

Measure G Committee Meeting

November 17, 2016

5:30-6:30

UNAPPROVED

Facilitator: Luci Rogers; CFO

Attendees: Gurbakhash Bittikofer; HEA, Larry Ratto; At Large, Dr. Walker; Board,

Note Taker: Tiffany Elam, Sen. Adm. Sec

Open: 5:40

Ended: 6:24

Luci: Let's first look at the minutes to assure that they are correct and accurate. Do we accept the minutes?

Gurbakhash: I can acknowledge they are correct and accurate

Luci: The next thing we are looking at is the report that was provided with our Unaudited Actual report, provided to the public, in terms of the sources and uses of the funds. I wanted to bring it to show a comparison of how we spent the funds in 14-15 as opposed to 15-16. In 14-15, we still hadn't spent the funds right away because we were still establishing how we were going to spend the funds. It was significantly more at \$4.4 million so that we could do those other planned items like reducing the algebra size and the science lab, giving school climate report, and secondary summer programs. We reduced to the amount of funding that was available in 15-16 for the K-6 classroom teachers to minimize the redirects and combination classes and overcrowding.

Larry: If we hadn't helped those teachers with those funds, how many more classes would have been impacted.

Luci: I can't answer that exactly but I can give you a general response

Larry: These are the things the public needs to know

Luci: We did significantly reduce the redirects and that was something that we were really concerned about because that affects and disrupts the family. When they are all set in with the neighborhood and their friends, and then they have to be bused out.... We really tackled that. Now when local control funding formula came in, with it came a state-mandated responsibility to reduce class sizes. We took advantage of the collective bargaining alternative methods allowed under it to reduce our class sizes. But these Measure G funds really helped give us a jump start on class size reduction. But I will get more concrete information because I think that's important for everyone to know.

Gurbakhash: And I can only speak for my site at Stonebrae: we saw a significant impact; we didn't have that many of our kids being bused to other sites, but we did have a significant number of combo classes, and we did have a reduction. And we've also noticed the graduated scale of reducing a class size in K-3.

Larry: What is that now?

Luci: It varies by school location- it's about 26-27, but some classes are smaller

Gurbakhash: And the state gave us an amount of time that we have to continue to show this gradual decrease, and it's about 8 or ten years to do it.

Luci: Yes, even more, because most districts like ours were up above 30. The goal is to reach 24 to 1. There were precise rules that we had to follow to show that you were making progress unless you bargained alternatives. In the first year, we were working out bargaining it, so we had to keep track and that method was a burden. It was much appreciated that HEA was willing to relieve us of that burden and make it so we can achieve the goal, but in a way that was less burdensome - and it worked out for our district staff and students.

Larry: Another question I have is when you say you reduced high school algebra class sizes, can you give me a ball park?

Luci: We added teachers because, what we found was that our students in high school were really struggling in algebra, so we added more algebra teachers in order to reduce those class sizes such that students could get more attention. And we have continued that through the local control formula.

Larry: And off the top of your head, you probably won't know what the class size would be. It's not important tonight, but it would be important to show.

Luci: You're right; I think maybe 20.

Larry: Maybe a before and after

Luci: Before I know it was in the 30's and we have it down into the 20's and some are even smaller.....

Larry: That is significant....

RFI Before and after of Algebra class sizes.

Luci: Because if the students are struggling in that area then the teachers needs to have fewer students to give that individualized attention.

Larry: But the questions in a public forum, we are setting ourselves up for that next task. Look what we've done and here are the other things we can do. But I'll be quiet now

Luci: No, keep talking because you are really being helpful.

Gurbakhash: Are most of those teachers in the 9th grade

Luc: Yes, we were focused on 9th grade algebra

Gurbakhash: I think that's really good because when they are moving up from middle to high school, it's enough of a transition for them so that when they reduce the class sizes in that area.

Larry: The good thing about this is that majority of the funds are being spent at the elementary school and that's where you need to spend them. The more resources we can put into the K-6, into the classroom to get them where they need to be.

Luci: The way our community is, we do have an influx... we are transient and have a lot of students that come in at the middle and high school level that haven't gone through our elementary schools. But I do understand what you are saying: that you have to build that foundation.

Larry: I was not a very popular high school principal with my high school colleges because I always said we have to spend more money k-8 and then we won't have to worry about some of the challenges, obviously not all of them would go away but some would.

Luci: That foundation is truly important- if they come to high school prepared, it's much easier to in adjusting to the high school experience which in itself is challenging.

Gurbakhash: The other thing is I take a certain responsibility as a 6th grade teacher and basically I was one of those who said, "It's our fault if we don't get these kids where they need to be before they get to middle school." We've got to work even harder, to get them motivated .

Larry: You're also making it difficult for teachers at the high school level, here they are expected to get these kids to the 12th grade level, English, math whatever it is and they are getting freshman at a 6th grade level and then you are talking about an impossible task. Now if they are really doing their job, like my teachers, we look at a 1 year growth every year.

Larry: One other question I have - can you review with me the school climate support?

Luci: School climate support is to encourage the students to reduce conflict that they have with each other and with staff in a way that makes everything better "climate-wise" within a school. For example, they have a circle that they get in to initiate a topic for conflict, work on how to resolve it and to come to a conclusion of the issue that they are wrestling with.

Larry: Most of that money goes to K-8?

Luci: Yes it does. But the Measure G funded it in secondary schools. This is not all the funding. This became a funding source to initiate the program. The one thing that's always challenging at the district when we want to start new programs, is coming up with that initial funding source and as then to integrate it into the regular curriculum and that is what we were able to successfully do. We have had presentations from students who have shared their personal

experience and used the methodology through this program - it's pretty amazing how they feel like they have matured on their own and how they can handle conflict and not let things escalate.

Larry: Yes, it really works.

Luci: The next sheet might be interesting for you to see - one is the history of how we used the funds. In 12-13 - that was the first year- as you can see there were no expenditures, because we were still formulated the committee, determining how to use the funds. In 13-14, we started to spend those funds down each year.

Dr. Walker: Is that the remaining balance, where we are? Is that how we are going to end?

Luci: Yes, so that is the budget for 2016-17, the current year we are operating in, and we do expect to fully expend the funds. We are now down to the point where the funds are used solely for salaries. And what I do each month... because you know people start late, get a new position, have a step increase.... so it's not a fixed amount each month.... I balance it to see if we are going to end up with more funding or less funding and it either moves in or out to the unrestricted side in order to balance.

Dr. Walker: When I walked in you guys were talking about those folks who may not be able to pay the parcel tax. The D word you were using

Luci: Delinquent tax?

Dr. Walker: Yes, at what point do you do that?

Luci: So that's what makes the amount in the parcel tax fluctuate so that we won't know until 2017 -18 what amount might trickle in. How I deal with that will be something like a library tech, because I don't think it's going to be much. We will move part of the salary over to expend the measure G dollars. But it also has senior exemptions and you can never really precisely estimate how many of those there will be. There may be a new parcel added, there may be someone now eligible for the senior exemption and applies for it, there are a lot of variables and factors.

Dr. Walker: And At what point in the year will we see it... After?

Luci: It can be as late as April 2018. But I don't expect it to be significant. The next portion is the actual formal report that is done by the consultant SCI. If you look at your property tax bill, you might even be able to see this name on there. They are our consultant of record for the MAD parcel tax and Measure G. They process the senior citizens' exemptions and they ensure that the county treasurer does assess the proper amount and forward that amount to us. The one that was printed for the board last year was not this actual style; we had taken the information and modified it. But this year I am going to actually provide this one that the consultant does. It does contain a lot of information, but it has a lot of good stuff in here and it would be good for the public to see. This was brought to you in that February meeting; it contained the same

information but in a much more condensed version. It kind of walks through what the voters voted on. It puts right there what we were going to spend it on Math, Reading & writing and hands on science lab, library services, technology and college prep, providing programs for all students to meet state standards and attracting and retaining qualified teachers. So that everything that we did fell within these categories and we are able to tell the public this is what you voted on and this is what we did. Then it tells us how many parcels: 43,183 parcels of which 861 qualified for exemption.

Larry: When new building go up do they start taxing them?

Luci: It depends on how the parcel was assessed before; the parcel may have already been subject to the tax or may not have been. So it's if the new parcel is subject to tax.

Larry: For example there is a ton of infill in Hayward so almost all those parcels were probably already taxed? And now they are lands with condos so they should be taxed more.

Luci: This is just a tax per parcel. It may have been subdivided and that may or may not result in additional parcel tax; that's one of the services that the consultant does to make sure. It's a lot of information for the different proper types that we have, and you see the history in figure one of the taxable parcels. So you can see how there was some movement in 12/13 with 38,349 and in 2015-16 there were 640 added so its 38,989 so there are some that are added but it is not always a one for one. So if you went over to Jackson and Dollar Street, you may think that every one of those new homes is \$58 dollars additional for us, but it's not necessarily true. But there are additional parcel taxes that came in. So we won't go over all of this, we will present a summary version, but the document in its entirety will be online. But I wanted to give complete information in order for us to get to that yes vote. I do have some good news. Moody has removed the negative outlook on our credit rating. Even though the parcel tax really doesn't have anything to do with the credit rating, it has overall to do with the district's accomplishments, its fiscal stability and the willingness of the voters to give us more money to further our programs for student achievement.

Larry; Do you think you can get a reporter to put out a story on that?

Luci: I may have Sabrina do a public release; this just happened yesterday.

Larry: Thank you for all your hard work.

Luci: That's going to help with Measure L and the next series of bonds to issue and having that negative outlook removed is huge. I will do an In the Loop to the Board to share the good news.

Dr Walker: Yes, please do that.

Luci: The report also gives a sample of the exemption applications.

Larry: Have you guys decided on a dollar amount for the new parcel tax?

Luci: We go through a feasibility study with potential voters to find out at what amount we will be most successful. We don't want to ask for an amount they are going to say no to; we want to determine the amount they are going to say yes to. Our preliminary thoughts are that we are trying to get an increase from \$58 to \$88. We are hoping to increase the number of years from five to twelve but we will also test that to see what the overall tolerance is for it.

Gurbakhash: That would be great if we can go up to ten years.

Luci: It's kind of interesting that Voters tend to not like even numbers

Gurbakhash: You are right.

Luci: And then this particular part of the report we will not include to the public because it has actual addresses so this is just for the committee to look at. Then they also provide 300 pages that show every single parcel that is taxed.

Larry: It's Interesting if you know the neighborhoods.

Luci: So then we need to discuss the meeting calendar and I had thought that perhaps we do them quarterly and the next one March 16, does that seem alright?

Dr. Walker/ Gurbakhash/Larry: Yes

Luci: And then June 22 and then the final meeting September 21 and that would be after the end of the year results.

Larry: And when would it go to the board meeting.

Luci: For the annual report it wouldn't be until the following January.

Larry: I mean for this one.

Luci: This one it will be January 11

Luci: So it's gone through our financial audit so there are no changes. That's why we wait until after the audit has been completed so we can say with confidence what the amounts are.

Larry: Ok can we review the dates again right now January 11th for the school board meeting, March 16, June 22 and September 21

Luci: Yes

RFI to Tiffany: Send out calendar invite to all committee members

Luci: Are there any topics that you might want to see when we meet again.

Larry: I just want to thank you for doing a very thorough job and we are lucky to have you.

Dr. Walker: Yes, thank you

Luci: Then the next time I will bring the status of how the things are going and also in March, we will know the final plans: if the feasibility study shows if we can get a yes, that's step one. Then this will most likely be a mail in ballot which is different than what we had before as opposed to going to an actual precinct election. We have many voters that permanently vote absentee, but hopeful it improves our chances and we will know by then that we are on target.

Gurbakhash: Have we had any of our parcel taxes done in this method of the mail in?

Luc: No, this will be our first time. Other districts have successfully done it but we haven't tried it. One of the thoughts was that this last ballot was so crowded with so many things that we thought that it was best not to compete with everything because there was so much on there. And what we really wanted the voters to say yes to was Prop 55, Prop 51, and Prop 58; we wanted them to really focus on that. We really think what we have a good plan to get to a yes vote.

Larry: Some of us were really worked hard on the HARD Measure and were really concerned about that, but it turned out ok.

Luci: If there is nothing else we can adjourn the meeting. I really appreciate your coming out and spending your time serving on this Committee.

Meeting adjourned

6:24