

**Tustin Unified School District
Citizens' Oversight Committee**

MINUTES

September 14, 2005

Chairman, George Jeffries called the regular meeting of the Citizens' Oversight Committee to order at 6 p.m. in the Staff Conference Room, Tustin Unified School District, 300 South C Street, Tustin, CA.

Members Present:

Patrick Craig
Ann Davert
Lisa Frost
George Jeffries
Bruce Junor
Larry Leaman
Jason Rush
Judy Shade (arrived 6:25)
Paul Wilkins

Staff Present

Peter Gorman, Superintendent
Brock Wagner, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services
Tony Soria, Director of Fiscal Services
Peter Burns, Senior Director, Maintenance, Operations, and Facilities

Guests

Fausto Silva, PinnacleOne
Chris Pesavento, PinnacleOne

George Jeffries led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Adoption of the Agenda

It was moved by Bruce Junor, seconded by Larry Leaman, and carried unanimously to adopt the agenda.

General Functions Consent Item:

It was moved by Lisa Frost, seconded by Jason Rush, and carried unanimously to approve the Minutes of July 13, 2005.

Staff Presentation and Information

Peter Gorman shared the following articles from the September 8, 2005, Tustin News:

- According to the State’s 2004-05 school assessments the District’s schools did very well in Academic Performance Index (API) scores, with Ladera Elementary School scoring third in the State. API scores are designed to measure academic performance and growth in schools and districts.
- A resident wrote a response to the Editor regarding an article in the Tustin News “Viewpoint” referencing MCAS soil testing. The resident appreciated the District keeping the community updated on soil testing at the Base.

Public Comments

None.

Informational Items/Presentations:

1. Introduction of New Members

A round table was conducted to introduce new and existing Committee Members and District staff.

2. Update from recent School Board meetings

Peter Gorman discussed the following:

- August 22, 2005 – Adoption of 2005-06 Revised Final Budget -\$140 million - strong fiscal position
- September 12, 2005 - Accountability Report for the District
- September 26, 2005 – Board Study Session
 - a) Discussion of possible process for designing a master plan for the rebuilding and renovation of two high schools (Foothill and Tustin High Schools)
- October 24, 2005 – Board Study Session
 - a) Drug and alcohol awareness for community and students
 - b) Gang units information from the Tustin Police Department

3. Phase I Summer Work

Brock Wagner shared Phase 1 and 1A construction activities for the summer. Twelve schools are included in Phase I modernization (Arroyo, Beswick, Estock, Guin Foss, Lambert, Loma Vista, Nelson, Thorman, and Veeh elementary schools, Hewes Middle School, and Foothill and Tustin high schools). Summer construction was over a 60-day period and included projects not completed last summer and American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, i.e., door landings, doors, related hardware, drinking fountains, wheelchair lifts, etc. Peter Gorman shared that ADA compliance is a requirement when monies are received by the State.

Fausto Silva handed out a list of the following Phase 1A completions:

Arroyo Elementary School

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant doors and related hardware for the Administration building, ADA-compliant wheelchair lifts in the library and multi-purpose room, ADA-compliant exterior access ramps throughout the campus, exterior ADA-compliant door landing at the Administration office.

Beswick Elementary School

- Exterior ADA-compliant door landing at the nurse's office.

Estock Elementary School

- ADA-compliant nurse's office restroom and doors with related hardware for the Administration building, compliant sinks and countertops in the staff lunchroom and nurse's office, exterior ADA-compliant door landings for the students' restrooms in building E and nurse's office in building A.

Guin Foss Elementary School

- Exterior ADA-compliant door landing for the students' restroom in building E.

Lambert Elementary School

- Exterior ADA-compliant door landings for buildings A, C, D and E.

Nelson Elementary School

- ADA-compliant doors and related hardware for the Administration building, and exterior ADA-compliant door landings for buildings A, B, C and D.

Thorman Elementary School

- ADA-compliant students' restrooms and staff's restrooms, and exterior ADA-compliant door landings for buildings 1, 2, 3 and 8.

Veeh Elementary School

- ADA-compliant restroom in the nurse's office, ADA-compliant doors and related hardware for the Administration building, ADA-compliant sinks and countertops in the staff lunchroom and nurse's office, Exterior ADA-compliant door landings for buildings A and G.

The estimated cost for modernization of the first 12 schools under Phase I was \$28 Million from the State and \$7 million from the District. George Jeffries inquired as to the amount of money spent for ADA compliance and the need to inform the public. Peter Gorman and Brock Wagner reviewed the process of ADA compliance and costs.

Larry Leaman inquired as to how the Community is informed of COC matters. Peter Gorman shared that information is funneled through the schools open houses, articles in the Tustin News, brochure mail outs (62,000 last year), website, and annual audit reports.

4. Phase II Update

Brock Wagner updated the COC on the status of the 19 schools within SFID boundaries (12 sites in Phase I and 7 sites in Phase II), and that Hillview High School is on hold due to possible relocation.

Phase II has begun with the design process for five schools (two elementary and three middle schools). Two architects have been hired to work on the preliminary plans. NTD Architects is working on the Benson Elementary and Tustin Memorial Academy sites and MVE Architects is working on the Columbus Tustin, Currie Middle School and C.E. Utt Middle school sites. The drawings are currently in DSA for approval, and the plans should be out of DSA by early spring and ready to bid, with construction beginning next summer.

Brock shared that the District currently does not have State money to begin the construction projects for Phase II, as we did in Phase I. There is not as much modernization funding available from the State as in the past. However, we are moving forward with the Office of Public School Construction application process, but we must first show stamped plans to the State.

5. Measure G Expenditures and Fund Balances

Fausto Silva of PinnacleOne reviewed Measure G expenditures and fund balances. He also reviewed the activity tracking process per school site, change orders to date, breakdown, etc. The COC inquired as to how much money is being spent on ADA compliance.

6. Old Business

Peter Gorman passed out and shared the following:

- An article on “Plots and Ploys” regarding Hurricane Katrina, and how it could affect the District in already rising construction costs and possibly slow the pace of building by pulling workers from projects across the Country, i.e., supplies, labor, shortages, construction, etc.
- An article from the Register on “Shortfall Threatens School Plans,” regarding Anaheim Union High School District jeopardizing their modernization expansion by making management mistakes which generated more than \$42 million in extra costs for their construction program to fix and expand 13 schools. According to their audit report, lack of monitoring, financial management, and reporting standards were to blame. The article also said “there was no defined structures and procedures to manage the budget and no clear picture of how much the district had spent, how much construction had progressed or how much money was left.”

Peter Gorman discussed the District’s phasing of construction projects keeps our modernization program current, on-time, and within budget. The District’s reporting system tracks expenditures in construction, responsibilities, and accountability with standards to govern projects and work completed. The Measure G construction staff of Brock Wagner, Don Bishop, Peter Burns, and PinnacleOne oversee the projects, and the information is shared with the public as to construction, costs, change orders, timelines, labor compliance, contingencies, etc. The Measure G expenses are also segregated with annual audits which are presented to the Board of Education. COC members Lisa Frost and Bruce Junor will be meeting with the District’s auditors to discuss Measure G matters.

Lisa Frost inquired as to the status of Heideman Elementary School. Staff is working with the Orange County Department of Education “OCDE” to resolve costs issues and repairs, since the OCDE owns part of the buildings and the District owns the other buildings. Peter Gorman will also be meeting with the OCDE Superintendent to discuss this issue.

7. New Business

None.

Adjourn

It was moved by Bruce Junor, seconded by Patrick Craig, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.