2020-21 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Report

In 2011, Alameda voters approved Measure A, a $12 million per year parcel tax designed to support core values and programs in the Alameda Unified School District. This parcel tax ended on June 30, 2018, at which point Measure B1, an extension of Measure A that was passed by 74% of Alameda voters in November 2016, went into effect.

In 2020, Alameda voters approved Measure A, a $10 million per year parcel tax designed to help AUSD attract and retain excellent employees by providing a salary increase.

Pursuant to the terms of both measures, an Oversight Committee is required to review the District's compliance with the terms of the measures. In October of 2020, the Board approved a policy that allows for one unified committee to oversee revenues, expenditures, and administration of both parcel tax programs.

This is the second report of that combined committee. It is a companion piece to the 2021-22 Staff Annual Parcel Tax Program Report, which summarizes the revenues and expenditures of both Measure A and Measure B1 in the 2021-21 school year.

The Oversight Committee met four times to review and ensure that parcel tax revenues and expenditures were consistent and complied with the measures' language. Agendas and minutes of those meetings can be found on AUSD's Parcel Tax Oversight Committee web page.

The work of the 2021-22 Committee included:

- Reviewing Measure B1 revenues and expenditures throughout the school year
- Reviewing Measure A revenues and expenditures throughout the school year
- Asking for additional data on how Measure B1 revenues are being spent across and within each category, including for the "Closing the Achievement Gap" category
- Asking for additional data on how Measure A is helping to attract and retain employees
- Development of the annual staff and committee reports
- Broad discussion of the AUSD budget and how it is impacted by state and federal revenues

It is important to note that the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee is not responsible for auditing the financial statements of AUSD. As per Board Policy 3221, an audit is performed by an independent, professional accounting firm annually. A sample of that 2021-22 audit is included in the Staff Annual Report.

The Committee concludes that the attached staff report properly represents AUSD's expenditures of parcel tax revenues for the 2021-22 fiscal year and that AUSD has complied with the funding priorities established by the voting citizens of Alameda and as approved by the Board of Education.

AUSD's parcel tax program does not solve all the issues caused by deficient state funding for public education. As members of this Oversight Committee, however, we remain cognizant of the indispensable role parcel taxes play in our school district, and we thank the voters for continuing to support education in Alameda by approving it. We recognize that we're fortunate to have these additional revenues and the many programs our parcel taxes support, such as enrichment, athletics, technology, small class sizes, neighborhood schools, and program choice.

We're also pleased that AUSD employees benefit from the increased compensation provided by Measure A.

We encourage interested community members to consider volunteering to serve on the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee in future years, and we recommend that the community remains engaged in the discussion around additional sources of funding for public education.

The Committee also appreciates the efforts of AUSD staff Susan Davis, Shariq Khan, and Steve Chonel in support of our work as a committee.

2020-2021 Measure B1 Oversight Committee

- Doug Biggs
- Joyce Boyd
- Roxanne Clement
- Carrie Hahnel (chair)
- Steve Kellner
- Robert Kreitz
- Sean Noonan
- Mark Ouimet
- Adam Schlosser
- Steven Smith