

NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Measure E Citizens Oversight Committee (COC)
March 16, 2015
Newhall School District Office
Room 104

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 PM by Chairperson Jim Hicken

COC members present: Gary Baker, Jose Gonzalez, Jim Hicken, Caroline Jackson (arrived at 7 PM), Adele MacPherson, Larry McClements, Tracy Taris

COC members absent: Susan Anderson, Tricia Fossa, Joelle Nelson, Debbie Wolpert
Staff present: Paul Cordeiro, Jeff Pelzel, Ronna Wolcott

Others present: Suzan Solomon, NSD Governing Board Member

AGENDA

The meeting agenda was approved.

Moved-Taris; Second-MacPherson
Ayes -6; Noes-0

MINUTES

January 12, 2015 Minutes were approved.

Moved-Gonzales; Second- MacPherson
Ayes-6; Noes-0

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER AND CONFIRMATION OF EXTENSION OF TERMS OF OFFICE

Mrs. Wolcott introduced Ms. Tracy Taris who was appointed to fill Ms. Matkin's seat by the NSD Governing Board at their March 3, 2015 meeting. Terms of office for Susan Anderson, Gary Baker, Jose Gonzalez, Larry McClements and Debbie Wolpert were extended to March 2, 2017 at the January 20, 2015 NSD Governing Board meeting.

AUDIT REPORTS

Audit reports for 2014 were accepted and filed.

Moved-Mapherson; Second-Gonzales
Ayes-7; Noes-0 (Ms. Jackson entered the meeting)

COC ANNUAL REPORT

The COC Annual Report for the period Jul 1, 2013-June 30, 2014 was reviewed and approved.

Moved-Taris; Second-Baker
Ayes-7; Noes-0

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE UPDATE

Mrs. Wolcott described the current status of construction projects.

- Meadows and Valencia Valley are near completion, with only small pieces left.
- The Newhall School classroom project is underway. The first building has been installed along with the elevator. The second building is being delivered this week and will be crane set on Thursday and Friday of this week. This 2 story, 16 classroom project will replace all portables on site and is on target to be completed by the start of school for the 2015-2016 year.

- Newhall Auditorium plans have been reviewed and are in revision. DSA approval is expected this spring.
- Old Orchard plans are pending approval by DSA. It is expected that approval will be received by the end of the month.
- Plans for Peachland School are being prepared for submittal on March 31.
- All plans should be out of DSA by early spring
- Ms. Solomon reviewed the current status of fundraising for the auditorium project. The board is trying to raise \$600,000 for the augmentation of this project with a two year timeline. Recently, a donation of \$10,000 was recently received and some smaller donations have been received as well. Ms. Solomon passed out a brochure describing the auditorium project and fundraising effort and requested that COC members pass the brochures along to anyone they knew that may be interested in supporting this project and consider donating to the project themselves. The board is planning a fall kick-off for a fundraising event. COC members will be invited when the event is finalized. The Governing Board will be discussing how the auditorium will be operated in the future and how much time will be reserved for educational use with the balance available for community use.

FISCAL REPORT – BUDGET REVISIONS

The full report that was provided to members is incorporated in these minutes. Mrs. Wolcott walked members through the school-by-school expenditure status. While the current total project costs exceed the total issuance by approximately \$2 million, Mrs. Wolcott pointed out areas of potential saving and expenditures that have come in under contingency budget numbers that will help to narrow or close the gap. Irrigation and EMS controls referenced above are an example of this type of savings. Mrs. Wolcott also provided members with a status report on potential state match funding that might have extended the reach of our Measure E projects. The district continues to submit applications for funding. Ms. Wolcott reported that she had received a communication from the district's financial advisor regarding the possibility of issuing the GO bonds earlier than previously scheduled with some significant savings to our taxpayers. Mr. Hicken stated that would be a good idea since interest rates are forecast to increase significantly in the next two years. Ms. Wolcott will report at the next meeting in May the status of possible issuance.

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

Mr. Pelzel reviewed the newly developed Common Core State technology standards for grades K-6 and the NSD technology priority standards and current assessment data for K-6. He discussed our standards with the Hart district and asked what mastery was needed for our students to be successful when they transition to junior high. Hart officials requested that our students have strong keyboarding skills. Mr. Pelzel also reported on the meeting held with Newhall teaching staff to review this data and the comment most heard was that the students need more computer access. Currently at a 4:1 student to device ratio, when testing is occurring, devices are not available for other instructional uses. The testing occurs for approximately two months out of the school year. The committee discussed the possibility of purchasing more computers if the bonds are issued earlier. Ms. Wolcott noted that there is currently no replacement plan or designated funding source for computers after the bond proceeds are exhausted. This topic is under discussion by district management. Mr. Baker inquired about the possibility of leasing computers and Ms. Wolcott will evaluate that.

FUTURE MEETINGS

May 11, 2015 – 5:30 PM meeting at Newhall School to tour project and hold meeting.

There were no public comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Jim Hicken, Chairperson