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The Valley Press

Palmdale district to employ 4 architects in modernization

By: Julie Drake

PALMDALE - Palmdale School District will use four architectural firms to implement the first modernization projects in the district's Facilities Master Plan, approved in August.

Phase one of the plan includes two types of projects - Safety and Community Pride projects and Mid-size projects. The district's governing board at its Dec. 12 meeting approved programs and a budget, projected at \$70.9 million, for the phase one projects.

The district will use funds from Measure PSD, the \$80 million bond measure passed by voters in November 2016, and the remainder of Measure DD, the \$220 million bond measure approved by voters in November 2012, plus Community Facilities District funds to pay for the projects.

The school board on Tuesday approved professional service agreements with architectural firms Dougherty Architects Inc., Flewelling & Moody Inc., WLC Architects Inc. and Ziemba + Prieto Architects to implement the projects.

The \$70.9 million budget includes \$16.3 million for Safety and Community Pride projects, \$2.1 million to create science labs at the district's middle schools and \$7.1 million for playground upgrades.

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The district formed elementary and middle school committees for the phase one projects. Each school site also had a committee for Safety and Community Pride projects. The committee feedback was shared with the district administration and the school board.

The key concepts of the footprint modernization include improving the front entry experience by creating an attractive, welcoming and visible front office while enhancing safety. Other goals include libraries sized for up to 70 students with bookcases on wheels to create optional layouts. Playground upgrades will vary by school site.

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