

WCCUSD MEASURE M & D OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES

Report by Richard J. King, Chair

To : Board of Trustees

Date : 3 December 2003

SUBJECT : OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

AUDIT REVIEW

Copies of the initial draft Performance Audit Report for Measures M & D prepared by Total School Solutions for the period ending June 30, 2003 were delivered to the Audit Subcommittee members during the week ending Friday 21 November 2003. This report was reviewed and discussed at the subcommittee meeting with the District and representatives of the Bond Team on 24 November 2003. At that meeting draft copies of the Financial Audit Report for Measure M for the years ending June 30, 2001, 2002, and 2003 and for Measure D for the years ending June 30, 2002 and 2003 prepared by Thompson, Cobb, Bazilio & Associates were also presented. Copies of the District's responses to the Performance Audit were distributed to the subcommittee members for review.

Although the subcommittee members have had only limited time to go over the reports, at first glance, the reports appear thorough, and professionally prepared. The auditors acknowledged the positive programs and procedures developed by the District and the Bond Management Team while noting areas of performance where some changes or improvements seemed warranted. All in all, pending more detailed review, the subcommittee was quite pleased with the reports.

The subcommittee made a brief presentation to the full Oversight Committee at its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday night 24 November 2003. After more detailed review, the Oversight Committee will present its comments and recommendations to the Board. The information provided by the auditors will assist the Oversight members in monitoring the bond expenditures and the effectiveness of the procedures and management of the program.

INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL BUDGETS

Upon review of the expenditures for the individual school construction projects, it was found that the project budget established for a particular school or the contingency that had been allocated to the construction of that school's

improvements was not completely spent. During its meeting of 24 November the Oversight Committee considered what it would recommend be done with those available funds.

It had been suggested by the District that consideration be given to use the funds to add one or more additive alternates to the particular school's construction program since its budget was not completely spent. The Oversight Committee unanimously voted to strongly recommend that once the basic 1C Option quality design had been included, any unused funds should be returned to the general bond fund for use on non-funded schools or for emergencies only.

Recognizing that funds are limited and many schools will not be rehabilitated or replaced until additional bond funds are secured, it is considered inappropriate and imprudent to include additive alternates beyond the 1C Option to any schools, just because some budget is unused. As a matter of fact, it should be our goal to bring as many schools as possible in under the budget so that these funds can be utilized on the currently nonfunded schools. .

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A number of months ago, the Oversight Committee agreed to set up an Outreach Subcommittee. Since that time this committee remains a committee of one. Yet, it is my desire to improve our communications with the community and to provide them better information on the status of the Bond Programs, the accomplishments that have been achieved, and the difficulties we are attempting to overcome.

As you know, the firm of Tech Futures was hired by the District to set up the Oversight Committee's website and to maintain it. This organization not only has performed their duties well, they have completed their initial tasks under budget while training a group of intelligent, enthusiastic high school students from our District.

I have discussed the possibilities of having Tech Futures assist the Oversight Committee in expanding our outreach program to place interesting and informative articles into the general media, whether it be in the newspapers, or local television so that we might get a better interaction with the community, the parents, students, teachers, businesses, and the taxpayers of our District.

I am therefore requesting the Board to authorize the Oversight Committee to pursue an arrangement with Tech Futures, and bring back a specific proposal to you for your review and approval.

PINOLE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL

Design alternatives for both Pinole Middle School and El Cerrito High School were presented to the Oversight Committee for its recommendation on 24 November 2003.

For Pinole Middle School, an alternative was presented which included some rehabilitation and some new construction versus the original plan which would have built a new school. The alternative would save about \$6 million and the community prefers the alternative. The Oversight committee voted to recommend that the alternative plan was worthy of consideration by the Board.

For El Cerrito High, the community appeared to be divided on which alternative would best meet the needs of the students, teachers, parents, and the neighbors. Several representatives from the Site Committee appeared before the Oversight Committee and expressed their concerns over the "hybrid" alternative proposed by the District staff and the Master Architect. After discussion, it was stated that the cost of the alternatives was not the deciding issue, both being estimated at about the same cost.

It was decided that the issue was one of design and community relations and not an appropriate decision to be made by the Oversight Committee, whose main responsibility is related to the proper expenditure of funds. The Committee therefore made no recommendation as to which alternative should be pursued, but rather recommended that the Site Committee meet with the District and the Master Architect once more to seek an agreement.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard J. King
Chair

Cc : Oversight Committee