

WCCUSD Governance Subcommittee

Alvarado Adult Education Campus

May 2, 2016

Minutes

Approved June 13, 2016

I. Opening Procedures

A. **Roll Call and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairperson Valerie Cuevas.

Committee Members Present: Valerie Cuevas, Todd Groves

Staff Attendees: Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent K-Adult Schools; Debbie Haynie, Executive Secretary; Daniela Parasidis, Executive Director Business Services

B. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus of the committee members.

C. **Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of April 18, 2016 were approved by consensus of the committee members.

II. Discussion Items

A. **Redesigning Community Engagement in Budget Development**

Public Comment:

Mr. Tom Panas addressed the parcel tax criteria from the ballot language and recommended adding the District Budget Engagement Committee (DBEC).

Dr. Fatima Alleyne spoke about district engagement and the end goal of hearing the voice of the community. She reviewed the proposed make-up of the DBEC and made recommendations in support of diverse cultures.

Committee Discussion:

Chairperson Cuevas lead final review of the policy documents for revisions. Mr. Groves stressed the urgency to move these items forward for Board consideration.

The committee began with Administrative Regulation 3000 establishing and defining the District Budget Engagement Committee (DBEC). Recommended revisions included members of selected groups serve up to two (2) consecutive two-year terms, and that the committee develops rules for developing bylaws in coordination with board policy.

Mr. Anton Jungherr suggested considering incorporation of similar language from the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee.

Chairperson Cuevas moved the discussion on to Board Policy 1221 and establishment of a Citizens Oversight Committee for Parcel Tax.

Public Comment:

Dr. Fatima Alleyne provided a handout containing membership categories for the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, the application for the Community Budget Advisory Committee, and Youth Commission Overview. She expressed concern about the proposed composition of the committee

saying she felt it was in conflict with the intent by allowing district employees serve on the committee. She reviewed the various labor union designated seats, as well as representation of charter school teachers and students. She made various comparisons concluding by saying she felt the proposal ambiguous to properly represent the citizens.

Committee Discussion:

Chairperson Cuevas and Mr. Groves proceeded to review the policy proposal and agreed that the overall committee make-up should be presented to the Board for consideration with no changes in membership. Clarifications were noted regarding eleven members and language about removal of committee members by the Board for just cause.

Chairperson Cuevas provided a handout for discussion in the effort to be explicit about the kind of audit exercise in order to be easy for committee members and specific to the ballot language. Executive Director Daniela Parasidis shared that this was similar to information currently provided by Business Services regarding parcel tax expenditures.

Ms. Cuevas recommended inclusion of additional language regarding staff responsibilities and providing public information. Additionally AR 3000 would be updated to reflect the appropriate committee name – Citizens Oversight Committee for Parcel Taxes.

B. Board Policy on Campaign Contribution Limits for School Board Elections

Public Comment:

Mr. Panas provided a handout of his comments regarding campaign finance reform.

Mr. Elliot Haspel spoke in support of campaign contribution limits and reducing influence of vendors. He said that reform would help restore community trust.

Ms. Linda Ruiz-Lozito provided Ms. Cuevas and Mr. Groves with a handout of information from a study done in San Diego regarding bond finance contributions resulting in contract influence. She encouraged developing policies for this district to build community trust.

Mr. Ben Steinberg spoke of the low perception of community trust and the ability to pass future bond and/or parcel tax measures without campaign reform. He supported the efforts.

Committee Discussion:

Chairperson Cuevas spoke about research on campaign reform on a national scale and specifically San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego and Los Angeles unified school district policies. She spoke about contributor influence on decision making and stressed that this effort at reform was proactive in respect to supporting ethical behavior.

The committee continued with development of guiding questions for consideration of the topic. Ms. Cuevas said that she should would like the committee to hear input from California Campaign Fair Political Practices, California School Boards Association, and legal counsel. The development of questions included:

- Consideration of the necessity for individual campaign limits
- Ethics code
- Vendors who seek business with the district including construction, textbooks, charter schools.
- Good governance practice
- Review of policies from other districts
- Impact in relation to contributions with those seeking contracts

- Overview of national and state law
- Different types of expenditure campaign rational
- Spending limits

Chairperson Cuevas read a message from Richmond Mayor Tom Butt regarding similar concerns by the city. She concluded this section of the agenda by saying the intent was to demonstrate a way to have clear expectations regarding the impact of contributions.

III. Discuss / Approve Next Steps

A. Recommendation for District Budget Engagement committee (DBEC)

Public Comment:

None

Committee Discussion:

This item will be placed on the May 11 Board of Education agenda as a formal recommendation.

B. Recommendation for Parcel Tax Committee Policy

This item will be placed on the May 11 Board of Education agenda as a formal recommendation.

C. Board Policy on Campaign Contribution Limits for School Board Elections

Further exploration will be held at the next meeting based on the developed questions.

IV. Adjournment

The next meeting was set for June 13, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

Chairperson Cuevas adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM.