

**THESE MINUTES WILL NOT BE APPROVED UNTIL THE JANUARY MEETING
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING for
Bakersfield City School District "Measure G"**

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Education Center – Superintendent's Conference Room

The fourth meeting of the Citizens' Oversight Committee was opened at 3:04 p.m. by Chairperson Stephanie Holladay.

Members Present: The following members were present:
 Mr. Harry Chicklenis
 Mr. Philip Field
 Mrs. Stephanie Holladay
 Mrs. Lori Hughes
 Mr. Robert Palmbach
 Mr. Percy Robinson
 Mr. Brian Todd

Members Absent: The following member was absent:
 None

District Staff Present: Mrs. Schallock, Chief Business Official
 Mr. Steve McClain, Fiscal Services Director
 Mr. Ruben Solis, Facilities Director
 Ms. Evelyn Goode, Recorder

Also Present: Mr. Steve Gabbitas, Public Information & Communications Manager

Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Phil Field, seconded by Harry Chicklenis, it was ordered by the affirmative vote of the members present that the minutes of July 18, 2007, be approved.

Land Purchase Update: Mrs. Schallock reported to the Committee that the Board of Education cancelled the escrow on the land purchase at the July Board meeting and the deposit was returned to the District.

 Mrs. Schallock also reported to the Committee on the obstacles occurring in the land in the northeast that prevent school-site development such as: earthquake faults, high-pressure gas lines, abandoned oil wells, and planned equestrian trails.

 When the land fell out of escrow, the District immediately began looking for new land to buy. On September 13, a Special Board meeting was held so that the Board Members could tour possible sites for purchase. Following their tour, the Board expressed their interest in the purchase of land for an elementary school site and a middle school site. Possibly by the January meeting of the Bond Oversight Committee, we will be in escrow.

Annual Report for
2006/2007:
(*samples in packet*)

Mrs. Holladay reviewed two sample Oversight Committee Annual Reports – one for the Kern High School District and the other for the San Bernardino City Unified School District. Mrs. Holladay suggested that she and the Committee’s co-chair, Harry Chicklenis, work together on getting an Annual Report together which would cover the period from February through June of 2007. The report would include information received from the Bond Performance Audit prepared by Total School Solutions which should arrive in about two weeks. The Annual Report should be presented at the January 22 Board meeting which will also include the Independent Audit Report. Before the Annual Report is presented to the Board, Mrs. Holladay and Mr. Chicklenis will review the report with the Oversight Committee Members at their next meeting in early January.

Financial Report:
(*handout in packet*)

Steve McClain presented the unaudited 2007/08 Expenditures for July 1 through September 30, 2007:

Security Improvements (@ 6 schools)	\$159,515
Modernizations (@ 4 schools)	\$139,631
New School Environmental Study (this Study was on the previous land)	<u>\$ 3,348</u>
Total Bond Expenditures	\$302,494
Total Bond Expenditures 2006/2007	<u>\$322,735</u>
Total Bond Expenditures (Cumulative)	\$625,230

Mr. McClain reported that the Performance Audit and the Financial Audit will be received soon and he will present and review the information to the Oversight Committee at the January meeting.

Projects Update:
(*handout in packet*)

Ruben Solis presented the “Status of Security and Modernization Projects.” The information pertaining to Security Projects contained in the report included: school site, project description/status and completion date.

Security Fencing at Jefferson, Longfellow, William Penn, and Wayside schools

Security Hardware (Campus Access Control) at Longfellow, William Penn, and Wayside schools

Security Cameras at Horace Mann, Stiern, Washington, Fremont, Longfellow, Hills and Wayside schools

The information pertaining to Modernizations contained in the report included: school site, contractor, project description/status, and completion date.

Abatement (Removal of Asbestos) at Chipman, Eissler, and Nichols schools.

Also included in the information were photographs of the security projects already completed or will be completed by this summer at Jefferson, Longfellow, William Penn and Wayside schools.

Mr. Robinson asked how many phases are there for modernizations.

Mr. Solis responded that each school is different; it depends on the size of the school and how many wings.

Mrs. Hughes asked if Hort School is one of the schools to receive the security fencing.

Mr. Solis responded affirmatively and noted that a six foot wrought iron fence will be installed in front of Hort School. He added that all playground fencing is typically eight feet high, has double gates, as well as a lock. The lock is readily accessible so Fire Department staff can cut it to access the school in emergency situations.

Mr. Robinson asked if the Fire Department had no access to school grounds prior to this fencing.

Mr. Solis responded that there are currently fire lanes at all school sites.

Media Information: Mrs. Schallock reported to the Committee that when the Auditors were here, they asked questions as to how information was getting out to the public. Steve Gabbitas was invited to attend this Committee meeting to discuss ways to get information to the Media.

One suggestion is that the Oversight Committee prepare a “press release” on Committee letterhead to be sent to *The Bakersfield Californian*. The Communications Department can assist the Committee with the press release.

Internally, the District has a newsletter, *The Direct Connection* that is sent to all BCSD parents 4-times a year. In addition, there is an e-mail “newsletter” that is sent to all community businesses.

Mrs. Holladay suggested that the Committee consider sending out press releases to keep the public apprised as to what the Committee is doing.

A question was asked concerning the District’s website.

Mrs. Schallock responded that the Oversight Committee has been on the District’s website almost since its’ formation. Mr. Gabbitas gave direction on how to access the Oversight Committee’s link:

Go to BCSD.com

When the District website appears, a series of buttons appear on the left-hand side of the page

Click on the button that reads “Bond Oversight”

Upon reaching the Link, another series of buttons appear on the left-hand side of the page. They are:

Home

Committee Updates

Projects

Committee Members
Minutes
Bylaws

Mr. Todd reported that he believes this District is providing “much better outreach” than other Districts with Oversight Committees. He also pointed out that he sits on other Oversight Committees and that the media does not attend their meetings.

Mrs. Holladay asked what information from today’s meeting should be posted on the website.

It was suggested that the Financial Update and the Projects Update be added to the website. Mrs. Holladay suggested that the same Updates be included in the next edition of the District’s *Direct Connection*. As the publication is mailed in January, Communications Services will need to have all pertinent information to be printed by mid-December.

Mr. Chicklenis reported that several people have made comments to him that they have seen his name posted on the signs in front of the schools that are to be modernized. That method is another good way for the public to see what is being done.

Mr. Chicklenis asked if there is a way to keep track of all press releases that are sent out pertaining to or from the Oversight Committee.

Mr. Gabbitas responded that copies will be sent to the Recorder who can make copies for each of the Committee members.

Mr. Todd suggested that information go out to all news directors at Radio Stations. Mr. Gabbitas reported that all press releases go out to all Media, which include all newspapers, television stations and radio stations.

Miscellaneous:

Mr. Palmbach asked how it is determined what projects are to be done at what schools.

Mr. Solis responded that he works from the “Project List” that was first established when the Bond was called for. This list outlines the school, the project, and the funding. Mrs. Schallock responded that the necessary projects and schools were listed before the Bond election.

Mrs. Schallock asked Mr. Solis if he has a “master list” of projects by year he could provide the Committee.

Mr. Solis will provide the Committee a list at the next meeting.

Mr. Robinson asked if the Bakersfield Police Department can access our security cameras on-line.

Mr. Solis stated that the Police cannot access the District’s security cameras on-line; however, they can come here to the District and view all of the cameras from our computer system.

Public Comments: There were no comments from the public.

Next Meeting: Discussion was held and the next meeting of the Oversight Committee will take place on **Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 3 p.m., at Nichols School**. All Committee members are to meet at the school site – not at the Ed. Center. Notices will be sent to the Committee members.

Adjournment: On a motion by Brian Todd, seconded by Phil Field, it was ordered by the affirmative vote of the members present that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.