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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ontario-Montclair School District Board of Trustees Places Education Measure on November 2016 Ballot

The Ontario-Montclair School District Board of Trustees unanimously voted Thursday night to place a local education bond measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot for voters’ consideration.

The Ontario-Montclair School District has spent the past several years conducting a comprehensive review of needs at every school site to identify the specific repairs and upgrades necessary to improve the quality of educational facilities. Over these months the District has engaged approximately 2,000 residents and community members, soliciting input from parents, teachers, homeowners and community stakeholders on the best way to maintain our award winning schools.

Some of the needs identified include:

- retaining and attracting quality teachers;
- updating accessibility for disabled persons;
- removing asbestos, providing clean and safe classrooms and a quality learning environment for students;
- repairing aging classrooms, restrooms and leaky, deteriorating roofs;
- upgrading fire safety systems including safety doors, smoke alarms and detectors;
- upgrading physical education facilities important for student health and academic performance; and
- upgrading classrooms, science labs and computer labs, to help ensure students have equal access to competitive 21st century learning

“Many of our schools were built decades ago, some of which are over 75 years old. We need to make basic health and safety improvements, including fixing aging classrooms, restrooms, and deteriorating roofs; replacing outdated air conditioning systems; and removing asbestos and lead paint, so children can learn in safe, healthy classrooms,” said Phil Hillman, Chief Business Official.

The Ontario-Montclair School District is committed to providing a quality education to nearly 22,000 Pre-K through 8th grade students housed at its 26 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, and 2 alternative programs. The District’s notable school recognition awards include two California Distinguished Schools, 11 Gold Ribbon Schools, four International Baccalaureate Schools, and four magnet schools, specializing in GATE, Dual Language, and Arts-integration. The District also has several AVID schools including AVID National Demonstration Schools.

“Education and health experts agree that kids need physical education programs to stay out of trouble, focus, perform well in school, and prevent childhood obesity. A published UCLA study showed that over 40% of children in Ontario and Montclair were overweight, two of the highest rates in the county. We must upgrade physical education facilities important for student health and academic performance,” said Superintendent James Q. Hammond.

The proposed measure requires strict fiscal accountability including independent annual financial audits and an Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to monitor expenditures.

If you have questions, please contact the District Office at (909) 418-6445 or info@omsd.net

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