

# Citizens Oversight Committee

## Minutes

September 14, 2021

At approximately 5:04 p.m., Cathi Eredia, Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) Chair greeted everyone present. Norma Macias, Director of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation called roll and quorum was reached. The meeting was called to order and Ms. Eredia conducted the meeting.

1. Introductions:

a. Roll Call

Present:

- Pablo Tamashiro
- Cathi Eredia
- Joanna Haro
- Erica Mondragon

Absent:

- Luis Aguilar
- Cynthia Arredondo
- Heidi Carrillo
- Julia Ruedas-Alternate

b. Flag Salute: led by Cathi Eredia

c. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Joanna Haro and seconded by Erica Mondragon to approve the agenda for September 14, 2021.

4 Ayes            0 Nos            0 Abstained            4 Absent

d. Approval of Minutes— (January 13, 2021)

A motion was made by Cathi Eredia and seconded by Joanna Haro to approve the minutes on May 12, 2021.

4 Ayes            0 Nos            0 Abstained            4 Absent

e. Nomination/Approval of New Co-Chair

A motion was made by Pablo Tamashiro to volunteer himself, Cathi Eredia seconded the motion to approve Pablo Tamashiro as the new Co-Chair.

4 Ayes            0 Nos            0 Abstained            4 Absent

### **Presentation/Progress Report**

Ms. Macias provided a financial update and discussed the 2021/2022 proposed budget.

Fernando Ledesma's Multi-Purpose building is anticipated to be complete by January 2022. The project has been delayed due to Covid-19 issues and difficulty obtaining materials. The track and field at Rosemead is complete. They had their first track meet on their new track and field. The project is complete but now they are working on the concession buildings which were awarded after the initial award.

Bids for the South El Monte's quad project are due this week. District staff anticipates taking this to board in October and will be completed in December. The Granada center is moving to Rosemead's Adult School that Pasadena City College is

currently occupying. A two-story structure building will connect to the current building. This will be a huge benefit to the community.

There have been huge improvements done to South El Monte's Modernization in the classrooms and infrastructure improvements. The design is complete and now they are working on the planning phase.

There are many projects going on at Mountain View. There is going to be a full modernization to building K. Building B will have new keyless doors and solar lighting installed in all the classrooms. Plumbing and roofing will also be updated. Wael Elatar, Chief Business Official mentioned that the list of projects and the costs on the slideshow are only the hard costs. The total does not cover professional services. An additional 25 percent will be added to the final cost of the projects.

Mr. Elatar mentioned a survey was going out on how to use the state and federal dollars. Pablo Tamashiro, co-chair asked if the surveys would be sent to students or residents and how the outreach would be done. Mr. Elatar stated the survey would be sent to students' parents, certificated, classified, COC members, and community members. Mr. Tamashiro would like to know how many people the survey was sent to and how many people responded to the survey. He believes it is important for people to participate and many times the community does not even know what is going on. Mr. Elatar said he would get those numbers for the committee. Joanna Haro, committee member mentioned the survey was sent through the mail, email, phone, and different outlets to get it out. She also mentioned it was sent out in different languages to get everyone to participate. Mr. Elatar believes about 10,000 surveys have been sent out.

Mountain View's cafetorium was funded with Measure HS dollars but not the modernization project. There are many upcoming projects coming up.

Mr. Elatar provided an update on Measure HS. He informed the committee there is 88 million bond dollars. Some of the bond dollars will be used on the track and field at El Monte and South El Monte. The design for the fields are being worked on. State matching dollars are eligible for these projects. The district has to put the money upfront and will then get refunded from the state later. Future projects are being identified by the stakeholders at each site. District staff will be taking these projects to the Board in October.

Mr. Tamashiro asked what are some of the requirements for all the groups of the designs and if we are using some of the same architects. Mr. Elatar mentioned in 2018, a pre-qualification for architects was done. A total of six qualified architects were selected for the next 5 years until 2023. When new projects come up, the six architects are notified if they would like to submit a proposal. District employees will evaluate and rank them. Once selected, a recommendation to the Board will be made.

Mr. Tamashiro mentioned we should consider global warming and it seems there is not a lot of green aspects in the new constructions. He would like the district to consider this for future projects and architects. He would like to see more green trees throughout the district. Ms. Macias stated that Board member David Diaz is an advocate for environmentally friendly projects. She also stated that Mr. Elatar introduced solar and charging stations. The district is attempting to be more environmentally friendly with its projects. We recently received a 10 million dollar grant from CARB for electric storage to store energy. Construction for this will occur in the next few months.

Mr. Elatar discussed the 2008 challenges and how the market crash affected the sale of the bonds. The district was successful in selling 33 million in July from Measure D. The refund debt for Measure Y 2002 was a savings to the community. The district was successful in getting a really good interest rate allowing the district to maximize the dollars sold for the bond. The refund rate is even lower now. If the district takes the old bond and refinances it, it will reduce the debt level for property owners.

Slide 24 shows a saving of approximately 1 million dollars from Measure Y. Whenever we sell a bond we have to go to a rating scale to analyze our standing to give us a rating. The district is pleased with the rating we received. Due to the lower rate, the district was able to maximize the sale of the bond, allowing the district to fund additional projects. The district will be adding more projects within the next 2-3 years. The committee will be busy overseeing the expenditures used for the projects.

Ms. Haro asked if we would be meeting in person as she was interested in seeing the progress at Ledesma. Mr. Elatar responded that the next meeting would be in person and we would be able to start visiting projects in construction.

Round Table/Member Comments:

The next meeting will take place on December 2, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in-person, the site is to be determined.

Mr. Tamashiro thanked the committee for having him and everything they have done. He would like to help make the community better.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Moved: Cathi Eredia    Seconded: Erica Mondragon    Action: 4-0

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.