

Redlands Unified School District
Measure J
Citizens' Oversight Committee

Minutes

District Office Conference Room
20 West Lugonia, Redlands, CA 92374
February 9, 2017

I. Opening – Chairperson Martinez called the meeting to order at 5:28 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Dave Eason, Patrick Garcia, Jeff Martinez, Michele Rendler, David M. Wilson

Staff Present: Bernie Cavanagh, Ken Morse, Michelle Cole, Ashley Palmer, MaryRone Shell

Guests Present: Neal Waner

C. Approval of Minutes – On motion of Dave Eason, second by Michele Rendler, the minutes of October 13, 2016 were approved as submitted.

II. Public Participation

A. Community Input – none

III. Committee Business

A. 2015-16 Audit Report Review – Ken Morse

Mr. Morse stated that all members should have previously received a copy of the audit and it was presented to the Board of Education on January 17, 2017, by VTD & Co. The audit was clean with no findings, which has been the history of Measure R audits. Mr. Eason asked if the financial side, as well as the performance side, were clean. Mr. Morse stated that all aspects of the audit were clean with no findings.

B. Select Annual Writing Committee

Chairperson Martinez asked for volunteers to serve on the Annual Writing Committee. Mr. Wilson volunteered himself and member Beth Kolpien, who was not present, and said he would confirm with Ms. Kolpien that she will be able to participate. The draft Annual Report will be presented at the next Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) meeting on April 6, 2017. The final Annual Report will be presented to the Board of Education on April 25, 2017. Chairperson Martinez volunteered himself to present the final Annual Report.

IV. Presentations

Mr. Cavanagh asked Chairperson Martinez if we could address items B and C first, and then have Mr. Waner give his presentation at the end. Chairperson Martinez said that would be fine.

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B. Projects Update – Bernie Cavanagh

The two projects remaining under Measure J are the Citrus Valley High School parking lot and Redlands High School fencing project. The IRC attack in San Bernardino prompted a meeting regarding security. Those items will be presented at a later date.

C. Budget Review – Ken Morse

There were no expenditures since the last COC meeting.

D. Rebate Calculations – Ken Morse

Mr. Morse stated that the district will be sending all necessary information to BLX who handled the rebate calculations of past bonds. We will report their findings at the next COC meeting, April 6, 2017.

Mr. Martinez – Back to item A by former Board Member, Neal Waner.

A. Background of Measures R and J – Neal Waner

Mr. Cavanagh introduced Neal Waner to the Committee, explaining that he would be sharing background information for Measures R and J on their intended purposes. Mr. Waner and Renee Kern will be gathering information and presenting to the Board of Education on April 25, 2017. Mr. Cavanagh had prepared questions for Mr. Waner to respond to, as follows:

1. Mr. Cavanagh - How were the Committees for Measures R and J formed? What was the process?
Mr. Waner - Measures are passed by the community and not staff. For Measure R, the District presented a power point presentation to volunteers and they agreed a bond measure was needed. I lead the campaign which included all kinds of community members, known and unknown. We worked together with a consultant to campaign and raise money totaling \$130,000.00 to help pass the bond.
2. Mr. Cavanagh - What were some the obstacles the Committees faced as they worked to get these Measures passed?
Mr. Waner – Previous Bond Measure M had initially failed as a 2/3 majority of the vote was required to pass a bond and that is hard to achieve. The community was hesitant in passing a new bond because the District had just built REV; why was a third high school necessary? We explained to the community that the growth curves were huge and state matching funds were available, and the community understood this.
3. Mr. Cavanagh - What was the context in relationship to Redlands Unified School District (RUSD) at that time that was used to help voters understand the importance of passing these measures?
Mr. Waner – The Baby Boomer population caused an overcrowding of schools, so the current lack of space was less concerning. Personal experience motivated him to bring awareness to the solution and help raise money.
4. Mr. Cavanagh – Was there a process used to determine the financial threshold for the homeowners in the communities being impacted by Measures R and J? If so, what was this process and how were the committees able to ensure the public they would be prudent managers of the public's money?
Mr. Waner – Volunteers participated in surveys and phone calls to find out what was important to community members and how much they were willing to contribute. Once

the dollar amount was confirmed, the project list was created. The community was assured the money would be spent appropriately because the project list was definitive.

5. Mr. Cavanagh - What were some of the strategies used to convince voters of the importance to the community of passing Measures R and J? How did the Committee get five communities to support building a new High School?
Mr. Waner – RUSD serves five communities and Measure R would benefit everybody, not just one of the five. The money was guaranteed to be used at each site. The District has a good reputation that supports property values and the community was pleased that keeping the schools in good standing would help.
6. Mr. Cavanagh – What was the philosophy/intent/commitment of the Measures R and J Committees and RUSD if more funds were raised than were needed for the completion of the projects identified in both Measures R and J?
Mr. Waner - There was a finite amount of money to be raised and it only built half of the high school, so more funds were needed. RUSD's good reputation aided in the passing of Measures R and J which helped complete the construction of Citrus Valley High School. The way in which remaining money is treated will set precedence on how successful future Bond Measures will be.
7. Mr. Cavanagh - What impact will the recommendations of the Oversight Committees and RUSD on how to manage remaining Measures R and J funds, have on the reputation of the District and its ability to encourage voters to support future bond measures?
Mr. Waner - Extra money can be spent on outstanding projects that were noted on the project lists. Make sure that any future spending is highly necessary. Ms. Rendler asked if the extra money could be returned to the public. Mr. Waner stated that that would be an option but should be well thought out.

V. For the Good of the Order/Member Comments

Chairperson Martinez reminded the members the next COC meeting will be held on April 6, 2017.

Mr. Cavanagh thanked the Members for their continued time and support.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Attest:


Betsy Starbuck
Vice Chair

Adopted:

April 6, 2017