

NEWHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Measure E Citizens' Oversight Committee  
January 13, 2014

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 by Chairperson Jim Hicken

COC members present: Gary Baker, Tricia Fossa, Jim Hicken, Caroline Jackson, Adele MacPherson, Larry McClements (excused at 7:35PM), Joelle Nelson, Debbie Wolpert

COC members absent: Susan Anderson, Jose Gonzalez, Ashley Matkin

Staff present: Erick Kroenke, Marc Winger, Ronna Wolcott

Others present: Helene Jubanyi, Amin Salari

**The meeting agenda was approved.** Moved - MacPherson; Second – McClements  
Ayes – 8; Noes - 0

**Minutes of March 14, 2013 were approved.** Moved - McClements; Second – Wolpert  
Ayes – 8; Noes – 0

**Audit reports for 2013 were accepted and filed.** Moved – Baker; Second – MacPherson  
Ayes – 8; Noes – 0

**COC Annual Report for the Period July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013 was adopted and authorized for distribution.** Moved – Baker; Second – Wolpert  
Ayes – 8; Noes – 0

**Second Issuance of BANs:** Assistant Superintendent Ronna Wolcott described the very successful second sale of Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs). She described why BANs are issued and how they are repaid with a GO bond. A high rating from Standard and Poors allowed the sale at market-low interest rates, saving taxpayer dollars over the long run. \$36 million in BANs were sold, leaving \$4 million in remaining authorization.

**Architect work status report:** Helena Jubanyi, NAC Architecture, provided COC members with a PowerPoint status report describing each project, including classrooms at Valencia Valley and Meadows, toilet building at Stevenson Ranch, Newhall classrooms and auditorium, classrooms at Old Orchard, and classrooms at Peachland.

**Construction timeline:** Amin Salari, Lundgren Management and Ronna Wolcott described the approval process for projects. The main determiner on approval is the time it takes to process plans through the Division of State Architects (DSA). Currently that is at least 6 months and they frequently require changes after their review. The projects at Stevenson Ranch, Meadows, and Valencia Valley are currently underway. The Newhall project is expected to be submitted in February or March. Newhall and Old Orchard will be submitted in spring. Peachland is still in design and expected to be submitted in 2015.

**Tech endowment prohibition – LACO Treasurer:** Ronna Wolcott informed the COC that the LA County Treasurer will no longer manage endowments with investments as originally envisioned for \$10 million of Measure E funds. Alternatively, we have worked with our financial advisors to identify an issuance structure that allows the \$10 million to be spent over the ten year period. A chart of issuances, tech allocations, and identified purchases was shared with COC members. Various tech purchases were discussed.

**Fiscal Report – budget revisions:** Ronna Wolcott reviewed the report, focusing on page 5 (status report of projects), page 6 (snapshot of Measure E budgets), page 18 (potential state funding). State grants under existing construction and modernization projects have been depleted. NSD now has little hope of receiving any state funds. We will continue to submit applications as long as OPSC will receive them, however, a political discussion regarding the future of state participation in school building is taking place. We have already eliminated some anticipated projects and redirected funds to higher priority projects. As projects move along, if we find savings and unspent contingencies, we will commit Measure E funds to the next projects.

**Term of committee appointees:** Ronna Wolcott informed COC members that all 2 year initial terms are up in March. Originally we had planned to stagger members to establish one and two year individual terms. The Measure E COC regulations allow for up to 3 consecutive two-year terms. Since projects are just getting underway, staff will ask the board to extend all interested current members' terms for one more two year term. After that, in a third year, terms can be staggered. COC members present at the meeting expressed an interest in having terms extended. Dr. Winger said he would contact absent members to determine their interest.

**2013-2014 Future Meetings Calendar:** March 10, 2014 and May 12, 2014. Mrs. Wolcott suggested that the May meeting start at 4:30PM and be held at Valencia Valley School so COC members could visit the construction site. Members agreed.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Mr. Hicken adjourned the meeting at 8:10PM.