CHALLENGE
The challenge in this project was gaining community buy-in through a bond levy for an extensive school district-wide renovation project for a rural school district. The project had a short timeframe. From an engineering standpoint, a challenge with this project was achieving a 72’ beam span to support the gymnasium roof. A steel plate splice in the MPP beam was the solution, engineered by ZCS Engineering.

SOLUTION
The school district chose innovative building solutions including Modern Building Systems’ factory-built components and Freres MPP and MPL beams. This helped cut costs in two ways: off-site labor that was not subject to prevailing wage; and off-site manufacturing that resulted in a faster construction process.

RESULT
The school district added capacity, keeping construction dollars local and gaining community support to pass a school bond to pay for the school improvements paid dividends for the school district. MPP helped expedite the construction process for the Santiam Elementary School servery, erected in just four days, and the Santiam Junior/Senior High School gym, built in 15 days.

SANTIAM CANYON SCHOOL DISTRICT CHOOSES MPP FOR FUNCTIONALITY, SPEED OF CONSTRUCTION, COMMUNITY PRIDE
Like many public schools across the country, Santiam Canyon School District in Mill City, Oregon faced aging facilities that no longer accommodated its growing student population. The rural district needed innovative ways to make multiple improvements and add square footage with quality construction, while holding to a tight budget. The only way to afford capital improvements of this size was to go out for a bond levy.

In a rural timber town, using local wood products was a key factor in gaining community buy-in. Supporting local businesses is a crucial value for the Santiam Canyon community. Voters approved the $17.9M bond in May 2019; construction began in March 2020.

“This entire project has been fun to watch, but MPP is the showstopper! We have been amazed by the enormity of the product, the precision of it and the speed at which it is installed. It is almost unfathomable how fast a structure can go from nothing to fully enclosed with MPP.”

— Todd Miller, Santiam Canyon School District Superintendent
The district sought new and innovative construction methods, and they looked to local industries to build a new junior/senior high school, add an elementary school cafeteria, add a gymnasium and make various site improvements for its schools. By using Modern Building Systems’ factory-built components and Freres Engineered Wood Products new Mass Ply Panels, the district was able to save money because a significant amount of labor was done off-site, saving on costs and allowing for quicker construction. The project showcased Freres's MPP throughout the construction, including beams, columns, roofs and walls.

It took 3,500 sq. feet of MPP to complete the Santiam Elementary servery (cafeteria) walls and 23,000 sq. ft. of MPP to create the Santiam Junior/Senior High School gym walls, roof, beams and columns. “Using the locally conceived and produced MPP added an important element of community pride that helped pass a bond levy in a district that had never supported such a levy,” said district Superintendent Todd Miller.

“The product itself is impressive, but when you also consider that it is locally produced, it is sure to be a subject of pride for our community. The support of Freres and their contributions to our project will ensure a successful end product for our community and our students.”

— Todd Miller, Santiam Canyon School District Superintendent

PARTNERS
Gerding Builders
TGC Structural
Modern Building Systems
HMK Company
ZCS Engineering
Soderstrom Architecture
Freres
Frank Lumber

MPP WAS USED AS MASS PLY LAMS IN COLUMNS AND BENCHES THROUGHOUT THE JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL.