

WCCUSD School Board Meeting, February 11, 2015

To President Groves
Board Member Enos
Board Member Kronenburg
Board Member Block
Board Member Cuevas
Superintendent Harter
February 11, 2015

Dear President Groves:

Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee – Chair's Report, 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.

A. At our meeting in January we held our annual election of officer. I was re-elected as Chair, Mr. Orlandus Waters was re-elected as Vice-Chair and Peter Chau was elected as Secretary.

B. The newly established Cost Savings Measures Sub-Committee is tasked with reviewing the efforts of the District to maximize bond revenues by implementing cost-saving measures, otherwise known as soft-costs. This sub-committee will hold its first meeting on February 20.

C. The Website sub-committee has submitted a list of changes it would like to see implemented to make the website a true portal of information not only for the CBOC but also for the public. We would like to see these changes implemented by July 2015.

D. On Monday February 9, the District provided a Performance Audit training session; the session was recorded and will be posted on the CBOC site.

E. The Audit Sub-Committee will be meeting in the next several weeks to review the Draft of the District's Bond Performance Audit.

F. The Change Order Sub-Committee met today, I attended that meeting. They are attempting to gain a greater understanding of the Change Order Process. It is a complex process and the Chair of the Change Order Sub-committee, Tom Waller, has asked that I communicate the following comments to the Board.

"The over-arching goal for this current effort is to genuinely seek first to deeply understand – where is this bond program (past, present, and future) with regard to change orders, their prevalence (why? – beyond and behind "reason codes"), dollar amounts, trends, relation to other variables (AORs), etc.?"

"Frankly and unfortunately, I don't think we're at any meaningful level of accomplishment on even just this issue of "understanding" – let alone thinking about what, if anything, we do about it. There appears to be no real accountability regarding change orders, no consequences, no system of incentives or disincentives for anyone. Sure, we can anecdotally

point to proposed change orders (PCOs) that the District disapproves – but they appear to be few and far between. But really, beyond that, what is there besides “hey, change orders happen”?”

G. The CBOC will be closely following the PVHS change orders and soft costs associated with this project.

H. There are increased concerns that the Bond Program will run out of funds before some schools can be remodeled or rebuilt.

In an effort to report to the public what the District’s “End Game” is, the Committee submitted to the Board resolution (14-1) which requests an explanation as to where the School Bond Program is and where it is going.

We expect to receive a response(s) to Resolution 14-1 by April 2015.

I. There are two mandatory Joint School Board/CBOC Meetings each year. They have not yet been scheduled.

I would like to recommend that the next Joint meeting agenda focus on change orders, soft costs and the End Game. This would be an excellent use of everyone’s time.

I would like to thank the District and its staff for its support and collaboration with our sub-committees.

I invite you to attend our next CBOC meeting on February 25 and our various sub-committee meetings.

Sincerely,

Ivette Ricco
WCCUSD, CBOC, Chair