

Board of Education: President Darrell Cherf; **Clerk** Susan Walsh; Gene Stamm; Adam Cox; Jessica Kazakos
District Superintendent: RoseMary Parga Duran, Ed.D.

**MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE CITIZENS FACILITIES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM
Tuesday, September 16, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER: The Citizens Facilities Oversight Committee meeting was called to at 4:06 p.m. by President Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell.

MCSO STAFF PRESENT: District Superintendent, Dr. RoseMary Parga Duran, Associate Superintendent, Greg Spicer, Dr. Ken Testa, Director of Facilities, Chief Fiscal Officer, Linda Jordan, Supervisor of Maintenance, William Rains, Supervisor of Operations and Grounds, Juan Mendoza, Account Technician, Julio Rodriguez-Rivera, Facilities Department Secretary, Jill Haynes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell, Keith Ensminger, Sharon Spinardi, Jeff Pennington, Marti Garcia, Steven Bottjer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell led us in the pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: M/S/C To approve the agenda for tonight's meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES: M/S/C To approve the minutes from the March 18th, 2014 meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS: Ken Testa led off the introductions. Everyone introduced themselves. Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell introduced Julie Thurman who is interested in becoming a member of the committee.

MEASURE M REPORT –VOTER APPROVAL JUNE 3, 2014

Mr. Testa reported that the passing of Measure M was a major win for the community. The \$60 Million Bond will enable the district to move forward with priority modernization projects and needs.

BOND AUTHORIZATION – RATING DETERMINATION AND PRESENTATION REPORT

Mr. Testa reported that he along with Dr. Parga Duran, Mr. Spicer, and Linda Jordan traveled to San Francisco to make presentations to agencies, including BAM (Build American Mutual) and Moody's to establish a credit rating which will ultimately have a significant impact on the interest repayment on our Bonds by taxpayers. Ben Dolinka, President of Dolinka Financial Advisors helped the district with applying

for the rating and attended the meetings with his staff. Our district was able to previously earn an A+ rating on the past bonds.

From preliminary indications, it seems we are hoping to receive an AA ('Double A') rating, which would be a solid improvement. Linda Jordan stated that the meeting went well and the rating company was "cautiously optimistic" about MCSD earning a better rating. Mr. Spicer added those we presented to seemed impressed and the team did a good job in making a good impression on the firms.

The rating results should be received by this Friday. Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell asked if the BOC members could be notified of the rating outcome. The members will be emailed the results of the rating.

Mr. Testa explained that the growth for Merced is recovering slowly. The rating agencies look at a number of factors, including the community in general, District spending, fiscal responsibility, enrollment, etc. Risk is what they are rating, as well as the pattern of fiscal responsibility of the District, but a major aspect is the overall economic vitality of the region, in a broad sense.

Mr. Spicer explained that the first series of bonds draws will be nearly \$11 ½ million. We want to show the public that we are only going to take what the District needs now for the high priority projects like parking lots, fencing, and safety issues. We want the tax payers to see the money is being spent to make a positive difference in their community.

It was explained that the Facilities Masterplan Committee worked on the initial high priority needs for our schools and sites. The District's website will have the committees suggested projects posted.

Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell asked if there are funds to put up signs in the community for the public to visually see the projects being done. Sharon Spinardi suggested the newspaper could be used to inform the community. Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell suggested that the PTC at each school site should be informed of the projects. Keith Ensminger stated that the school site counsels also be informed. Jeff Pennington would like the City of Merced to have the proposed projects information as well. It would be helpful for new residents and companies looking to move to Merced.

Julie Thurman volunteered to create a website for the plans for Measure M. It could include contractors, suppliers, and businesses we are using. Motion to explore website was made by Jeff Pennington. Discussion followed on cost of website and whether it would be a stand-a-lone or part of the District's website. Mr. Testa suggested that Julie Thurman contact the District's IT department to see how this website could be developed. Mr. Spicer commented on how this could be done, with our Board making the ultimate decision on what would be posted.

M/S/C Pennington/Spinardi to have Julie Thurman to work with Mr. Testa and the IT department for the website once her membership application is approved by Merced City School District's Governing Board.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT:

Julio Rodriguez-Rivera presented the Measure S Financial Summary Report to the committee. The committee reviewed the report. The balance of nearly \$6.59 million remaining in the past Measure S funds (the 2003 Bond) will be used for the Rivera K-8 Classroom Additions project.

The bids from contractors for the Rivera K-8 project are due October 7, 2014. The school board will have the selected bids to consider for approval at their October 14, 2014 board meeting.

MEASURE S & MEASURE M BOND PROJECT REPORT:

Dr. Testa shared that the District is attempting to make a stronger impression with local contractors and find way to help them become more aware of an interested in our capital facility improvement projects. Along these lines, a Contractor and Vendors Outreach Workshop advertised and hosted by the District on August 27, 2014 at Rivera Middle School. A local businessmen himself, Mr. Ensminger attended the workshop and reported a good turnout.

Dr. Testa shared the new prequalification application requirement for contractors. The district has received over 32 prequalification applications from contractors. The applications are required for all public projects because of the new Assembly Bill (AB 1565).

RIVERA K-8 CLASSROOM ADDITION PROJECT UPDATE

Dr. Testa presented a power point which showed the site-layout for the Rivera K-8 Project. He also showed the architects plans for the buildings. The K-8 housing plan aims to house four K-2 grade classrooms and three 3rd-5th grade classrooms. The Rivera K-8 school site will actually be two campuses on one site with the main administrative office in one building (currently rooms 1-6 known as Building B). The staff parking lots will stay the same and staggered start and end times will help alleviate traffic and site access issues. The fields will not be impacted except for the Softball/T-ball field which will be adjusted.

Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell stated she appreciated the district being sensitive to neighbors living by schools.

OPEN DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

New Member Appointment to the Citizens Facilities Oversight Committee – Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell

Mr. Testa informed the committee that according to Proposition 39 regulations which govern the composition of a required Citizens Oversight Committee, these committees are required to be comprised of at least seven (7) members. We have six members currently. Membership must represent each of the following criteria, as read by Mr. Testa: Active in a business organization; active membership in a senior citizens organization; active membership of a bona fide taxpayers' organization; parent/guardian of at least one child enrolled in our school district; parent/guardian of at least one child and a member of a PTA.

Mr. Spicer stated that the school board approves the Oversight Committee applicant and anyone can apply if qualified. The Oversight Committee does not approve new members. Birdi Olivarez-Kidwell suggested that the Committee consider a stronger number of ten (10) members, and that we should advertise.

No other discussion or questions.

NEXT MEETING

The next Oversight Committee Meeting will be December 16th, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room. An email will go out to all with the dates for the rest of the years' meeting dates.

ADJORNMENT:

M/S/C Spinardi/Bottjer to adjourn the Citizens Facilities Oversight Committee at 5:30 p.m.