



## MEASURE E OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

August 31, 2015

### MINUTES

#### Committee

Members Present: Jack Colman  
Debra Cohen  
Lesli Kraut  
Hannah Turner Kukurudz  
Jay Lieberman

#### Committee

Members Absent: Ned Davis  
John Elginer

#### Also Present:

Dan Stepenosky, Superintendent  
Karen Kimmel, Assistant Superintendent-Business

Committee Chair Member Lesli Kraut called the meeting to order at 5:31pm

#### **State / District Budget**

Dr. Stepenosky started the meeting by reporting that enrollment for LVUSD is up for 2 years in a row. He commented that this is due to our great schools and is contrary to a report by a demographer that projected flat enrollment. He proceeded to show a selection of photographs from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school from the various school sites. Additionally, Dr. Stepenosky highlighted the new principals at LVUSD schools. Mr. Lieberman ask if a large quantity of teachers retired this past year. Ms. Kimmel reported that there are 65 new teachers between retirees and moves. The District provided a 2-day new teacher orientation in early August, which included a tour of the district schools.

Ms. Kimmel informed the committee that there is an increase in state funding this school year. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row that the state has provided increased funding, however she commented that the overall funding to LVUSD is lower than many other districts

receive. She went on to say that the District is very appreciate of the funds received through the Measure E Parcel Tax, and that the funds really help supplement many areas.

### **Parcel Tax Budget**

Ms. Kimmel shared with the committee the parcel tax financials as of June 30, 2015. For fiscal year 2014-2015 the parcel tax revenues were \$2,339,932 with expenditures of \$2,352,678. The ending reserve balance as of June 30, 2015 was \$135,324. Ms. Kimmel reported that the fees to cover the Los Angeles County Tax Assessor's Office for preparing the file and the funds to pay the District's parcel tax consultant, SCI Consulting Group have been included in the District's general fund. The committee decided that those fees should be included as part of the parcel tax budget. Ms. Kimmel let the committee members know that she will ask the district's independent auditors to confirm the inclusion of these fees within the parcel tax budget is appropriate.

Ms. Kraut inquired as to the percentage of out of district families that contribute to the annual donor drive. Ms. Kimmel responded that it was higher this year and she thanked the committee for the recommendation that they made last year to include an "order form" within the letter.

The committee members asked several questions about the report including the expenditure of funds for certificated teachers who are charged to the District Office. Ms. Kimmel explained that expenditure is for the library/media specialists who travel from school to school and therefore are covered by the district office budget rather than a particular school site. Mr. Lieberman asked about the early retirement program and if the District saved money by instituting this program. Ms. Kimmel responded that the employees who opt for this program would receive approximately \$4,500 into their retirement fund until their reach age 65. The savings is attained by the District because of the offset in the teacher salaries between the newer teachers vs. near retirement teacher salaries. Ms. Kraut questioned the \$180,000 spent for electrical utilities. Ms. Kimmel reported that those funds are used for the fields, lights and pools. Ms. Kraut inquired if solar panels have been considered by the district as a way to save on utility costs. Ms. Kimmel let the committee know that the District conducted an analysis roughly five years ago and that there was a lot of push back from the local community who want the area to retain a natural look. Ms. Kimmel reported that other parents within the District community have raised this suggestion as an option for the District to consider, and that the district will relook into solar panels as a potential option.

Ms. Cohen asked if the excess reserves from the parcel tax in any one-year are retained in the parcel tax budget and can be tapped into for future years if needed. Ms. Kimmel confirmed that is the case and that any dollars not spent can be used for future years.

The committee discussed the 2015-2016 parcel tax budget. Ms. Kraut recommended that if need be the committee deficit spend and tap into existing reserves rather than cut any of the anticipated program costs. Mr. Lieberman pointed out that there is \$135,000 of reserves. Ms. Kukurudz concurred that it was a good idea to utilize the reserves.

### **Parcel Tax Sunset/ Measure E Renewal**

Ms. Kimmel reported that in July the Board of Education voted to place the request for renewal of the Parcel Tax on the November 3 Ballot.

### **City Council Report Recap**

Ms. Kimmel thanked the committee members for their help in presenting the Measure E results to the city councils within the District boundaries. Ms. Kukurudz suggested adding information about the Measure E renewal to the District's website. Ms. Kimmel responded by saying that a Frequently Asked Questions section is being created and will be posted to the District website when ready. Ms. Cohen asked about the specifics for the renewal of Measure E. Ms. Kimmel reported that if renewed the parcel tax would be \$98 and would be in effect for 12 years, which is the same amount as it has been for the last 12 years.

### **Next Meeting:**

- December 14, 2015 at 5:30pm in the District Office Cabinet Room

The meeting adjourned at 6:44pm