



Cajon Valley Union School District
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Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) of the Cajon Valley Union School District

Minutes Adopted

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Citizens' Oversight Committee was called to order by Steve Duvan on April 3, 2024 at 03:33 p.m. via Zoom.

Members Present: Kevin Borum, Steve Devan, Felicia Ferrell, and Susan Holtz. Apologies: Lori Trim.

New Member Candidates Present: Edith Hernandez and Shaun Gabriels

District Staff: Scott Buxbaum, Richard DeJarnatt, Sharon Dobbins, Jonathon Guertin, Vickie Hayman, Lisa Krueger, and Joshua Lunn.

WELCOME, ROLL CALL

Steve called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, thanking them for their attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the October 4, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion made by Kevin, seconded by Susan and carried 4-0.

NEW MEMBERS AND CURRENT VACANCIES

Sharon explained there are currently two vacancies on the committee, and that Steve's term will end on May 31, 2024, having served three consecutive two-year terms. With this, she explained that three new COC member candidates will be presented for Governing Board approval on April 9th: (1) Shaun Gabriels, Taxpayer Association Representative; (2) Edith Hernandez, PTA Parent Representative; and (3) James Sly, Business Community Representative. She introduced Edith and Shaun, who were in attendance.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR

Steve motioned to nominate Kevin for chair; seconded by Felicia. Motion was moved to vote and carried unanimously (4-0).

Steve motioned to nominate Felicia as co-chair; seconded by Kevin. Motion was moved to vote and carried unanimously (4-0).

ANNUAL REPORT

Sharon shared the draft Annual Report, noting this report is from the Committee to the community and should include all items they wish to share. The report is dated as of 12/31/2023, with the cover letter highlighting the favorable audit findings with (as in all past years) no instances of non-compliance. Sharon asked members to communicate to her any changes needed. All audits are posted on the bond page of the district's website (www.cajonvalley.net/bond), and all reports are public record.

Sharon continued to review the Annual Report, pointing out 2023 project highlights, projects planned for 2024, as well as completed projects. All planned projects with the current bond funds were completed, with project savings moved to contingency.

Scott answered questions regarding classroom upgrades and shared that \$23 million of COVID relief funds were used for roofing projects and to replace HVAC units. Discussion continued about the condition of old portable classroom buildings. Scott mentioned that the District's proposed bond measure (on the November 2024 ballot) will provide funding to modernize/renovate classrooms and other school facilities. All schools are eligible for state modernization funds, but a local funding match is required. This will be possible with the passage of the bond in November.

BUDGET & PROJECT UPDATES

Sharon reviewed the bond program budget, noting many of the schools were not eligible for state modernization funding, but now are. State matching funds could be over \$130 million dollars.

Prop C Bond Fund:

Sharon shared the Bond Program Budget Reports ending March 22, 2024, discussing each budget adjustment, and explaining that all remaining contingency is being moved to the New Classroom Expansion budget to fund additional classrooms to reduce overcrowding due to enrollment growth, TK expansion, and the need for additional support services. The current available funding estimate is \$3,307,515 for this project.

Scott shared that the District completed all its originally planned bond projects and was fortunate to have remaining contingency and project savings to fund some additional high-priority projects.

Sharon reviewed the Bond Cash Flow report as of 04/03/24, noting that this report shows actual audited revenues and expenditures through 6/30/23 and estimates for 23/24 and 24/25. Steve asked about the budget being established pre-COVID and whether increased costs resulted in projects being cut from the budget. Sharon explained that the District was able to complete all its planned bond projects because it budgeted for cost escalation and contingency.

Steve complimented the District for its cost-saving measures, effectiveness, and control over its projects/budgets, as well as its transparency. He is active with several districts and feels that Cajon Valley's bond program stands out as a model. Sharon stated that the District team works hard to make the best use of the taxpayer dollars that are entrusted to it. District staff works closely with its architects to ensure design is within budget and includes contingency for unforeseen conditions. The Governing Board authorizes District staff to approve change orders, subject to ratification. This helps to streamline our projects and create efficiency.

Prop EE Bond Fund:

Sharon reviewed the technology bond fund financial reports dated March 22, 2024, pointing out that the technology bonds are repaid within 3 years of issuance. Federal stimulus funds, which were not anticipated when the last series of technology bonds were issued, have been used for student technology devices, allowing the technology bond funds to stretch farther, and leaving an uncommitted technology bond fund balance as of March 22, 2024, of \$5,469,237.88 million. This has resulted in excess interest earnings (arbitrage), which the District calculates on a regular basis and refunds to the IRS when required. Bond funds were used for upgrades to Chromebook software, classroom technology, and audio-visual upgrades in many classrooms.

Scott shared that about \$2 million is spent per year on student Chromebook repairs. Currently, as Chromebooks are returned, if damaged, parents are notified of damages, and the District works with the parent regarding financial responsibility. Jonathon mentioned that an automated notification process is being established to communicate with the parents whenever a Chromebook comes in for repair, informing them of the cost of the damage. Many parents sign up for optional Chromebook insurance, which costs \$20 annually. The District experiences about a 65% damage/repair rate, and it evaluates devices on the market each year, including repair time, to determine cost-effectiveness.

Steve asked about the cost spent on Chromebooks versus the cost of textbooks. Scott shared that the benefits of Chromebooks very much outweigh textbooks, as Chromebooks and software are adaptive to meeting each student at their learning level. Software can be personalized and more engaging than textbooks, i.e. the District can tailor the curriculum to the needs of our staff and students.

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN / NOV 2024 BOND ELECTION

Sharon shared information regarding the District's Facilities Master Plan, which identified needs exceeding \$830 million. The District established project priorities, considering all stakeholder input (parents, community, and staff).

The Board authorized the placement of a \$280 million bond on the November 5, 2024 ballot. This bond was sized so that it will not increase the current tax rate (new bonds will be issued as previous bonds are paid off).

All the District's schools are currently eligible or will soon become eligible for State modernization funding. The District's total State Modernization eligibility is approximately \$132 Million, but the state funds cannot be accessed without a local funding match (bond).

If approved by voters in November, the local bond funding, along with the State modernization funding, will allow the District to complete its highest priority projects.

MEETING / CALENDAR

Sharon shared that the member list and meeting calendar have been updated, and she noted that once the Committee has finalized its Annual Report, it will be posted on the website and made available to the community.

The next meeting on October 2, 2024, will be in person. Further information will be sent via email closer to the meeting date.

DISCUSSION / OTHER

Sharon reminded everyone that information will follow regarding the November 2024 bond measure.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

July 2024 Project Tour (date TBD)

The next regular COC meeting is Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at 3:30pm.