

**CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
OF THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Desert Learning Academy  
2248 E. Baristo Road  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

May 12, 2025 – 5:00 pm

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**  
The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Member Fenton.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
Member Fenton led the pledge of allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL (Establishment of a Quorum)**  
The Roll Call was conducted at 5:01 pm and a quorum was established by Member Fenton.  
  
Members present:        Scott Fenton (Chair)  
                                 Helene Kalfuss (Co-chair)  
                                 Richard Clapp  
                                 Justin Decker  
                                 Kevin Andrews  
                                 Todd Rosenthal  
                                 Ronda Henry  
  
District staff present:    Jeff Simmons, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services  
                                 Julie Arthur, Executive Director, Facilities Planning Development  
                                 Kristina Murphy, Senior Administrative Assistant, Business Services  
  
Public present:            None
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (solicited online and in writing 72 hours prior to the meeting)**  
None.
5. **Introductions**  
The committee members and district staff introduced themselves and expressed their affiliation with the community and the school district.
6. **Tour Desert Learning Academy Site Bond Project**  
The committee toured the modernization project work at Desert Learning Academy, led by Julie Arthur and ETIS staff, Bhavani Patel and Pete Smit. The committee walked the newly renovated areas, custom teaching rooms for drone and tech, main professional development rooms with streaming availability, edtech arena and production room, practice and staging room, and finally the 6 virtual schoolrooms.
7. **New Member Presentation**  
Jeff Simmons reviewed information in the new member presentation.

8. **Review Committee Bylaws**  
Jeff Simmons reviewed the committee's policies and guidelines. He noted that there currently is no language in the bylaws that speaks to the member appointed officers for the committee, which are Chair and Vice-Chair. The committee may also choose to appoint a member to act as secretary if they choose. Currently, the acting secretary is the senior administrative assistant of Business Services at the district office. At the next meeting, we will bring that language forward for the committee to vote on then it must go to the Board of Education for board approval.
9. **Current Terms**  
Jeff reviewed the current seats that the committee members hold and term ending for each seat. Subsequent to this meeting, Member Fenton's first term is ending. He agreed to serve a second term as the representative for the Taxpayer Organization term.
10. **Project Discussion and Updates**  
Julie reviewed the expenditure reports and gave an overview of the accounting software used to track project funding and the use of bond funds for projects. She also referenced the passing of our first bond passed in 2008. It was also noted that funds used for projects that have been completed are no longer on the list.

Current bond projects are listed below:

**Bubbling Wells Elementary Modernization**

The school was built in the early 1990's. This Project will be funded with Measure S. Although the district will not sell a tranche until 2026 or until the funds are needed. Similar to the Sunny Sands ES and Landau ES projects, we want to go 2 story to recapture some of the playfields. The design work to complete plans and submit to the Division of State Architect for approval will take place during 2025/2026.

**Cathedral City High Modernization**

The modernization project will upgrade existing classrooms, administration, kitchen, library, and auxiliary buildings. The scope of work is exceptionally large for the high school and was divided into several increments. The first two (2) increments include the central plant replacement, revisions to underground utilities, replacement of classroom lighting and air handlers and roofing replacement where new HVAC is required. The first two increments are nearing completion. The next increment is scheduled to start in Springs 2025. This scope of the modernization work covers all the classrooms, administration, gym media centers and food service areas. Overall completion of the school modernization is expected by the end of 2027.

**Della S. Lindley Elementary Modernization and Design**

The committee toured the school campus this evening to see the progress of the project. Temporary classrooms were installed on campus to allow students to move into while the existing classroom modernization work takes place. Construction work started over the 2023 holiday break with the installation of 6 interim classrooms. The first 2 phases of classrooms (12 classrooms) and library are completed. The remaining 9 classrooms, office, MPR and kitchen will be completed over the next 15 months.

**DLA 500 Building Replacement**

This project is complete. The building is occupied. The teachers are online and in person using the new building.

**Facilities Master Plan**

The California Department of Education requires California school districts to prepare and/or update their Facilities Master Plan (FMP) for their district every five years. Projects are prioritized with high priority going to safety and security of campuses and buildings with aging infrastructure. A copy of the districts master plan is available on the district website, (327 pages).

**James Workman Middle Modernization**

The James Workman Middle School modernization project will upgrade existing classrooms, administration, kitchen, library, locker rooms and multi-purpose room. The twelve portable classrooms have been replaced with state-of-the-art new classrooms with teachers moving in over the winter 2024/2025 holiday. Upon completion of the new classrooms, students will rotate in and out as the existing classroom undergo modernization. The modernization of the school is scheduled to be completed in July 2027.

**Landau Elementary Modernization**

The Landau Elementary School modernization will replace all existing classrooms, (portable and metal modulares) with new 2-story classroom buildings, kindergarten area, library and office. The existing multi-purpose building will be renovated to allow for an expanded kitchen area. Temporary classrooms were installed on campus to allow students to move into while the existing classroom modernization work takes place. Construction work started over the 2023 holiday break and all phases of the modernization are expected to be completed in August 2027.

**Nellie Coffman Middle School Locker Room Upgrade**

This project is close to completion. Small changes are needed for ADA compliance.

**PSHS Locker Room HVAC**

The locker-rooms at Palm Springs High School have swamp coolers which are not functioning. The swamp coolers are being replaced with new efficient heating and ventilation equipment. Work began in Fall is scheduled to start over Spring break of 2024 and is scheduled for completion in August of 2025.

**Sunny Sands Elementary Modernization**

The project will replace all existing classrooms, (portables and metal modulares) with new 2-story classroom buildings, kindergarten area, library, and office. The existing multi-purpose building will be renovated to allow for an expanded kitchen area. Temporary classrooms have been installed on campus for students to use while the new classrooms are being constructed. The construction schedule is to be completed in September 2027.

**11. BOND EXPENDITURE REPORTS REVIEW**

The committee reviewed the quarterly expenditure reports provided by the district.

**12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Fenton asked for a motion to approve the COC Regular Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2025. Member Kalfus made a motion and Member Clapp second. The committee unanimously agreed.

**13. SETTING OF THE NEXT MEETING AND LOCATION**

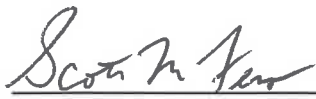
The next COC Regular Board meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2025, at 5:00pm. Julie recommended touring Sunny Sands Elementary School or Landau Elementary School project. The committee will not meet during the summer. Moving forward, regular meetings will be held in the months of February, May and October.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

Member Fenton asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Henry made a motion and Member Kalfuss second.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Minutes from this meeting will be approved during the next Regular Meeting on October 6, 2025.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Fenton, Committee Chair  
Helene Kalfuss, Committee Co-Chair

10-6-25

Date