

MEASURE A - STRONG SCHOOLS BOND
CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2012

Opening

The Citizens' Oversight Committee held a meeting in the Building D – Facilities/Construction Building, 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

*All handouts can be viewed at the District office, Business Services 25 Churchill Avenue

Members present:

Mr. Ray Bacchetti, Senior Citizen

Mr. Scott Darling, At Large Member

Mr. Gary Hornbeek, Parent, PTA Member

Ms. Catharine Garber, Business Organization Member – Absent

Dr. Mary Marth, Parent

Mr. Todd Collins, Taxpayer Organization

Mr. Bruce Whitson, Parent

Others present:

Mr. Tom Hodges, O'Connor Construction Management

Mr. Tim McBrian, Gilbane Building Company

Mr. Lori Alvarez, O'Connor Construction Management

District Staff Present:

Dr. Robert Golton, Facilities and Bond Program Manager

Mr. Ron Smith, Facilities Project Manager

Ms. Betty Munoz, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no request for public comment.

Review of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Collins moved to approve the minutes of October 19, 2011. Motion carried 6-0. Committee member Garber was absent.

Virtual Tour of Construction Sites

The Committee was given a virtual tour of the Paly two-story classroom building and the classroom building A at Gunn High School.

Chair/Vice Chair Elections

Collins proposed the term of the Chair and Vice Chair be extended to two years. Collins nominated Marth for Vice Chair. The Committee approved Collins to continue as Chair and Marth as the new Vice Chair. Approved 6-0.

Strong Schools Bond Tax Rate

Tony Hsieh from Keygent reviewed and discussed the Bond Rate presentation with the Committee that was presented to the Board at the Study Session of November 28, 2011.

The presentation included the strong schools bond background, overview of GO bonds provisions, bond capacity, a snapshot of assessed value (as of 2008), original Measure A assumptions, updated assessed value history, assessed value growth since 2008, updated Measure A assumptions, construction cash draw schedule, what other districts are doing, scenario 1 (\$44.50 tax), scenario 2 (\$60 tax – large financings), scenario 3 (\$60 tax – small financings), advantages and disadvantages of scenario 3, and the timeline for October 2012 bond issuance.

Questions and comments from Committee members included:

- Are the 2011 and 2012 actual growth? Hsieh said it is actual growth.

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- A Committee member suggested submitting a written recommendation to the Board as to what next steps should be taken on this issue; whether this recommendation is as a Committee or as an individual. He feels it would be helpful to the Board.
- A Committee member questioned the idea of submitting a recommendation. They believe the Committee does not have the financial expertise to provide the Board with a recommendation.
- A Committee member stated their job as a Committee is to simply review the sale of the bonds which has been done.
- A Committee member suggested requesting the Board for a formal request to the Committee for a written recommendation.

No conclusion was reached by the Committee.

PAUSD Enrollment Projections

The District changed demographers to DecisionInsite. The current demographer's projections are consistent with the other demographer's projections. They are projecting 5 year growth 6.29%. This is because this year, kindergarteners need to be 5 years old by November, due to the new law, which will decrease elementary enrollment. The conservative projection for elementary is that enrollment will shrink because of this law. All these are consistent with the past demographer's projections. The north cluster are Addison, Duveneck, and Hays. The south cluster are Palo Verde, Fairmeadow, and El Carmelo. The west cluster are Escondido, Briones, and Nixon. Then there are these two other schools Ohlone and Hoover. They have come up with a different and surprising conclusion that the north enrollment is going to shrink and that the west and south will continue strong. They will have a chance to look at the enrollment comparing this year to last year to see what is really happening to the enrollment in the north cluster. This is important because they have contemplated building at Garland and also, the District has acquired the additional acreage at Greendell.

Program Status Update

Gunn Classroom Building: Construction will begin in August; change orders in contingency; occupancy April 2013.

Gunn Gym: Steel fabrication delay about 77 days; almost at the 10% of change orders; 2 separate claims that total \$274,000.

Paly stadium: Construction began the first week in January; the project includes concessions building, bleachers, and track resurfacing; this project could push out to August 2012.

Classroom Building Media Arts: Project is 1 month behind but they believe they can make that up; change orders are within the 10% contingency.

Paly Performing Arts Building: This was approved by the Board and the new budget is \$24.4 million; finishing up schematic design.

Boiler Replacement: This has been completed. This was an emergency project.

Jordan: Awarded over winter break and should get done over the summer 2013.

JLS: Received DSA approval. They will bid this project in the next couple months.

Terman: Awarded over winter break. There will be a new library, new drama classroom, and admin. office will be in the front. They anticipate occupying it by summer 2013.

Fairmeadow: Awarded over winter break. Two-story classroom building.

Ohlone: This project has been completed. They are within 7 or 8% on change orders.

Duveneck: They will submit to DSA in February. Summer of 2014 for occupying that project.

April 18, 2012 Agenda

The January COC meeting was rescheduled for April 18, 2012.

Next Meeting and Future Meetings Schedule

April 18, 2012

July 25, 2012 (The July COC meeting was rescheduled for July 25, 2012.)

October 17, 2012

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

