

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

February 1, 2022 – 6:00 pm  
Palm Springs High School Library

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**  
The meeting was called to order at 5:55 pm by Member Abercrombie.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
Member Abercrombie led the pledge of allegiance.
3. **ROLL CALL (Establishment of a Quorum)**  
Roll call was conducted at 5:56 pm and a quorum established by Member Abercrombie.  
  
Members present:       Mark Abercrombie (Chair)  
                                  Richard Clapp  
                                  Justin Decker  
                                  Scott Fenton (Co-chair)  
                                  Helene Kalfuss  
  
Members absent:        Linda Scudder  
  
District staff present:   Brian J. Murray, Ed.D., 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. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
Member Kalfuss made a motion and member Decker second to approve the COC Regular Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2021. The committee unanimously agreed.
6. **BOND EXPENDITURE REPORTS**  
The committee reviewed the quarterly expenditure reports provided by the district.
7. **UPDATE ON DISTRICT FACILITIES PROJECTS**  
Julie gave an update on the current bond projects:  
  
**Agua Caliente Elementary Modernization**  
Project is complete. A small amount of funding remains for furniture.  
  
**Bubbling Wells Elementary Modernization**  
School built in the 1980's - 1<sup>st</sup> phase of modernization.

**DLA 500 Building Replacement**

Built in 1968. Seismic assessment found it not structurally compliant. The project was approved by the Board of Education on January 25, 2022 and will be demoed and reconstructed this summer.

**DHSHS Locker Room HVAC**

The swamp cooler system is being replaced with HVAC units. Project is 99% complete, working on the punch list.

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

School built in 1986-87 and is up for modernization. Kindergarten areas need to be updated per California Department of Education requirements. Expanding out the kitchen as well. In DSA approval before summer. Temporary housing will be phased in. The design.bid and construction costs will be funded by Measure I, as will all modernizations moving forward.

**Sunny Sands/Landau Elementary Modernization**

Remove metal modulares and replace with permanent 1 & 2 story classroom buildings. Giving play space back to the schools that are currently inhabited by portables.

- Member Abercrombie – regarding the timeline of all big modernization projects, will they all be going at the same time?
  - Julie – Della Lindley ES first, Landau and Sunny Sands will go simultaneously.

**Prop 39**

Projects underway districtwide. Currently working on changing out PSHS Blackbox theater lighting, (from the late 1980s).

**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 was completed in 2019, and staff is working on the update, which will include phasing in TK classrooms district wide by 2025. Currently, state funds only provide for 1 classroom per district.

- Member Decker - what will TK classrooms need to meet the state standard:
  - Julie - 1300 square feet and restrooms inside adjacent to a play area.

**James Workman Middle Modernization**

The school built in 1996. The modernization will include the removal of all portable classrooms and replace with permanent 1 story buildings. Will also be modernizing offices. The new principal, Vikki Chavez is on board.

**Fire/Alarm System Replacement**

The fire alarm system replacement has been incorporated into the modernization projects for James Workman, Cathedral City High, Landau and Sunny Sands elementary schools.

**M&O Bond Projects**

There are a series of projects currently underway, including the drinking fountain replacement project phase 5, which is 99% complete. Asphalt work and roofing projects at various sites.

**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 need seismic upgrades:

- Library

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

The addition of a new mini gym is complete and ready for use, along with the ASB, kitchen and dining areas. The storm drain system was completely redone, which will take care of flooding concerns campus wide. Continuing to work to finalize renovation of the gymnasium. The project is 99% complete.

#### **Palm Springs High School Richards Center Central Plant Replacement**

The central plant replacement at the Richards Center at Palm Springs High School is underway. Funding for this project was allocated with let over funds from the Nellie Coffman Central Plant replacement project. The chiller in the auditorium central plant was failing. Temp chiller will run building while renovation is being done. Building needs to stay up and running at all times. Project is 85% complete.

#### **Shade Structure and Tree Planting Project at Elementary Sites**

The shade structures have been installed and shade trees have been planted at all the Desert Hot Springs schools. Currently bidding for other areas of the district, (9 trees at each site).

#### **Cathedral City High Modernization**

The school was built in 1991. We will compare to what the new standards are for assessment. The Modernization Project will include renovation of all existing classrooms and the central plant. We are also planning to expand the kitchen and cafeteria. The current design does not provide space for all students to be able to eat in one lunch period.

Member Decker – how is student attendance since COVID at DHS schools?

- Brian – PSUSD is at roughly an 86% attendance rate.

Julie - DHS new elementary school. Projections show that we will not need a new school site to house students until approximately 2030.

Member Clapp – recently, COD has been in the news regarding issues with bond expenditures. If someone were to complain to a COC member regarding projects in our district, how are committee members to answer?

- Brian – bond expenditures are audited annually, and bond project language is monitored and/or provided to us by legal counsel. We are very careful that our projects match the bond language. We identify what we are going to do and do what we say we are going to do. If an issue arises, generally the Uniform Complaint Procedure (UCP) process would be initiated.
- Julie - worst case scenario; a project would be refunded, and funds put back into the GO Bond fund.
- Julie - redevelopment funds pay for projects that do not qualify for bond projects.
- Brian – our open meetings provide and aide with transparency.
- Helene – being new to the committee, it would be helpful to have answers regarding issues to be able to answer inquiries if they should come up.

#### **9. COC VACANCIES**

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

- Taxpayer Organization Representative

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

10. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE COC MEETING DATE

The next COC Regular Board meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at 5pm dinner and 5:30pm.

*\*Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was discovered that there is a conflict with the next meeting being held on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The committee agreed to meet on Monday, May 23, 2022.*

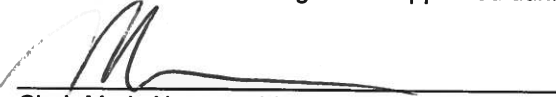
Dr. Murray remarked that the Business Services department receives telephone calls regarding fees on property tax bills for members of the community that reside within our district boundaries. We have added information for frequently asked questions (FAQ) to the PSUSD website to help in answering these questions which pertain to the repayment of GO Bonds.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Member Abercrombie asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Clapp made a motion to adjourn and Member Kalfuss second. The committee unanimously agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Minutes from this meeting will be approved during the next Regular Meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Mark Abercrombie  
Co-Chair Scott Fenton

5/23/22  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date