

Carlsbad: School trustees to discuss possible bond

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[Carlsbad Unified School District](#) Superintendent John Roach has raised the idea of asking voters to approve another school bond to fund a technology endowment and additional construction at Sage Creek High School.

Roach has asked a consultant to present a report to the school board Wednesday about the possibility of a new general obligation bond.

He said he isn't yet recommending a bond, but simply wants the trustees to know about the potential benefits and tell him what they think of the idea.

If they like it, he said he would prepare a timeline, plan the next steps and seek community input.

In a hypothetical scenario, the consultant will present to the board Wednesday, the district could borrow \$116 million and use it to invest in another California municipality, which would net a 5 percent return each year.

This \$5.8 million could be used to pay for continuing technological upgrades, Roach said.

A bond that size would cost homeowners \$30 for every \$100,000 in appraised value for 25 years.

Having some additional money for technology could help the district in the future keep more money in its general fund, which is used for most operating expenses, Roach said.

The bond also could include \$50 million in borrowing to pay for a pool and performing arts center at Sage Creek High School, which is expected to open in 2013. That would cost homeowners an additional \$11.10 per \$100,000 in value.

In 2006, voters approved Proposition P, a \$198 million bond measure that paid for renovation work and several campuses and to build Sage Creek. The new high school will be the last of those projects.

The possible bond measures being presented are not specific proposals, Roach said, but are meant to give trustees a better idea of how the process works.

"I'm not suggesting at this moment that we do a bond in November," he said, "but this was interesting enough that I thought the board ought to learn about this thing."

The [school board meeting](#) is scheduled to start at 6 p.m. Wednesday at City Hall, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive.

Roach has also brought up the possibility of putting a parcel tax on the ballot, but decided that it probably would be too difficult to get the required 66 percent of affirmative votes.

Recently, district officials have looked for ways to bring in more money and cut costs to help close a budget shortfall estimated at \$10 million next year.

School trustees have said the district will need to make several changes next year to save money, including possibly closing schools, cutting salaries, shortening the school year and eliminating administrative positions.

District officials expect to bring in about \$72 million and spend roughly \$74 million next year.

District revenue has declined over the past three years, from \$89 million in 2008-09 to \$83 million last year and a projected \$73 million this year.