

December 16, 2009

PANEL APPROVES MODIFIED APPLICATION FOR NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN WORLEY

(Boise) – Meeting in Boise on Tuesday, the Idaho Public School Facilities Cooperative Funding Panel approved a modified application from Plummer-Worley School District #44 in the amount of \$11,349,435 to be used for construction of a new school to replace the now-closed Lakeside Elementary School in Worley. The district plans to build the new school in Plummer on land already owned by the district.

July of 2009, the Idaho Division of Building Safety issued an imminent safety hazard declaration relative to the 72-year-old Lakeside Elementary School. The Division's findings, supported by a structural engineering report commissioned by the Idaho Division of Public Works, were that stress-induced cracks in gymnasium roof support trusses could result in a catastrophic failure of the roof should it accumulate design snow loads. Because of the engineering report finding that a failure of the gymnasium roof could damage adjacent classroom spaces and place life and limb at risk, Division of Building Safety Administrator C. Kelly Pearce ordered the withdrawal of all persons from the affected portions of the structure effective in September, 2009.

The imminent hazard declaration makes the school district eligible to apply for funds from the public school facilities cooperative fund, a \$25 Million fund created by the legislature to afford qualifying school districts a way to address facilities identified as unsafe under the standards of the Idaho Uniform School Building Safety Act.

Plummer-Worley District #44 has plans to seek patron approval of a bond issue in the amount identified by the panel. Should the bond request not gain the required 2/3 majority vote, the panel would then appoint a district supervisor for interim state supervision of the local school district and release the identified funds for construction of the new school. The funds would be paid back to the state through a 20-year payment program, through a tax assessment to district patrons.

The school district has arranged for elementary students who formerly attended Lakeside Elementary in Worley to temporarily attend classes in Plummer.