critical letter of support on behalf of the district. Dr. Segura, former Superintendent, further strengthened the effort by submitting a letter to the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) that served as a placeholder while the district worked to determine how to qualify for a project of this magnitude.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Nichole Burgin and the TCMSD School Board of Education, the district advanced the project by successfully passing an $8 million bond dedicated specifically to the new middle school. Even more significantly, the Board at the time—Christy Lafont, Rebecca Bartoo, Mark Hedge, Tracy Cole, and Jaime Sweeny—took bold action to address systemic barriers by proposing changes to state criteria that historically limited small and rural districts.

Their work led to the development and passage of Senate Bill 82, a critical piece of legislation that allowed districts like Truth or Consequences to qualify for a state waiver. This was no small feat. It required extensive advocacy and coordination at the legislative level, demonstrating the board’s unwavering commitment to equity for rural students.

On May 14, Superintendent Burgin formally presented the district's case to the Capital Outlay Council alongside Maintenance Director Chad Spitzer, whose detailed documentation of the middle school's conditions was instrumental in the application. They were joined by the School Board President, representing the unified leadership behind this effort.

Award decisions were announced at the PSCOC meeting on June 11, where it was revealed that 22 districts applied statewide. Of those, Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools was one of only three districts awarded all three phases of funding. PSFA leadership noted that two districts, including T or C, stood out for their preparedness and demonstrated capacity to move quickly on the project.

The reality is clear: without Senate Bill 82, this opportunity would not have been possible. The district extends a heartfelt thank you to the board members and advocates who championed this change. Special recognition goes to Rebecca Bartoo, whose tireless, hands-on advocacy throughout the legislative session was instrumental to the bill's success.

Her efforts were supported by key partners and champions including Representative Rebecca Dow, NMSSA Executive Director Stan Rounds, Representative Tanya Moya, and Senator Soules, who accepted critical amendments to the bill. Their commitment ensured that rural districts like ours have a fair opportunity to meet the needs of our students.

This award is more than a milestone—it is a testament to what can be accomplished when a community comes together with determination, vision, and a shared commitment to student success.

"It truly took a village," and today, that village celebrates a historic victory for the students of Truth or Consequences.