

**CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OF THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

October 15, 2024 – 5:00 pm
PSUSD District Administration Center

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
The meeting was called to order at 5:08 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 5:12 pm and a quorum was established by Member Fenton.

Members present: Scott Fenton (Chair)
 Richard Clapp
 Justin Decker

Absent: Helene Kalfuss (Co-Chair)
 Linda Scudder

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. **BOND EXPENDITURE REPORTS**
The committee reviewed the quarterly expenditure reports provided by the district.
 - Richard: How much do we pay architects?
 - Julie: architect costs are based on the project, which is on a sliding scale.
 - Richard: are there ever instances where there is a mandated use of materials?
 - Julie: No, not really. We do our best to get the best price. There are times when quality is looked at as opposed to going with the cheaper price, for example, student seating or ceiling tiles. We watch spending to benefit students.
6. **DISTRICT FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE**
Julie Arthur presented updates on the current bond projects:

Bubbling Wells Elementary Modernization
The school was built in the early 1990's. The initial studies are complete, and we have secured the architect, (Rhunau Rhunau Clark). Currently working on the preliminary geological reports for building design.

Cathedral City High Modernization

The school was built in 1991. The modernization project will include renovation of all existing classrooms, lighting, carpet, fire alarms, the PA intercom system, and the central plant. The plans also include expanding the kitchen and cafeteria and bringing the entire campus up to ADA compliance. The new central plant building is under construction, roof replacement is ongoing.

Della S. Lindley Elementary Modernization and Design

Temporary portables are being moved on campus. Phase 1 is complete. The kinder area was expanded, and a restroom was added. Phase 2 should be completed in December and then on to the next phase.

District Wide Prop 39

Projects ongoing.

DLA 500 Building Replacement

Built in 1968. Seismic assessment found it not structurally compliant. The funding for this project will be split-funded between bond funding and developer fees.

The building is occupied. The teachers are online and in person using the new building. We are experiencing issues getting ETIS equipment for the eSports program.

- Richard - what was the eSports building initially scheduled to house?
- Julie - It was decided collaboratively to use this space for this purpose.
- Richard - is there any pushback with letting kids play video games?
- Julie – no. There is business components linked to esports and college scholarships available.

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. We will be adding new code related items to green campuses. Staff will be meeting tomorrow, and updates will go to the Board for review and approval in December 2024.

James Workman Middle Modernization

Built in 1993. The modernization will include the removal of all portable classrooms and replacing them with permanent 1 story buildings. Will also be modernizing offices. There will be upgrades made to the existing locker rooms and the kitchen and eating areas will be expanded. This project is multi-funded, \$9.4 million in bond funds will be used. Portables have been replaced with 9 new classrooms, 3 are new science rooms. Move in scheduled to begin over winter break and will be rotating.

Landau Elementary Modernization

The project will consist of removal of the metal modulars and replacing them with permanent 1 & 2 story classroom buildings. Temp classrooms are set up. 2 story buildings are going up. Move in slated for winter break.

Nellie Coffman Middle School Locker Room Upgrade

This project is complete – changes in PE instruction structure by having more students in fewer class periods. More lockers are needed.

PSHS Locker Room HVAC

This is the last of the 4 high schools in the district to transfer from swamp to HVAC units. 3 bids received and the lowest bidder will be awarded at an upcoming board meeting.

Sunny Sands Elementary Modernization

The project will consist of removal of the metal modulars and replacing them with permanent 1 & 2 story classroom buildings.

Temp classrooms are set up. 2 story buildings are going up.
Move in slated for winter break.

7. MEASURE S

The district has sent mailers to all registered voters within our boundaries regarding Measure S - \$465m General Obligation Bond. Jeff reviewed and discussed a presentation on Measure S with the committee.

- Measure S bonds, if passed will extend but not increase the current total tax rate.
- Measure S projects include completion of ongoing projects, new modernizations and new and ongoing school site expansions and improvements.
- Not campaigning, just giving out the information and reaching a lot of people.
- There has been misinformation out there on social media.
- Measure S will be a part of this committee for oversight, if passed.
 - Julie - typically the previous measure rolls into the next.

Richard spoke to a representative from the Republican Women's group, they are sponsoring a NO vote for Measure S.

- Justin – did the district do any polling prior to submitted the Measure?
- Jeff – yes. The city leaders seemed to be in support.
- Justin – language pertaining to the bond is confusing. Voters typically will focus on the dollar amount to be paid back.

8. REVIEW COMMITTEE BYLAWS

Jeff spoke to the committee members regarding their thought on changing current language from members shall serve for a term of 2-years...to members shall serve a term of 3-years.

- Member Fenton, Member Clapp and Member Decker gave their blessing to approve the change. We will make the edits and bring them back for approval.

Jeff asked committee members how they would like to proceed with removing a member from the committee for non-attendance and/or no communication with the district.

- Member Fenton, Member Clapp and Member Decker agreed that a sitting committee member shall be removed from their seat after missing 2 meetings with no communication or no contact. District staff will add language to the bylaws and bring changes back for approval.

Jeff noted that he will seek legal advice as to what constitutes as a quorum when there are vacancies in the committee and members are not present at the meeting.

9. COC VACANCIES

Member Fenton noted that we are actively recruiting for the following positions:

- Business Community Representative
- Parent of a Student in PSUSD

Members were asked to have interested candidates forward names of potential candidates to the Business Services office or direct them to our website to complete an application for consideration.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Fenton asked for a motion to approve the COC Regular Meeting Minutes from February 20, 2024. Member Decker made a motion and Member Clapp second. The committee unanimously agreed.

11. ESTABLISH MEETING CALENDAR

- Jeff asked committee members what their preference is for regular meetings moving forward. He recommends 3 meetings per year in February, May, and October for regular meetings.
- Members agree and would like to add a project tour in conjunction with one of the meetings.
 - Richard Clapp – please invite members to groundbreaking events.
- Members noted that they prefer the meetings to be in person and Zoom only if necessary.
- Jeff to seek legal counsel regarding Zoom attendance.

Richard Clapp left the meeting at 5:47 pm.

12. SETTING OF THE NEXT MEETING AND LOCATION

The next COC Regular Board meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2025, at 5:00pm at Della S. Lindley Elementary School.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Member Fenton asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Decker made a motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Minutes from this meeting will be approved during the next Regular Meeting on February 10, 2025.

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

Date

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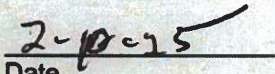
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