WCCUSD School Board Meeting, June 10, 2015

To President Groves
Board Member Enos
Board Member Kronenburg
Board Member Block
Board Member Cuevas
Superintendent Harter
June 10, 2015
CBOC Chair's Report # 06_10_15

Presented by Ivette Ricco, CBOC Chair.

This report presents a brief overview of CBOC activities in our ongoing effort to perform the committee's duties as outlined in the Ed Code.

Dear President Groves, Honorable Trustees, Dr. Harter and Staff:

The Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee is a comprised of dedicated volunteers representing the West Contra Costa Unified School *Community*. We currently have a total of 18 members.

We may not be elected to our positions, but we take our responsibility to the community very seriously and work hard to <u>review, report and inform</u>, per the Education Code.

To that end, we have formed sub-committees to focus on important aspects of the Bond Program. The results have been valuable but we understand that staff has had to allocate more time and resources to work with the committees. As the processes are better understood the need for many of these sub-committees should diminish. But clearly, the inter-action and communication was needed and was and is important.

I often wonder what the Legislature was thinking when they tasked a group of volunteers with such a monumental task, the oversight of complex, large and expensive projects, without providing real training or adequate resources.

Over the course of the last 18+ months the District and the CBOC have improved their working relationship. It has made a big difference.

For that we are appreciative. Your staff has been generous and diligent.

Without cooperation and collaboration between the District and the CBOC, the CBOC would be hard pressed to accomplish anything of value or to be able to adequately communicate the activities of the Bond Oversight Committee to the community.

At our meeting on May 27, a new sub-committee, the Data Review SC was ratified to review the Dennis Clay allegations.

In addition Resolution 15-1 was approved by a vote of 13-1.

The Board was sent a copy of the Resolution via email and by USPS.

Resolution 15-1 is in direct response to the allegations made by Mr. Dennis Clay on April 22, 2015.

The CBOC has an obligation to review and report on those allegations that are within the purview of the CBOC oversight duties, and to ensure the public's faith in the WCCUSD Bond Program.

The financial integrity of District's \$1.6 billion Bond program has been called into question. The community is asking what is going on? I think we all want answers. I am sure the District does also.

The CBOC is committed to representing the community and to asking questions specific to Bond Expenditures and Bond Program Management.

That is what we are tasked with.

We are not overstepping, we are not attempting to wrest control from the Board of Education. We are not waging an independent investigation.

We are seeking answers to questions raised in the Dennis Clay documents that are specific to areas within the Committee's oversight role and responsibility, to review, report and inform.

We are performing our due diligence as representatives of the community. In turn the community is looking to the CBOC as their independent source of information.

What we are asking for is a seat at the table; what we are asking for is to have our questions included in the scope of the forensic audit.

What we are asking for is continued collaboration and cooperation.

We are committed to acting independently on behalf of the community to get to the truth.

We understand the importance of restoring trust in the Bond program. We want to be a part of restoring that trust.

I urge you to move with due haste, I urge you to embrace the actions of the CBOC, I urge you to include us in this most significant process, in the spirit of cooperation, collaboration, community inclusion and transparency.

Sincerely,

Ivette Ricco WCCUSD, CBOC, Chair