

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

July 15, 2024

Board of Education

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Calvin Peterson, Vice President
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Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee

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Marina Porter, Member
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Dr. Antonio Castro, Superintendent
Dr. Ahsan Mirza, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Joseph Burnell, Fiscal Services Director
Dr. Jerry Dannenberg, Board of Education Liaison
Victoria Cortez, Executive Assistant

OVERVIEW

The Ventura Unified School District (the “District”) was successful in an election conducted on November 8, 2022 (the “Bond Election”) in obtaining authorization from the District’s voters to issue up to \$434,500,000 aggregate principal amount of general obligation bonds (“Measure E” – Exhibit A). Pursuant to Section 15278 of the California Education Code, the Ventura Unified School District Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee for Measure E (the “Committee”) is required to inform the public regarding the expenditure of bond revenues, and advise the public as to whether the expenditures presented to the Committee are in compliance with the requirements as outlined with the requirements in Section 1 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution.

The role of the Committee is to specifically review and ensure that the Bond revenues are expended only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, and ensure that no funds are used for any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses. The Committee’s annual report to the Ventura Unified School District’s Board of Education (the “Board”) summarizes the prior fiscal year’s expenditures and informs the Board and community stakeholders of the District’s compliance with the bond. The Committee prepared this report in conformance with the voter-approved initiative requirements.

ROLE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the terms of Measure E, the role of the Committee is to: inform the public concerning the District’s expenditure of bond proceeds; review the expenditures and provide oversight of and accountability for the expenditures funded by Measure E to ensure that the funds collected are spent for the purposes approved by the voters; review bond projects, and; submit an annual report of our findings. The Committee relies solely on information provided by VUSD staff and has no audit authority.

BACKGROUND

Oversight Committee Purpose and History

In November 2022, voters passed the Ventura Unified School District Measure E Bond. The Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee for Measure E was established in order to satisfy the accountability requirements of Proposition 39. The Committee consists of at least 7, and up to 11 members. Members are appointed by the Board of Directors upon recommendation from the Board Bond Subcommittee, from a list of candidates that submitted written applications. Bond Subcommittee Members must meet the criteria established by Proposition 39. Proposition 39, is chaptered as the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000, at Section 15264 et seq. of the Education Code of the State ("Proposition 39").

The Measure E Oversight Committee first met on July 24, 2023 and did not have direct oversight of expenditures during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The Bond Oversight Committee reviewed the expense reports and discussed the expenditures at length. Section 15 of the Bond Resolution specifically allows for reimbursement of funds that occurred before the bond's passage as long as they are within the bond's parameters for usage.

Pursuant to the Bylaws (Exhibit B) established by the Board, the Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee is responsible for the following:

Informing the Public - The Committee shall inform the public concerning the District's expenditure of bond proceeds. In fulfilling this duty, all official communications of the Committee to the Board Bond Subcommittee, the Board, or the public shall come from the Chair acting on behalf of the Committee. The Chair shall only release information that reflects the majority view of the Committee.

Review Expenditures - The Committee shall review expenditure reports produced by the District to ensure that (a) bond proceeds were expended only for the purposes set forth in Measure E; and (b) no bond proceeds have been used for teacher or administrative salaries or other operating expenses.

Review Bond Projects - The Committee may review proposed bond projects and construction schedules produced by the District, and tour completed projects to provide feedback to District staff and the Board Bond Subcommittee on projects, phasing and outcomes.

Annual Report - At least one time annually, commencing with the end of the first fiscal year in which any bond proceeds are expended, and continuing through the end of the fiscal year in which bond proceeds have been spent in full, the Committee shall prepare

an annual written report, where the findings shall be summarized by the Chair of the Committee to the Board in public session, and an annual written report shall include a statement indicating whether the District is in compliance with the requirements of Article XIII A, Section 1(b)(3) of the California Constitution; and (b) provide a summary of the Committee's proceedings and activities for the preceding year. (c) Annual reports shall be posted on the District's website in accordance with Sections 7 and 8 hereto.

In order to perform the duties set forth in Section 3, the Committee may engage in the activities authorized under Education Code Section 15278 subsection (c), including: (a) Receive and review copies of the District's annual independent performance audit and annual independent financial audit, required by Article XIII A of the California Constitution; (b) Inspect school facilities and grounds for which bond proceeds have been or will be expended, in accordance with any access procedure established by the District's Superintendent; (c) Review copies of projects, project phasing plans and deferred maintenance plans developed by the District; (d) Review efforts by the District to maximize bond proceeds by implementing various cost-saving measures.

The Committee **does not** have input on projects, contractors, or priorities. The Committee only has oversight of the duties outlined above and in Section 3 of the Bylaws.

Committee members serve a term of two (2) years, although some may serve a one-year initial term to balance the term expirations. Committee members serve without compensation. Committee members may serve a maximum of (3) three terms.

Board representatives Jerry Dannenberg and Sabrena Rodriguez serve as Board Subcommittee members.

The Committee met on the following dates:

- July 24, 2023
- August 21, 2023
- October 2, 2023
- November 6, 2023
- March 11, 2024
- April 29, 2024
- June 3, 2024

See Exhibit C for meeting agendas and minutes.

VALUES

In addition to conforming to the letter of the law, the Committee believes that the use of Measure E funds should be:

Equitable

1. Distribute the funds as defined in the ballot initiative.
2. Every student has the right to benefit from Measure E Bond funds.

Transparent

1. Communicate Measure E projects to all stakeholders.
2. Encourage public input on Measure E budget and projects to the Board and District.

FINDINGS

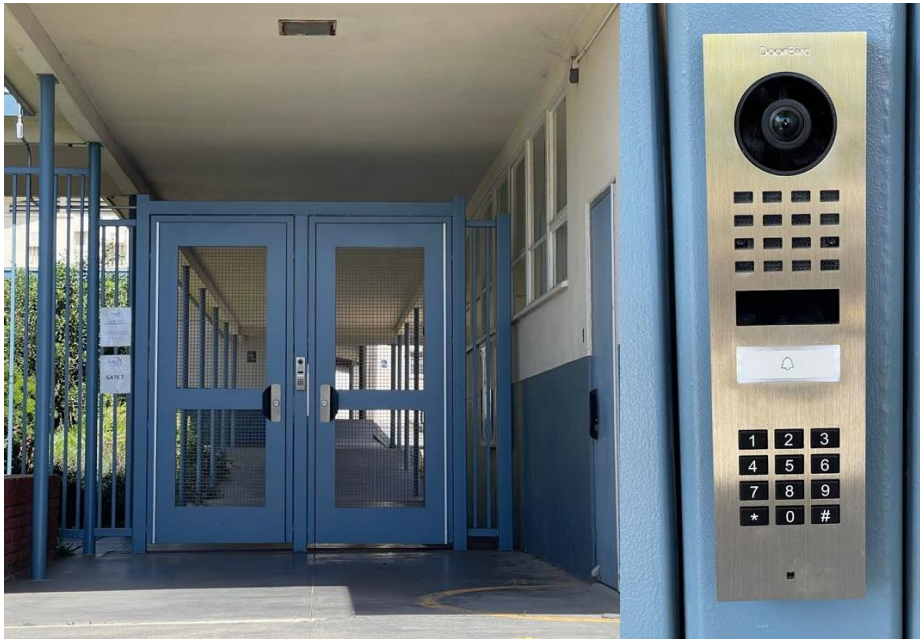
The District engaged the accounting firm Clifton Larson Allen LLP to conduct an independent financial audit of the Ventura Unified School District's Measure E Bond Building Fund financial statements for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023.

The Ventura Unified School Board of Trustees accepted the audit on April 16, 2024 at the school board meeting. The report was provided to the Committee on April 25, 2024. The report was reviewed by the Committee during the April 29, 2024 meeting, and the committee was given the opportunity to ask questions of staff during that time.

In summary, the Financial Audit dated March 25, 2024 indicated that, in all significant respects, the District expended Measure E Bond Funds for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 only for the specific projects developed by the District's board of education, and approved by the voters in accordance with the requirements with Proposition 39, as specified by section 1(b)(3)(C) of article XIII A of the California Constitution.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Paid for by Measure E Bond funds, Loma Vista Elementary School installed a new Fencing/Visitor Management System. This brand new decorative/security fencing and controlled buzzer were needed for safety.



“The addition of the fencing and remote entry system has helped us to secure a highly vulnerable area of our school site, which was previously open, and has been highly effective in allowing us to monitor entry and minimize external concerns during the school day. Staff and parents are by and large very pleased by the addition of this security feature and have expressed gratitude for the student-first approach in the realization of this project, and our prioritization of student safety. Because we are able to monitor and admit visitors to the school, we also know when to expect them in the office and it has prevented concerns of campus breeches by unknown adults and effectively ended unauthorized entry. It has eliminated unwanted visitors and skateboard crews during operational hours and it has also supported us in our partnership with law enforcement when they are addressing community issues on the street, and provided us with the assurance that when these issues occur in isolation the potential impact on students and staff has been greatly reduced.”

- Dr. Michael W. Wise, Principal at Loma Vista Elementary School

A new pool heating system was installed at Ventura High School.



CAPITAL ALLOCATION SUMMARY

The 2022-2023 fiscal year had only a fraction of the expenditures and projects we will see in future years. These critical expenditures were approved by the school board before the bond passed. The \$647,217.50 2022-2023 expenditures were as follows:

%	Amount	Project Location
11%	\$68,796.00	Anacapa Middle School - Concrete, Floors, Stage Drapes
1%	\$1,431.63	ATLAS - Playground Tunnel
3%	\$19,647.69	Balboa - Transformer Installation
4%	\$24,339.38	Buena - Brick in quad and stadium light repairs
2%	\$11,270.81	Citrus Glen - Playground equipment
1%	\$10,510.00	EP Foster - Prep & Paint
6%	\$37,603.83	Homestead - Network improvements, Roof Repair & Flooring
17%	\$111,029.66	Loma Vista - Fencing/Gates/Doors
1%	\$8,898.98	Mound - New Slide & Paint
1%	\$10,170.00	Portola - Playground Surface Repair
11%	\$74,300.37	Various Schools - Pavement & Floor Refinishing
4%	\$25,480.75	Payroll & Consulting Fees
38%	\$243,738.40	Ventura High School - Stadium Light Repair, HVAC, Concrete Work, Pool Heaters & Water Heaters
100%	\$647,217.50	

LOOKING FORWARD

There are many exciting projects to look forward to! Ventura Unified School District is currently in various stages of construction and planning on the following projects:

- Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) Installation
 - HVAC Installation Phase 1- Install new classroom HVAC at Elmhurst, Montalvo, Mound, and ATLAS. Anticipated completion at the end of Summer 2025.

- HVAC Installation Phase 2-Install new classroom HVAC at remaining Elementary Schools without air conditioning. The requests for proposals were released to design consultants for bidding. Design consultant was chosen and the District will develop a master plan to schedule these projects. Once approved by the Division of State Architect (DSA), the District will schedule installation with each site.
- Playgrounds
 - Playground Replacement Phase 1: Replace existing end-of-life playgrounds at Elmhurst, Montalvo, Mound, and Junipero Serra. Design consultant will be working with site administration to develop playground designs. Anticipate completion Spring of 2025.
 - Playground Replacement Phase 2-Replace existing end-of-life playgrounds at remaining Elementary Schools. Requests for proposals were released to design consultants for bidding. Design consultant was chosen and the District will develop a master plan to schedule and install these projects at each site.
- Roofing Repairs
 - Roofing Replacement Phase 1- Replace existing end-of-life roofs at Elmhurst, Montalvo, Juanamaria, and Lemon Grove. These projects are scheduled to begin construction Summer 2024.
 - All roofs will be replaced as a district-wide program. Roofing projects will be scheduled over the next 5-7 years.
- Security
 - Security Cameras are scheduled to be installed at DATA, Sunset, EP Foster and Foothill by the end of Summer 2024.
 - All campuses will have new security cameras installed. The District is currently working with consultants to schedule all remaining campuses.
 - Replace existing ornamental fencing and gates at Portola Elementary School. Project is scheduled for Summer 2024.
 - Installation of perimeter fencing at Anacapa Middle School. The request for proposal is under review and will be released to design consultants for bidding in June. Chosen design consultant will develop a design for DSA submittal. Once approved by DSA, the District will schedule installation.

- Solar/Lighting
 - Solar panels are being installed at Anacapa, ATLAS, Balboa, Buena, Cabrillo, Citrus Glen, DATA, EP Foster, Elmhurst, Foothill, Juanamaria, Junipero Serra, Lemon Grove, Lincoln, Loma Vista, Montalvo, Mound, Pacific, Poinsettia, Portola, Sheridan Way, Sunset, Ventura High, Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, and Will Rogers.
 - LED classroom lighting upgrades will occur at Balboa, Buena, DATA, El Camino, Foothill, Loma Vista, Pacific, Ventura High, and Will Rogers.
 - LED stadium lighting upgrades will occur at Buena High School & Ventura High School.
- Sports Facilities Upgrades
 - Ventura High School and Buena High School Stadium Scoreboard Replacement: Design is currently under DSA review. Once approved by DSA, the District will schedule installation at each site.
 - Ventura High School Varsity Softball Upgrades: New dugouts, irrigation, bleachers, & fencing- Design is currently under DSA review. Once approved by DSA, the District will schedule installation.
 - Ventura High School and Buena High School installation of new Track and Field surfacing. Request for Proposal released to design consultants for bidding and is due June 2024. Chosen design consultant will develop design for DSA submittal. Once approved by DSA, the District will schedule installation at each site.
- Other Projects
 - Convert Rooms 2 & 3 at ATLAS K-8 School for incoming 8th grade class. Project is scheduled for completion Summer 2024.
 - Install new structural cross bracing at Ventura High School at existing shop building. Project is scheduled for completion Summer 2024.
 - Ventura High School and Buena High School installation of new Track and Field surfacing. Request for proposal was released to design consultants for bidding and is due in June 2024. Chosen design consultant will develop design for DSA submittal. Once approved by DSA, the District will schedule installation with each site.

EXHIBIT A

Measure E Bond Resolution

[Please CLICK HERE for the Measure E Bond Resolution](#)

EXHIBIT B

Committee Bylaws

[Please CLICK HERE for the Committee Bylaws](#)

EXHIBIT C

Committee Agendas and Minutes

[Please CLICK HERE for the Committee Agendas and Minutes](#)