

Citizens Oversight Committee
Minutes
January 30, 2023

At approximately 5:20 p.m., Pablo Tamashiro, Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) Co-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 Mr. Tamashiro conducted the meeting.

1. Introductions:
 - a. Roll Call

Present:

- Pablo Tamashiro
- Luis Aguilar
- Cathi Eredia
- Heidi Carrillo
- Erica Mondragon

Absent:

- Cynthia Arredondo
- Joanna Haro
- Jennifer Cobian-Alternate
- Julia Ruedas-Alternate
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b. Flag Salute: led by Pablo Tamashiro

c. Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Erica Mondragon and seconded by Pablo Tamashiro to approve the agenda for January 30, 2023.

5 Ayes 0 Nos 0 Abstained 4 Absent

d. Approval of Minutes— (September 26, 2022)

A motion was made by Pablo Tamashiro and seconded by Luis Aguilar to approve the minutes for September 26, 2022.

4 Ayes 0 Nos 1 Abstained 4 Absent

Presentation/Progress Report

Ms. Macias provided an update to Measure D, Measure H, and the list of projects throughout the district. She stated we will discuss the Transition Center later. There will be a ribbon cutting for Fernando Ledesma coming up. There are a few items they are still working on. The Zoo Crew at Mountain View High School should be done sometime in April. The Board decided to cancel the project and the Granada Center. Wael Elatar, Chief Business Official will touch on

this soon. Next month we will have a groundbreaking at South El Monte High for their Modernization project. Mountain View High School's modernization project will be awarded in February or March. The groundbreaking for it will take place tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. We just had Mountain View High School's groundbreaking for the new track and field. The architects are working on the track and field at El Monte and South El Monte High School. We are hoping to start the modernization project at the Professional Development Center this summer. The District received a grant for clean mobility in schools to purchase electric buses.

Cathi Eredia, COC chair, asked if the buses are for the high schools or for lease. Ms. Macias said they are for the high schools. Mr. Elatar mentioned that we are in negotiations to receive some revenue to rent space to JFK Transportation. Ms. Eredia asked if others could use the bus charging stations. Mr. Elatar said they are only for our district buses.

The District is applying for a safe clean water grant of up to \$300,000 to complete a feasibility study to address the field flooding at South El Monte High School. The plan is to store the water underground and use it for irrigation at the site. The District received almost 1.4 million from the California Energy Commission Funding to upgrade the HVAC systems. We are in the process of spending the money we received. Arroyo High School HVAC system will be installed in the new administration building, band room, and theater. El Monte High School's administration building will be moved to the entrance of the school which is necessary for security and safety. Older classrooms will be upgraded as well. Rosemead High School will be updating the paint, landscaping, roofing, softball fields, and the speech and art area which is all outdated.

Heidi Carrillo, COC member asked if any of the fields have any shade. Ms. Macias said the question was brought up at the last meeting and there are no plans to include shade as it is not typical enmity. Mr. Elatar said it was very expensive and not an option. Ms. Carrillo voiced that shade for the band and drill teams would be nice as well as the drop-off and pick-up locations. Ms. Macias stated stakeholders are looking to modernize the classrooms and make things nicer for the students

Mr. Tamashiro asked if we have any stipulations on the new track at Rosemead High School and asked if the new tracks will be open to the general public. Florencio Briones, Board member, said he's been asked this question multiple times. In the past, the stadium was open till 10:00 p.m. and on Saturdays. The city helped pay for lights and it is something the board will need to discuss. He said he would support it.

Ms. Eredia shared that when Colombia school did their track and field, the community wanted to know if they could use it. The district said there was a liability. She asked when does the liability end. Mr. Elatar wants to clarify the facility use requirements and insurance liability which is required by any agency that wants to use our facilities. We need liability insurance in case anyone gets injured.

Mr. Elatar provided an update on the Transition Center project. He stated that initially after an assessment in 2021, the Board approved the use of the Rosemead Adult Education Center currently leased to Pasadena City College (PCC) to upgrade and have permanent housing for the Transition Center. Recently, the Board brought this item into discussion and the outcome was to terminate the agreement with DLR Group. The project was fully designed and in the DSA phase. We currently have spent about 1.1 million dollars on this project in architect and DSA fees, testing, etc. We anticipate the project to terminate with a 1.3 million loss even if we

allow DLR to get the final DSA approval. Once you have DSA approval, you have 4 years to start the project. If anything changes in the future we can rely on the DSA approval. We currently do not know what we're going to do with the Transition Center or Adult Education. We will significantly lose enrollment for Adult Education which will result in a potential reduction in the total revenue we receive. Our program will receive less money. Ms. Eredia asked if the Board is aware of this.

Mr. Briones stated when this item was discussed; it was not a unanimous vote. He shared with his colleagues that we need to grow the adult program and informed his colleagues that we are wasting money, 1.1 million dollars already spent. We are not providing adequate facilities to our parents/students and now going back on our word. Without an increase in our enrollment, we will not receive the revenue we need for the program.

Wael said Adult Education was once the largest population at one point. Ms. Eredia expressed she was not in agreement with the decision to terminate the project and believes this will put our adult program at risk and will be attending the next board meeting and asked the committee if they wanted to write a letter to the Board. Mr. Tamashiro asked for some background history. Ms. Macias shared that in 2013, PCC leased the building from the District. It made sense to allow PCC to use it as the District was not for some time. The lease expired in 2020 and was extended till 2023. The previous Board approved the Transition Center project, however; the existing board directed the District to cancel the agreement with DLR Group and enter into an agreement with PCC to continue leasing the facility.

Mr. Briones asked if matching funds were used in the project. Mr. Elatar stated only the Zoo Crew at Mountain View High School has used matching funds. He asked if we applied for bond-matching funds for the Adult Center. Ms. Macias said we were in the process of doing it. Mr. Tamashiro asked if we can compromise. Mr. Briones said when the lease initially expired, we offered a month-to-month while PCC figured out where they were going to go as there were plans for the Transition Center. The District offered to rent them the space in the evenings; they were not interested in a partial rental as they wanted the entire space. It was made clear in 2013, the agreement was a short agreement from 2013-2023. He stated the property belongs to the District and should be used for our students. We were one step away from receiving DSA approval and breaking ground but three individuals prefer for PCC students to use it instead of our students. Our job is to help our students and use District money wisely. We are going to spend an additional 1.3 million dollars to finalize everything. He stated it was the committee's responsibility to make sure District dollars are not being wasted. PCC is planning on passing its own bond which it should have done a long time ago.

Ms. Eredia believes two board members have their own agenda. If they get vindictive she may no longer sit on this committee. Mr. Aguilar stated we signed up to make sure District money is being spent properly and the Board needs to hear this.

Mr. Elatar stated that we need to take the annual written report to the Board in March which includes the expenditure report.

The next COC meeting will be scheduled and the committee decided to meet at South El Monte High School.

Mr. Aguilar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tamashiro seconded the motion. The meeting ended at approximately 6:30 p.m.