

Brea school district officials seek funds to repair quake-damaged campuses

Refurbishment and cleanup at Fanning Elementary and Brea Olinda High could hit \$2 million.

BY LOUIS CASIANO JR. / STAFF WRITER

Published: May 1, 2014 Updated: 10:41 a.m.

Brea Olinda School District officials continue to seek funds for repairs to two schools that sustained damage during a magnitude 5.1 earthquake in March.

Repairs and cleanup at Fanning Elementary School and Brea Olinda High School will cost an estimated \$2million.

Work on the schools is ongoing.

The district hopes to tap the proceeds of the potential \$25 million sale of Brea Corporate Place, once home to Brea Olinda High. The funds from the sale were intended for technology upgrades and other improvements.

A court hearing on the sale is scheduled for Tuesday on a lawsuit from a land developer that claims school board members broke the law by skipping a public auction to sell district property and instead agreeing to accept the \$25 million offer from a rival company.

“If that goes in our favor, obviously the available funds to proceed become a lot more available than they are right now,” Superintendent Skip Roland said.

Roland said the district is looking at other funding options if the sale falls through. One is to postpone upcoming summer maintenance projects, such as a roof repair at Laurel Elementary School.

Another would be to apply for a hardship grant with the state Office of Public School Construction, but that could take months.

“Some of them (grants) are oversubscribed and there’s a waiting list,” said Ken Hunt, spokesman for the state Department of General Services.

Criteria differ with each grant, but for a hardship facilities grant, repairs must be done because of imminent health and safety risks or the loss of a facility due to a disaster, such as an earthquake.

Repairs are being made to Brea Olinda High School's performing arts center, where a beam that spans the length of the building has visible cracks where it connects to a wall.

"We're going to have to go through the roof to inspect the glulam beams to see whether repairs are needed, so the cost there is highly variable based on what we find," Roland said.

An agreement has been reached with the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District for the use of its performing arts center at El Dorado High in Placentia.

Contractors have been cleaning the inside of Fanning's main building after asbestos was found in debris from light fixtures and ceiling tiles that fell to the floor during the earthquake.

Roland said most likely all asbestos in the main building will be removed, not just the fallen sources.

He said he also plans to remove all asbestos from the school's remaining structures, but that it likely would have to wait until the summer.

Fanning's second- through sixth-grade students are attending classes at Laurel Elementary School through the end of the school year.