



WCCUSD

CITIZEN'S BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Kathy Fleming
Vice Chairperson

Don Gosney
Chairperson

Cameron Moore
Secretary

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

04/24/19

NOTE: AT THE SECOND REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF EACH MONTH THE CBOC IS AGENDIZED 5 MNUTES TO REPORT TO THE BOARD AND THE COMMUNITY. JUST AS AT THE MARCH BOARD MEETING, THE BOARD ADJOURNED THEIR APRIL 24 MEETING BEFORE THE CBOC REPORT COULD BE PRESENTED.

Since you last received a report from the CBOC back in February, we've conducted a lot of business.

I was here until midnight back in March waiting to give my report but all of a sudden, the meeting got itself adjourned. The information I had was time sensitive, but your meeting dragged on—as it so often does.

We held our regular CBOC meeting on March 14th and then a joint meeting with the Board on the 28th. And just last week we hosted another meeting on the 18th.

The Board was a part of the joint meeting so some of this will be a rehash but for the audience watching at home, they might want to know about this.

One of the major issues that we brought before the Board was a set of revised text for the Board Policy that applies to the CBOC. It would help delineate what resources we need but it also suggested amendments to the makeup of the CBOC.

In particular, since these seats have sat vacant for more than a year without a single interest in filling them, we suggested that the two special interest groups—the Solutions Team and the Building Trades Council—be required to apply to serve filling one of the other positions available to them. We also suggested that providing the unincorporated parts of the District a disproportionate percentage of the seats on the CBOC was unfair and

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actually discriminates against the rest of the residents who reside outside of the unincorporated areas. Reducing the number of positions on the CBOC is, we believe, in the best interests of the District.

We hope that the Board will give our recommendations due consideration and take prompt action.

We've had serious discussions about the benefits of a budget for the CBOC. We've bent over backwards this past 15 months to reduce the cost of the CBOC to the District. We use tablets as much as possible instead of printed agenda packets; instead of staff, we take and publish our won minutes of our meetings; and instead of staff, we put together the agenda packet. We're using free volunteer labor as much as we can so the District's money might stay in the classrooms to help our kids and teachers.

At the joint meeting we received the performance and financial audits, so we've met the mandated legal requirements.

We understand that the District is looking at a new contract with a firm that can help put together a lot of the reports that both the Board and the CBOC need. Several of our CBOC members will be attending a presentation in a couple of days so they might weigh in with their thoughts.

We also received a review of the work conducted by the Implementation Task Force to oversee the 112 recommendations that came as a result of the Forensic Audit.

As mentioned in my past report to the Board, the District relies heavily on attorney/client privilege to keep even the auditors from learning about the status of some of these issues. We disagree with the concept.

Before I retired I was successful in helping to administer billion dollar construction projects. What helped build this success was NOT surrounding myself with people who relied on finding ways why we couldn't do something. What I did was surround myself with people who would not

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take NO for an answer, and would find ways around, over, under or even through any obstacle placed in front of them.

What we're suggesting is that you take a closer look at what you're trying to keep secret from the public and find a way to provide the necessary information WITHOUT divulging what needs to be kept confidential. If you look at it with an open mind, I'm betting that you'll find a way to be transparent to the community.

The alternative is for the public to continue to believe that you're hiding things from them—that you're conducting the affairs of the Bond Program in secret. And if you ever want to rebuild their trust, what you're doing right now will not get you the results you're looking for. When you have hard core supporters of the Bond Program that don't trust you, how do you think the ones with doubts feel about you?

Prop 39 requires that you have an oversight body to look over your collective shoulders to ensure that you're not pulling the wool over the collective eyes of the taxpayers who get to pay for these new schools over the next three or four decades. Prop 39 and the Ed Code also require the District to supply the CBOC with material support.

We're confident that we can work out most of the support issues we have before us but the one where we need the most help is helping to fill the vacancies we have. Right now, for example, we need the following:

- 1 from the Solutions Team
- 1 from the Building Trades
- 1 Pinole Resident
- 1 San Pablo Resident
- 2 from the Unincorporated Areas
- 2 from Richmond

In case you lost count, we currently have nine and we need eight more.

In a couple of months, we'll probably lose our student representative when he graduates and heads off to college. On a personal note, I mentioned at

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the joint meeting that while it might make you feel good to reach out to the students to get their take on things, in reality, they most likely cannot commit to a two year term, they cannot serve on any subcommittees, they know their own neighborhood but know little, if anything, about the District as a whole, have little understanding of the political nature of the Bond Program and, just like here at the Board meetings, need to head home and hit the books before the meeting has concluded. Furthermore, do they have a real interest in the Bond Program or are they padding their college application?

Also, the selection process for these student CBOC members is extremely weak. Instead of offering the spot to any of the many thousands of students in our high schools, you're limiting it to the 15-20 students on your youth commission. This isn't right.

You may want to reconsider the real value of having a student serve on the CBOC.

And help us find volunteers to serve on the CBOC. One thing you really need to take a look at is who's serving on the CBOC and doing all of the work. And then take a look at when they'll be termed out. You need to cultivate the next batch of CBOC leaders now because it won't be long before you'll have a CBOC filled with rookies—the kind that can easily be bamboozled by the Board and staff.

The May 16 CBOC meeting will be at 1400 Marina Way South and will start promptly at 6:15. All are welcome.

