

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

May 14, 2020 – 4:00 pm
Conducted via Zoom

Palm Springs Unified School District
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm by Member Horton.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Member Horton led the pledge of allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL (Establishment of a Quorum)**
Roll call was conducted at 4:09 pm and a quorum established by Member Horton.

Members present: Mark Abercrombie
Scott Fenton
Asia Horton (Chair)
Diane Ross (Vice-Chair)
Jane Lescure

District staff present: Brian J. Murray, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Business Svcs.
Julie Arthur, Executive Director, Facilities Planning Development
Kristina Murphy, Senior Administrative Assistant, Business Svcs.

Public Present: None

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (solicited online and in writing 72 hours prior to the meeting)**
None
5. **CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**
Dr. Murray informed the committee that Member Jessica Huerta resigned her at Large position earlier this week.

Dr. Murray presented the Citizens' Oversight Committee Orientation Presentation. He welcomed new member Jane Lescure and asked her to introduce herself and speak to her involvement with PSUSD.

The other members introduced followed with introductions.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Abercrombie made a motion and member Ross second to approve the COC Regular Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2020. The committee unanimously agreed.

7. **BOND EXPENDITURE REPORTS**

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

8. **UPDATE ON DISTRICT FACILITIES PROJECTS**

Julie Arthur introduced herself to Jane and spoke about her experience and her position with PSUSD.

Julie gave an update on the current projects:

DHSHS Locker Room HVAC

The locker rooms at Desert Hot Springs HS currently only have swamp coolers, since 1999. The (3) other High Schools in our district have a HVAC system in place. This is a big project that requires the Division of State Architect (DSA) approval and will have to go out to bid. High school gyms are used year round for athletic programs, so scheduling a project of this magnitude takes planning. Projected to begin next summer. Prop 39 funds will be used for this project. We are currently soliciting proposals.

DLA 500 Building

This project is on hold. This building will be used for displacement during the PSHS seismic project.

[The DLA 500 building was reviewed structurally and it was determined the costs to mitigate the existing building may be better spent to replace with a smaller more classroom/media flexible space. Upon completion of the PSHS seismic project, this project will be next in line].

Elementary Parking Lot Renovation projects

- Cathedral City Elementary – project is 100% complete and is within budget.
- Rio Vista Elementary – project is 100% complete. We were able to move the bus lane to the west side of campus.
- Della Lindley Elementary –we were able to move the bus drop off to a side street and add a drive and drop off area which is separated from the hand to hand drop off area.

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. The FMP is complete and has been approved by the Board of Education.

During the Facilities Study Session on January 28, 2020, the Board was given the status of all current projects. They are looking at funding for new projects. Landau Elementary, Della Lindley Elementary, Sunny Sands Elementary, James Workman Middle and Cathedral City High are past 25 year mark and are up for modernization. Sunny Sand ES and Landau ES still have lots of portables being used as classrooms.

Fire/Alarm System Replacement Phase 2

Complete system upgrades are needed to bring outdated fire/alarm systems up to code. Several sites need complete replacement. We are in design stage and the engineer is working to make systems an open source so the district can maintain them once installed.

M&O Bond Projects

There are a series of projects currently underway.

Nellie Coffman Chiller

Project is complete, which entailed replacement of the entire chiller plant. The system was up and running 1 week prior to the 2019-2020 school year open. We encountered programming issued and had to change the switch gear. The funds remaining are being held. Eventually, they will be swept and will go back to help fund another project.

- Member Abercrombie asked why the expenditures show below budget.
- Julie noted that the original estimate of the project was high.

Palm Springs High School Seismic

Palm Springs High School Seismic Building Renovations project includes 5 buildings that were built prior to 1980 that are on the AB 300 list and are in need of seismic upgrades:

- Library
- Cafeteria
- Gymnasium new ADA bleacher compliant bleachers.
- 500 Building
- Multi-purpose Room

Julie stated that blocks are going up mid-June to construct the new mini gym. We are trying to get as much work done as possible to minimize impact on the students when they return in August. During this major reconstruction, since the school is closed, we will also be pepping for flood control, by removing all sidewalks/concrete and putting in piping to drain into a basin. Completely re-doing the entryway of the school.

Brian asked members if they have any questions:

Member Abercrombie mentions the governor's recent remarks on budget cuts. And asked how will match funds play out?

- Julie stated that the district is hoping to be able to sell off more bonds. Prop 13 and several local state measures did not pass, historically they do. We are applying for any and all funds that we possibly can.

Member Abercrombie asked if the district is seeing a cost savings with any of the projects.

- Julie noted that every project that has went out to bid in the last 6 months have come in under projection. We took a resolution to the board for approval on April 28th that deemed all projects essential.

Member Ross inquired where we are with planting additional trees at elementary school sites.

- Julie replied that 9 trees at each site are being planted for additional shade. There is a *Green* code will be out and we have to follow by 2023. Charging stations will be also be going in but that means we are going to have to maintain them.

Member Horton asked how the district is doing with COVID related issues. How are we preparing for the re-opening of schools?

- Julie replied that we are in the midst of figuring out a very fluid situation. We are taking precautions and following guidelines to the best of our ability and mitigating issues that are in the forefront.
- Brian stated that August 5th, is the date that the district plans to re-open schools. We are preparing for every contingency possible. Distance learning may still play a big part. We are also working to figure out transportation and classroom social distancing.
- Julie added that we are starting now to be ready for opening in August.

Member Abercrombie asked if the committee could visit the project at Palm Springs High School before our next meeting. Brian indicated that we would have to make a determination as it gets closer to the next meeting date. Pending construction status and if COVID restrictions are lifted.

9. COC VACANCIES

Member Horton reminded the committee that upon conclusion of this meeting, both she and Member Ross's term are ending and there will be 4 seats open that we will be actively recruiting for:

- 2 – at Large Members
- Senior Citizen Organization Representative
- Taxpayer Organization Representative

Brian asked that if members have recommendations, to please forward names to the Business Services office or direct them to the website to complete an application for appointment.

10. NOMINATIONS AND VOTING FOR NEW CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

Member Horton asked for a motion to nominate a member to chair the committee.

Member Ross made a motion to nominate Member Abercrombie and Member Horton second the motion. The committee unanimously agreed.

Member Horton asked for a motion to nominate a member to co-chair the committee. Member Abercrombie made a motion to nominate Member Fenton, (not present) and Member Ross second the motion. The committee unanimously agreed.

11. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE COC MEETING DATE

The next COC Regular Board meeting will be held Monday, October 12, 2020 at 4:00 pm conducted via Zoom.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Member Horton asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Abercrombie made a motion to adjourn and Member Ross second. The committee was unanimously in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 pm.

Minutes approved at October 12, 2020, Regular Meeting (quorum was not met)

Approved at February 8, 2021 Regular meeting.

Chair Mark Abercrombie

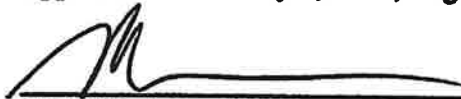
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