

West Contra Costa Unified School District

Citizens Bond Oversight Committee Measures M, D & J

2007 Annual Report

I. Introduction

This is the 2007 Annual Report of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee for Measures M, D & J of the West Contra Costa Unified School District. This report is prepared, in conformance with California law, to summarize the work of the Bond Oversight Committee and review the past year of activity in the District's Bond Construction Program.

II. History and Overview of the Bond Oversight Committee(s)

The voters of the West Contra Costa Unified School District passed the first construction bond, Measure E, in 1998. This measure was a 2/3 vote bond, which did not require citizen oversight committee review. However, the community and the Board of Education determined that in order to ensure citizen understanding of the expenditure of the bond funds, it would be appropriate to name the District's first oversight committee. The Measure E Citizen Oversight Committee was formed in 1999, and included many members who have continued to serve the community through the most recent bond measures.

The November 2000, the District passed Measure M. The Board included in the bond language requirements for a citizens oversight committee, even though this was not required for a 2/3 vote bond. This \$150 million bond was to cover renovations to the District's Elementary Schools. The Measure M Bond Oversight Committee focused on working with the District to develop reports and presentations related to the facilities program which would continue to increase the knowledge and understanding of the community related to the bond measure.

In March 2002, the District passed Measure D for the renovation of the District's Secondary schools. This facilities bond totaling \$300 million, was passed under the provisions of Proposition 39 which allowed passage by 55% majority and included statutory requirements for appointment of a citizens oversight committee to monitor the expenditure of funds. The Measure M Citizens Oversight Committee was expanded on the passage of Measure D to include all statutorily required members. California Education Code Section 15282 (a) requires members from a Business Organization, Senior Citizen Organization, Taxpayers Organization, Parent or Guardian, and Parent/Guardian & PTA.

In November 2005, the voters of the District passed Measure J, a Proposition 39 Bond requiring 55% voter approval. This bond, totaling \$400 million, was targeted to complete renovations at 4 secondary schools and 13 elementary schools. In January 2006 the Board of Education appointed the Measure D Bond Oversight Committee

as the Measure J Bond Oversight Committee. Throughout 2007 the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee for Measures M, D, and J has continued to meet and review expenditures on the Districts facilities program.

III. Committee Membership

During 2007 the West Contra Costa Unified School District Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee saw several changes in membership and leadership. Many long time members have left the Committee due in large part to term limits. For much of the year, three of the five positions specified in the Code (Business..., Parent or Guardian...) were vacant. There are sixteen CBOC members over and above the required 5 members. Several of these additional members include parents, guardians and/or PTA members, which would have met the intent of Prop 39. There was difficulty in obtaining a quorum at many meetings.

IV. CBOC Actions and Concerns 2007

During 2007 members of the Committee continued to push for greater accountability in the management, administration, and Board of Education direction of the Bond Program in their discussions with Board and staff. The Committee regularly reported their concern about unfilled committee positions or lack of attendance during their monthly Board reports and during joint meetings with the Board. The Committee sent forward a number of proposed changes to the administrative structure and the administrative regulations governing the CBOC. Changes in membership are reflected in the Membership by Categories documents posted on the CBOC website. The role and authority of alternates was clarified and Administrative Regulations were modified.

V. Performance and Financial Audit Reports

Performance Audit. The 2007 Annual Performance Audit has been prepared by the audit team from Total School Solutions. The draft report was issued to the District in December 2007, in accordance with contractual timelines. The Performance Audit was accepted by the Board of Education.

The Performance Audit included an evaluation of the quality control program. The quality control program has three major components, including pre-construction quality control, procurement quality control, and construction quality control

Financial Audit. The 2007 Financial Audit was prepared by the audit team from Perry Smith LLP. The Financial Audit was accepted by the Board of Education and the CBOC at the joint meeting April 2008.

Both Performance and Financial Audits were submitted in a timely fashion.

VI. Communications with the Public

Improvements to the CBOC website were made. Meetings showed an increase in the number and involvement of spectators. The WCCUSD Reporter made it's debut. This newsletter focuses on bond projects in the district. Discussions are ongoing regarding improved access to and communication with the CBOC. The committee

continues to feel that it can serve as a conduit for advising the Board regarding the needs of the community and its schools.

VII. Progress Report on Our Schools

Look around your community. It is probably safe to say that within a mile of your home or business, there is evidence of major improvements in your neighborhood schools. From Harding School and El Cerrito High School near the Alameda County border to Washington School in Pt. Richmond to Ohlone School and Hercules Middle/High School near the District's northern border, there are changes in our schools under way .

2007 Summary of Work. The District made substantial progress during 2007 on the long-range renovation of its major facilities. The year was marked by ongoing construction of the major secondary construction projects which are funded under the Measure D bond. The CBOC website contains project updates listed under Engineering Officers Reports.

VIII. Conclusions

Though costs are astronomical, the District continues to seek creative ways of supplementing bond funds. A number of projects were taken off the Measure J list due to rising costs and other factors, and funds were "borrowed" from Measure J to complete Measure D projects. The committee continues to be concerned about project changes and escalating costs. The committee is pleased to see "green" alternatives, multi-use structures , regard for community input, and safety and security improvements in and around school properties.

Submitted by the CBOC Annual Report Sub-Committee:.