

Please Post

San Bernardino City Unified School District

Special Meeting of the Measure T Bond
Citizens' Oversight Committee

Conference Room A/B

Time: 1:00 –3:00 pm

Board of Education Building
777 North F Street
San Bernardino, California 92410

MINUTES

March 19, 2008

Committee Members	Representing	Present	Absent
Teresa Alba	Parent		X
Robbi Brunk	At-large	X	
Soledad Castillo	Parent/PTA Member		X
Carl Clemons	At-large	X	
Ronald Coats	Business Community	X	
J. Pat Ferraris	Business Community		X
Tierney Harris	At-large		X
Margaret Hill	Senior Citizen	X	
Marion Vassilakos	Tax Payer's Organization	X	

District Support	Department	Present	Absent
Dr. Arturo Delgado	Superintendent's Office		X
John Peukert	Facilities/Operations	X	
Wael Elatar	Facilities Management	X	
Keith Kajiya	URS Facilities Program Management	X	
Samer Alzubaidi	Facilities Management	X	
Laura Breuer	Facilities Management	X	
Jorge Mendez	Facilities Management	X	
Gene Fortajada	Accounting Services	X	
Beth Alexander	Facilities Management	X	

1. Opening

a. Call to Order

Chairperson Robbi Brunk called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Wael Elatar introduced Samer Alzubaidi, Director of Facilities Management and Jorge Mendez, Assistant Director of Facilities Management to the Committee. Robbi Brunk asked if any portion of these new District employees' salaries was being paid from Bond funds. Wael stated that a portion of each salary was being paid from Bonds funds as they are directly involved with overseeing the Bond funded projects.

b. Approval of Minutes

Margaret Hill made a motion, seconded by Carl Clemons, to accept the minutes from the December 11, 2007 as presented.

c. COC Member Recruitment

Keith Kajiya reported that COC member Pat Ferraris' term will expire on March 21, 2008. Due to his company relocating to Redlands, he will not be eligible for re-appointment to the Committee for a second term. Keith will review one of the applications, which were received during the last recruitment, for the position of "Representative from the Business Community" and contact the applicant to see if he is still interested.

A New Member Recruitment Timeline was presented for the committee's review. In order to fill the six (6) positions that will be vacant as of August, 2008, an aggressive recruitment will begin in April. Applications will be sent to current COC members, Superintendent Delgado, Assistant Superintendents and School Board Members. Additionally, applications will be available at each of the San Bernardino City Libraries, the San Bernardino County Library in Highland, the Board of Education Building and on-line at www.sbcusdfacilities.com.

2. **Administrative Report**

a. Prop. 39 Performance & Financial Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2006/2007

Gene Fortajada, Director of Accounting Services, introduced Reneé Graves from Vicenti, Lloyd & Stutzman LLC. Reneé presented the Prop 39 General Obligation Bonds, Bond Building Fund, Measure T, Financial and Performance Audit Reports for FY06/07. The Financial Audit was completed and received a ... "clean, unqualified finding for the expenditures of Prop 39 funds".

The Performance Audit conclusion, stated by the Vicenti, Lloyd & Stutzman, was... "Based upon our procedures performed, we found that for the items tested, the SBCUSD has properly accounted for the expenditures of the funds held in the Bond Building Fund and that such expenditures were made on authorized bond projects. Further it was noted that the funds were not expended for salaries of school administrators or other operating expenditures."

Members received a copy of both audit reports. Additionally, the reports are available in the Facilities Management Department's office and on-line at the Facilities' web page for public review.

Carl Clemons asked Reneé if spending was in-line with the intent of the Bond? Reneé responded, "Yes, it was".

b. FY 2007-2008 Mid-Year Report

Wael gave an overview of the Facilities Capital Improvement Program Mid-Year Report. Highlights of major accomplishments by Facilities from July through December 2007 included the following:

- Awarded Financial Hardship Status from the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC).
- Submitted Financial Hardship funding applications for \$214.8 million.
- Completed nine Special Day Classrooms (SDC) Projects, four Modernization Projects and ten other Projects.
- Secured Agency Approvals to proceed with land acquisition for eight new campuses.
- Selected Architect for Little Mountain ES and Middle College HS
- Completed School Boundaries Revision for Elementary and Middle Schools

January through June 2008 activities include completion of the following construction projects:

- Three Special Day Classroom (SDC) Projects.

- Three New Campuses – Rodriguez Prep Academy, Bing Wong ES and New Curtis MS
- Rodriguez Prep Academy Lockers and Additional Restrooms.
- Arroyo Valley HS Bleachers.
- Rio Vista ES Pre-school Portable.
- Twenty-eight portable classrooms at ten school sites to accommodate QEIA.

Marion Vassilakos asked Wael about the definition of “QEIA.” Quality Education Investment Act is a seven-year educational program recently enacted by the State of California to reduce class size as it relates to teacher-student ratios in grades 4-12. This will impact the Facilities Dept. as ten schools in the District will receive monies to install portable classrooms at their respective sites to meet the 25-27 students per classroom capacity requirement. Design and pre-construction activities started in October 2007; construction to start mid-2008 with completion scheduled for Fall 2008.

Carl Clemons asked if the District’s declining enrollment would affect the proposed school construction projects. John Peukert explained that this would actually help the District, as the Superintendent’s goal is to have all schools in the District on a one-track schedule. Wael explained that by opening two new elementary schools, the District could make six elementary schools, plus the new ones, single-track kindergarten through sixth grade sites. Additionally, by bringing sixth graders back to elementary schools, all nine middle schools will be on a single-track schedule for the 2008-2009 school year. Some of the benefits of a single-track schedule are: lower utility fees, adequate time for building maintenance and extending each school’s life expectancy.

Wael also explained another benefit of opening the new schools and the boundary changes that were recently made, as these will lessen the need for transporting students. He explained that it costs \$100,000.00 per year to operate each school bus, so this will save the District a considerable amount of money.

c. Status of Financial Hardship Application

John Peukert reported on the schedule of events that have taken place:

- December 2006 – The District met with the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) to establish a relationship as pertains to the needs of both agencies.
- April 2007 – The Facilities Dept. supplied all of the necessary information/documentation, which was required to OPSC based on regulations in place at that time.
- November 2007 – The District received the first of three conditional financial hardship approvals.
- January 2008 – The District’s final financial hardship approval.
- February 2008 – The District received a letter from OPSC that rescinded the previous final financial hardship approval.
- February and March 2008 – Several meetings with legislators and committee members were held.
- March 19, 2008 – To date, the Financial Hardship Application has not been approved.

d. Potential November 2008 Bond Measure

John Peukert reported that a preliminary public polling was conducted and concluded that 60% of the public polled would support a new Bond sale. The survey showed that residents are most in favor of seeing things at schools such as: infrastructure (lighting and plumbing), safety issues, and maintenance. The survey also indicated that one of the least favored improvements is artificial turf. When the District’s school principals conducted an

assessment, 1,900 needs were identified. Those needs included: additional parking spaces, lunch shelters, ADA improvements and larger multi-purpose rooms. Wael explained that the proposed Bond funding could be spent on existing, older schools that have had either no modernization projects or limited ones.

Ron Coats asked what had happened in the past regarding maintaining and improving school sites. John Peukert answered that due to the changes in San Bernardino 25 years ago, based on the declining enrollment, residential tax bases declined, less money per student was allocated, the communities' economic growth declined and the District lost focus on the physical structures while concentrating on the educational instruction of the students.

d. Citizens' Oversight Committee's Annual Report

Keith will prepare a draft of the Annual Report and it will be sent to members in early April. It was decided that Vice-Chairman, Carl Clemons, would present the report to the School Board when it is finalized.

3. **Committee Comments/Concerns**

Carl Clemons asked, in reference to the December 11, 2007 minutes, about the District establishing apprentice programs with local unions and working with contractors who include programs such as GAIN and Cal-Works in their work force. Keith will look into evaluating the make-up (ethnicity/locality) of the labor force on the District's projects and provide a report at the June meeting.

4. **Schedule for Future Meetings**

Scheduled: June 18, 2008 – **To be held at New Curtis Middle School**

Suggested: September 10 or 17, 2008

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 pm.