

**MEASURE A - STRONG SCHOOLS BOND  
CITIZEN'S OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**MINUTES FOR MEETING OF January 20, 2016**

Opening

The Citizens' Oversight Committee held a meeting in the Facilities/Construction Building D, 85 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, California.

\*All handouts can be viewed at the District office, Business Services 25 Churchill Avenue.

Members present:

Mr. Jim Cowie, Chair Person, Business Organization Member, Parent, PTA

Mr. Bruce Whitson, Vice-Chair, Business Organization Member

Mr. Todd Collins, Taxpayers' Organization Member

Ms. Catharine Garber, Business Organization Member

Mr. Walt Hays, Member, Senior Citizens' Organization

Ms. Arianne Teherani, Parent, PTA

Mr. Daniel Teo, Parent, PTA, Site Council Member

Others present:

Mr. Tom Hodges, fs3|Hodges Construction Management

District Staff Present:

Dr. Robert Golton, Bond Program Manager

Mr. Ron Smith, Facilities Project Manager

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m.

Site Visit

The Committee toured the Paly Performing Arts Center that is currently under construction.

Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

Review of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Walt moved to approve the minutes of October 20, 2015. Motion carried 7-0.

Program Status Update

Hodges reported on the status of the following projects:

-Paly Gyms

-Paly Performing Arts Building

-Gunn Painting

-Gunn Central Building

-Paly Library

Member asked about where they are on the Paly gyms schedule. Hodges stated that due to all the recent rain, the project is about ten days behind schedule.

Member asked if they anticipate change orders on the Paly Performing Arts Building. Hodges said they do not foresee any. Member asked who the contractor is. Hodges said Alten Construction, Inc.

Member asked when the painting of Gunn High School will take place. Smith stated if the Board approves the color scheme, the painting will happen this summer.

Member asked about the information on the planned maintenance fund projects. Hodges indicated it was included in a monthly report and staff will email the information to the Committee.

Member asked about overall ongoing management and maintenance of these new buildings, is that a bond concern. Hodges said no, it is a District concern on the general fund. Bond funds cannot be

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used for general maintenance. Member asked about the distinction on what projects can use bond funds? Hodges said no routine maintenance projects can be done with bond funds.

### EMAC Progress Report

Golton reported the District still has \$60 million for future projects. The Enrollment Management Advisory Committee met for nine months and contained an Elementary subcommittee and a Secondary subcommittee. The main recommendation was to establish another committee.

Elementary enrollment growth is going down so the Elementary subcommittee had the harder question of what to do. The majority of the committee report was that enrollment is down and they are not going to move forward with anything. Stanford has a new housing development along California Avenue that could bring some enrollment growth. The committee suggested adding portables to the Nixon Elementary campus to accommodate enrollment growth in that area. There was a minority report that recommended opening one or two more schools.

Collins added the group could not agree on whether it was useful to open another school or not. If they decided to open a new school, they recommended opening one at 525 San Antonio or Greendell or placing portables at Nixon if there is increased growth due to Stanford developments.

Member asked why the minority report stated the District needs one or two additional schools. Collins reported they believe schools should be smaller and that it was a mistake letting the schools become as big as they are now. Member asked what defines too big of a school. Collins said research was done and there is a lot of different ways to look at it and there is no definitive answer.

Golton reported the secondary subcommittee was very strong for doing a project based high school. These schools evaluate students on the total work project product.

Member asked why a third school is needed, can they not just incorporate the program into one of the existing schools. Golton said no because they did a study that the optimum school size should be between 1200 to 1700 students and the District's existing schools are already too big. Plus they have an enrollment bubble that is going to drive high school enrollment to about 2200.

Member asked about the concept of a school within a school. Collins said that is still on the table and it was part of the discussion. Member asked if the grant the Superintendent applied for is for this purpose. Golton said no, that grant would be specifically for a new project based high school at Cubberley.

### April 20, 2016 Agenda

The next COC meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2015. The agenda will be worked through email.

### Next Meeting and Future Meetings Schedule

July 19, 2016  
October 19, 2016  
January 18, 2017

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.