

NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure E Citizens Oversight Committee (COC)

May 11, 2015

Newhall Elementary School

Library

MINUTES

Tour of Newhall Elementary 2-story building commenced at 5:35pm. Members were given a tour of a classroom on 1st and 2nd floors.

The meeting was called to order at 5:51 PM by Chairperson Jim Hicken

COC members present:

Susan Anderson, Gary Baker, Tricia Fossa, Jose Gonzalez, Jim Hicken, Caroline Jackson, Adele MacPherson, Joelle Nelson, Tracy Taris

COC members absent:

Larry McClements, Debbie Wolpert

Staff present:

Paul Cordeiro, Rosana Valadez, Ronna Wolcott

Others present:

Helena Jubany, NAC Architecture; Amin Salari, Lundgren Management;
Frank Winton, Lundgren Management (during tour)

AGENDA

The meeting agenda was approved.

Motion- Macpherson; Second-Jackson
Ayes -9; Noes-0

MINUTES

March 16, 2015 Minutes were approved.

Motion-Jackson; Second-Gonzalez
Ayes-9; Noes-0

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE UPDATE

Ms. Jubany and Ms. Wolcott described the current status of the projects.

- Peachland: submitted plans to DSA; some issues related to fire line pressure. Local fire and state Marshall communicating to work out details. Possible approval in next couple of weeks. Looking to bring Lease Lease Back documents to June 5th board meeting to commence demolition and construction of modular buildings
- Auditorium: currently working on revisions and upgraded features requested by board members not in the original plans; items include control booth at same level as audience and sound/lighting systems. Field trip to take place to site where recommended systems are in place, then see what budget can allow. Once recommendations are decided, will submit to DSA.
- Old Orchard: resubmitted plans to DSA and should hear back in a couple of weeks. We are looking to start projects between now and start of school.

FISCAL REPORTS – BUDGET REVISIONS

The full report that was provided to members is incorporated in these minutes. Ms. Wolcott walked members through the school-by-school expenditure status

- Initially, revised project budgets were \$62.5m and we only issued \$60m in bonds; working to ensure we have enough funding to finish all projects identified
- \$1.2m in overall program contingency remaining and have to come up with additional \$1.3m in overall savings; Wait to see if we qualify for any state funding; may or may not see state facility bond in upcoming year

- NSD board goal to fundraise \$600K to help with auditorium project. Fundraising to include grant writer, discussions with city for joint work and local foundations; Fundraising to kickoff in the Fall
- \$115K for water controls and \$425K replace energy management system; both to come out of Prop 39 energy efficiency funds and not come out of bond funds
- Retro commissioning EMS system at sites; current system outdated
- Includes \$10m set aside for technology endowment

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Ms. Wolcott's discussion included the following topics:

- Need to get to more than 4:1 ratio in order to facilitate instruction; looking to go to a 2:1 or possibly 1:1 ratio if funds available
- Tech Committee recommending 50% iPad tablet and 50% Lenovo Yoga ThinkPads both with keyboards for student accessibility to variety of platforms
- District to reassess wireless system. Access points only support a specified number of devices and we are in need of adequate coverage to expand device to student ratio
- Going to 2:1 or 1:1 will be costly. Priced devices at \$650 - \$700 per tablet and \$1,300 - \$1,400 per Lenovo

UPDATE ON POSSIBILITY OF ISSUING REMAINING BONDS

Ms. Wolcott asked all members to review page 22 of committee report for Classroom Technology status

- Spent \$4.9m and about \$5m still remains; \$4m of this yet to be issued
- Devices could be purchased with remaining funds and get closer to 2:1 ratio
- Based on discussion with financial advisor and bond counselor, issuing GO Bonds earlier would mean finishing tech initiative and allowing tax payers to pay back at lower amounts due to lower rates. District initially did not have any plans to issue any more tax exempt debt this calendar year, but have written a memo to file to explain that in good faith did not intend to issue any more debt this calendar year; we are still in compliance with bank qualified debt restrictions for Prop 39 equipment financing. Letter sent out to investors to see if any objection and expect to hear back in two weeks. Downside is district only has 3 years from time of initial bonds to spend remaining funds; would not stretch out over 10 years
- Discussions from members included shelf life of items and future purchases. We discussed the plan for professional development for teachers to integrate technology into classroom instruction
- Group discussed NSD budget and its current state in comparison to Castaic USD's current status; Ms. Wolcott mentioned NSD still running a deficit, but taking steps to eliminate deficit and balance budget

2015-2016 FUTURE MEETING CALENDAR

Members present unanimously agreed to maintain future meetings on 2nd Monday of month.

2015/2016 Meeting Dates: September 14, 2015, January 11, 2016, March 14, 2016, May 9, 2016

FUTURE MEETINGS

September 14, 2015– **5:30 PM** - site to be determined.

There were no public comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.