Simi Valley Schools
SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure X – CBOC

CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SVUSD District Office – Training Center
101 West Cochran Street
Date: March 7, 2024
Time: 6:00 pm

Please contact lori.rubenstein@simivalleyusd.org if you wish to attend this meeting and have not been invited.

Meeting Minutes - March 7, 2024

CORRECTED

I. Call to Order **Time 6:05 pm by Rebecca Hopkins**

II. Roll Call

Present:

Committee Members:

- Rebecca Hopkins, Chair
- Jonathan Bonesteel, Vice Chair
- Omar Noorzai, Secretary (Arrived at 6:07 pm)
- Elisse Sherman, Publicity Chair
- Larry Borovay
- Jay Patel
- Steve Silverman (Left at 6:45 pm)

Other Attendees:

- Lori Rubenstein, Bond Program Manager
- Jake Finch, Public Information Officer
- Debbie Nelson, Administrative Asst. for Bond

Absent:

- Josh Platten
- Martin Hom, Lawyer for Bond
- Ron Todo, Asst. Superintendent of Business & Facilities
- Pedro Avila, Director of Facilities and Planning

III. Pledge of Allegiance: **Lead By: Elisse Sherman**

IV. Approval of minutes:

November 30, 2023

Motion: Omar Noorzai Second: Larry Borovay Vote: 6 Approved/1 Abstained (Elisse Sherman) – Motion Passed

V. Public Comments

None.

VI. Information Items

a) Welcome New CBOC Member

Ms. Hopkins introduced new CBOC Member Steve Silverman and asked him to share a little about himself. Mr. Silverman stated that he grew up in the San Fernando Valley and moved to Simi Valley in 2015. He has three grandchildren and is a business owner.

b) Ongoing Projects:

Berylwood – Classroom Renovation (39 classrooms) – Close Out
Garden Grove – Classroom Renovation (Floor Abatement) - Design
Park View – Classroom Renovation – Construction
Royal – Classroom Renovation – ~~Construction~~ Bid
Royal - MPR – Close Out
Royal - MPR Plaza Courtyard – Close Out
Royal – West Quads – Close Out
Royal – Snack Bar – Close Out
Santa Susana HS– Fencing, Single Point of Entry – Close Out
Simi Valley – Classroom Reno Project Bldgs. 3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,12 – Close Out
Simi Valley – Boys Locker Room – ~~Construction~~ Close Out
Simi Valley – Girls Locker Room – Construction
Simi Valley – Kitchen – Construction
Simi Valley – MPR – Design
Simi Valley – Main Quad Landscape Improvements & Shade Structures – Close Out
Simi Valley – Snack Bar – Construction / Close Out
Sinaloa – Fencing, Single Point of Entry – Close Out
Sycamore – Classroom Renovation (Floor Abatement) – Design
Valley View – Fencing, Single Point of Entry – Close Out
Campus Wide Notification Project – Phase 1 – Vista ES – Close Out
Phase 2 – Royal HS – ~~Construction~~ Bid
Phase 3 – Park View ES – Construction
Phase 4 – 6 Sites
Phase 5 – Remaining Sites

Ms. Rubenstein presented the above list of current projects and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Ms. Hopkins commented that the Berylwood project appears to be a lengthy one, to which Ms. Rubenstein replied that it's a classroom renovation project consisting of 39 classrooms, and that classroom renovation projects can take many months, sometimes years, to complete.

Ms. Hopkins then wanted to verify that the snack bar projects have been closed out. Ms. Rubenstein clarified that the one at Royal HS has, however, the one at Simi Valley HS has not, due to additional health department requirements.

Mr. Bonesteel inquired about the status of the Simi Valley HS kitchen project. Ms. Rubenstein stated that the existing walls were demolished and that the roofing had begun this past Monday. She further stated that there had been some delays due to the rain, however, the construction company has had crews working on Saturdays so as to remain on schedule for the completion date of 7/15/24. This brought up further queries as to who was covering the overtime costs. Ms. Rubenstein stated that the District was paying the overtime, while the construction company was paying their workers' regular pay.

Mrs. Sherman brought up the Campus Wide Notification Project and asked if the issue with the emergency notification system was being addressed. Ms. Rubenstein stated that speakers were being installed in the classrooms, not the restrooms, gym, etc. However, there will be speakers that will alert students who are out on campus and not in classrooms. Ms. Finch added that campus supervisors are instructed to check for students in restrooms in the event of a lockdown. Mr. Bonesteel asked who would be doing the programming of the system, to which Ms. Rubenstein replied that the District's IT Department would be handling the programming as they are installed.

Mr. Bonesteel inquired how the Simi Valley HS MPR project was progressing and if the shortfall of funds had been remedied. Ms. Rubenstein informed him that the project was moving along and that the shortfall is still being addressed; it is now 4 million short as opposed to 7 million.

Mrs. Sherman inquired about the status of the Royal HS classroom building, asking if it was still on hold, to which Ms. Rubenstein replied that it was.

Mrs. Sherman commented that she would like to see a list of all projects from the inception of the Measure X Bond so as to compare the list with those projects that have been completed and those that are still outstanding. Ms. Hopkins had a list she had previously obtained from Ms. Rubenstein that she was able to share with everyone.

Mr. Noorzai asked if the funds from the current Measure X Bond would be depleted next year. Ms. Rubenstein informed him that that wouldn't be possible as the completion of the Simi Valley HS MPR won't be until 2027 or 2028.

Mr. Noorzai further inquired about the possibility of a new bond being passed. Ms. Finch stated that the District is currently working with a bond consultant to see if there would be support for another bond. The consultant was able to show that 54.7% of those polled were in support of a new bond, however, that support increased to 57% when it was explained what the bond would be used for. Mrs. Sherman asked if a new bond would be on the November ballot, to which Ms. Finch replied that that would be ideal. Ms. Rubenstein added that we

won't know for sure until June, as that is when the Board of Education will make their decision on whether to pursue a new bond measure.

Further discussion ensued on how the bond would be publicized. Ms. Finch and Ms. Rubenstein informed the committee that, as individuals, if they are in favor of it, they could all promote it. District employees, however, are not allowed to do anything except provide information. Ms. Hopkins voiced that she saw an article in the Acorn (https://digitaledition.simivalleyacorn.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&edid=ca18519a-308b-4d17-bd13-ebe5d87a4afb) about the possible new bond and inquired about its cost. Ms. Finch stated that there are a lot of variables that go into determining the costs. She further added that if the District decides to follow through, a committee will be formed that will help to promote it.

Mrs. Sherman stated that she felt more people would be open to a new bond if they knew what it would be used for. Ms. Rubenstein and Ms. Finch stated that the recent grand openings of the completed projects at Royal HS, Simi Valley HS, Sycamore, and Garden Grove were done so that the community could see some of what the current Measure X bond was used for. Ms. Finch further explained that even from the beginning, it was known that the Measure X bond wouldn't cover everything that needed to be done, and that another bond would be needed to continue the work. She added that some of the things that are needed are things that can't really be seen, such as foundations for portables. Additionally, Ms. Rubenstein noted that Hollow Hills Elementary School needs a new administrative building, and several schools need new windows, as well as fire alarms. It was also noted that the electronic devices the students now use need to be replaced regularly as they become obsolete over time.

Ms. Rubenstein added that people often forget that their property values correlate to the condition of the local schools; schools in good condition help to maintain property values.

Mr. Bonesteel shared that one of the biggest misconceptions he sees about bonds is that community members often believe that they are used to pay for teachers' salaries. This, however, is not allowed, as bonds are prohibited from paying teacher salaries.

Mr. Noorzai asked how the CBOC can help showcase the projects that have been completed. Ms. Finch suggested that they attend school board meetings to share what they've learned at the CBOC meetings. She further added that a lot of people don't realize that schools no longer receive state and federal funding for infrastructure repairs and improvements. That's all handled through bonds.

Mrs. Sherman shared that she would try to attend the next school board meeting to talk about the bond. Mr. Bonesteel suggested presenting what has been done and what is left to do so that community members get the idea that a new bond is needed. Ms. Rubenstein reminded everyone that the next two board meetings are March 12th and April 16th.

c) Simi Valley High School Visit

Scheduled for May 22, 2024 Meeting (Rescheduled to May 15th; tour at 5:30 pm followed by the CBOC Meeting)

Mr. Bonesteel and Mrs. Sherman brought to everyone's attention that they will be unavailable to attend the May 22nd meeting due to a scheduling conflict. After some discussion, the committee agreed to reschedule the meeting to May 15th. The meeting will be held at Simi Valley HS at 6:00 pm preceded by a tour of the new kitchen construction at 5:30 pm. Ms. Finch stated she would not be able to attend the tour due to a scheduling conflict, however, she would be there for the meeting.

d) Royal High School Visit

Scheduled for September 2024 Meeting

It was determined that the exact date of the September meeting will be set at the May 15th CBOC meeting.

VII. Discussion Items

a) Communication Committee

i) Facebook login information

Mrs. Sherman shared that she now has the login for the CBOC Facebook page and will start building it up in an attempt to get information out to the community. Mr. Noorzai indicated that it would be good to showcase what has been done and what needs to still be done. Ms. Hopkins suggested the use of hyperlinks, if possible, as well. Mrs. Sherman will be reaching out to Ms. Rubenstein and Ms. Finch for pictures of completed projects.

b) Yearly Audit Report

i) 2022 Audit Report – Financial and Performance Audit BOE 1/16/24

Ms. Rubenstein reported that the 2022 Audit was presented to the Board at the January 16, 2024 meeting and that there were no unusual findings.

Ms. Hopkins asked if anyone had any comments or questions, to which there were none.

c) Annual Report

i) 2021-2022 Annual Report, BOE 6/13/23

A copy of last year's annual report was distributed to all the members to reference in the preparation of this year's report.

ii) 2022 – 2023 Annual Report – Board Meeting, June 11, 2024

Ms. Rubenstein informed the committee that they need to prepare and present this year's report to the Board of Education at the June 11th meeting. Ms. Hopkins acknowledged that former Chair, Mr. Mengers, provided her with a template he used for last year's report. There was a discussion as to which project(s) should be pictured in the report. It was decided that Ms. Rubenstein and Ms. Finch will provide Ms. Hopkins with completed project pictures from July 2022 to June 2023 for the committee to choose from.

iii) Annual Report Committee

Mr. Bonesteel and Mrs. Sherman volunteered to help Ms. Hopkins write the report. Mrs. Sherman felt that having the meeting minutes from that time period might be of help. Ms. Rubenstein directed her to the District website since all CBOC Meeting Minutes are there, as well as the Bond Workshop presentation. Ms. Hopkins gave a deadline of April 12th to get any relevant information or pictures to her to include in the report. She further stated that she will be available to present the report to the Board at the June meeting. Mr. Bonesteel and Mrs. Sherman agreed to be there as well.

VIII. Action Items

a) Membership Categories

SimiValleySchools
SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Citizens Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC)
Measure X

Members	TERMS						DATE		Position Held	REQUIRED CATEGORIES					
	Term #1		Term #2		Term #3		Date Started	Date Ended		Local Business Org.	Senior Citizens Org.	Bona-fied Taxpayers Org.	Parent/ Guardian of Child Enrolled in District	Parent/ Guardian of Child Enrolled in District and Active in PTA or School Site Council	At-Large Community Member
	One (1) Year	Two (2) Year	One (1) Year	Two (2) Year	One (1) Year	Two (2) Year									
Jonathan Bonesteel		X					11/21/22	11/30/2024	Vice Chair				X	X	
Larry Borovay		X					06/14/22	6/24/24		X					
Rebecca Hopkins	X			X			08/17/21	9/30/24	Chair			X	X		
Omar Noorzai	X		X		X		08/17/21	9/30/24	Secretary				X	X	X
Jayesh Patel		X		X			08/17/21	9/30/25					X		
Josh Platten	X		X		X		08/17/21	9/30/24					X		
Elisse Sherman		X					11/15/22	11/30/24	Publicity Chair				X	X	X
Steve Silverman		X					12/12/23	12/12/2025			X				

California Education Code 15282: The Committee shall consist of at least seven (7) members, who shall serve for a minimum term of two years and for no more than three consecutive terms. Committee shall have one member from each of the REQUIRED CATEGORIES

(1) Parent or Guardian of a Child Enrolled in the District
(1) Parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and active in a parent - teacher organization, such as P.T.A
(1) Active in a buisness organization representing the buiness community located in the District
(1) active in a senior citizens' organization
(1) acative in a bona-fide taxpayers association
(2) members of the community at large

A majority of the number of Committee members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business

Ms. Hopkins brought to everyone's attention that Mr. Noorzai and Mr. Platten will be terming out September 2024, necessitating the need to find additional committee members.

Mr. Patel indicated possibly moving his allocated membership status to At-Large.

It was determined that the membership categories should be revisited at the next CBOC meeting.

A motion was made to accept the Membership chart as presented above.

Motion: Elisse Sherman Second: Jonathan Bonesteel Vote: 6 Approved/1 Absent (Steve Silverman) – Motion Passed

b) Proposed Meeting Dates for Next Year:

September 4, 2024, November 13, 2024, March 19, 2025, May 28, 2025

A motion was made to table next year's meeting dates until the May meeting when school calendars of events should be available so as to avoid conflicts with Back to School Nights.

Motion: Jonathan Bonesteel Second: Elisse Sherman Vote: 6 Approved/1 Absent (Steve Silverman) – Motion Passed

IX. New Business

a) Communication

X. Next Meeting

Date: ~~May 22, 2024~~ **Time:** 5:30 pm Tour followed by 6:00 pm Meeting **Location:** Simi Valley HS
May 15, 2024

Due to scheduling conflicts with some of the members, the May meeting **date was changed from 5/22 to 5/15/24**. The tour and meeting times remain the same.

XI. Other Business

a) Regular Board of Education meetings:

March 12, 2024; April 16, 2024;
May 21, 2024; June 11, 2024

b) Upcoming CBOC meetings:

May 15, 2024

XII. Adjournment **Time 7:34 pm by Rebecca Hopkins**

Motion: Jonathan Bonesteel Second: Omar Noorzai

Vote: 6 Approved/1 Absent (Steve Silverman) – Motion Passed

NOTICE: The School District accommodates individuals with disabilities. Forty-eight hour advance notice is required to meet special needs for public meetings. Upon written request, materials in alternate formats will be provided for individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Bond Program Manager, 306-4500 ext. 4461.