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## **BHSD Voices - New Facilities Assessment and Planning Grants**

(March 21, 2018)

Hello, this is Sean Gallagher — Superintendent of Brookings-Harbor School District here to share exciting news for the future of our schools.

Our district just won two new Oregon Department of Education grants — one for a facilities assessment and one to develop a short and long range facilities plan. Combined, these grants are worth \$45,000, and will be used to hire a professional consultant to do an extensive assessment and create updated plans.

You might have heard that our district was also the recipient of three seismic safety grants from Business Oregon totaling \$4.5 million. Last summer, the elementary school completed an earthquake retrofit, the middle and high school will be under construction this summer.

What is particularly exciting about the two new facilities grants from ODE is that they will allow our district to look beyond just earthquake safety concerns to the myriad other factors that will impact our schools in the years to come — examples of this are needed improvements to classroom learning environments; an evaluation of population growth; and the use of school facilities as community gathering spaces.

The two new facilities grants were awarded through the ODE's Technical Assistance Program. The grants are meant for districts such as ours that have less than 2,500 students or have more

than 25% of students in poverty, or have not conducted a facility assessment in the last 10 years, or have not passed a general obligation bond in the last 15 years.

Completing this work will qualify our district to apply for additional grants and matching fund programs at the state-level.

Thank you to our District Facilities Committee for their diligent work to help earn this new pair of grants to help us protect the important community investment that is our school buildings and to continue to plan for a future where “Every Student Can Succeed.”