

Nick Marinovich
8535 Hillcrest Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
619-934-4982
nickmarinovich52@gmail.com

April 23, 2015

To: President Frank Tarantino
Board Member Nick Segura
Board Member Kevin J. Pike
Board Member Paula Hall
Board Member Arturo Solis

Dear President Tarantino:

Greetings. Thank you for the opportunity to submit the monthly Bond Oversight Chair Report. Here are the highlights of Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee activities since the last March Board of Trustees Regular meeting:

April 13, 2015 Board Meeting. Consistent with past CBOC positions or concerns raised, I did speak on two Board Items (M-1 Approve/ratify various planning and construction consultant agreements and amendments) and M-2 (Ratify Change Orders for Construction Projects).

On Item M1 (See Page 4) concerns were raised regarding the brevity of information regarding \$129,500 in DSA inspection fees. It was indicated that it would be helpful to also have total project costs, project schedule, who signed off on the Board letter, and staff contacts. On Item M2 I complimented staff for the completeness of explanations for the change orders.

It is interesting to note that Trustee Segura questioned why Proposition O funds were being used for TV studio design and training as he thought bond funds could not be used for operational type expenses. The Chair also spoke after Trustee Segura identified this issue and said that our CBOC has had concerns in the past about such an issue ie. Paying for operating expenses under Diane Russo former CFO. Tom Calhoun subsequently indicated to me that an alternative funding source had been identified.

New Member Orientation. On April 17, 2015 there was an orientation of new members Daniel Gutowski and Rafael Munoz at the District Office. Both of these two members have professional experience in Project Management and School District

Administration. The Chair wishes to compliment the District's Human Resources staff for getting us to the point where we have a full compliment of CBOC members who are very qualified for the tasks before us. The District staff includes Vanessa West, Mary Wager, and of course Sandra Huevo.

Audit Subcommittee Teleconference Call. The Audit Subcommittee held a conference call on Tuesday April 21, 2015 to discuss how we should proceed with our Audit review. The consensus was that comments should be deferred until the District responds to the Audit. District responses were distributed at the CBOC meeting (see below).

April 22, 2015 Bond Oversight Meeting. A meeting was held at Hilltop Middle School. The following are the highlights of the meeting:

Site Tour. The CBOC appreciates the thorough Tour conducted by District Staff including Principal Griselda Delgado. There is no way to sugar coat the condition of this School. It needs a lot of work.

Very little of Proposition O funds have been spent at this site and there was a stark contrast of the condition of this school compared to other campuses such as Sweetwater High and National City Middle School which have had recent projects. If you have not seen this school recently, it is recommended that you take a tour to get an idea of the type of future challenges facing this Bond Program.

Long Range Facility Master Plans. Staff indicated the Community Meetings planned for May had been cancelled. There was considerable discussion regarding the original Master Plan that had been prepared for Proposition BB (original Bond issue that passed in 2000) and how it was used going forward with funding for Projects. Proposition O in large part was supposed to finance those projects, which were not funded via Proposition BB.

The priority and funding process for Proposition O projects is not entirely clear. There is a disconnect between the original Master Plan, what projects actually got funded and how those project priorities were determined. In fact the original Master Plan content has been an elusive effort to pinpoint.

Some of the priority setting issues may just be due to the time that has elapsed between the Master Plan, changes in Staff, Superintendents, and the Board. There needs to be a much clearer systematic consistent priority setting process for projects and allocation of funds by school.

Information Technology (IT) Presentation. There were presentations by District staff (David Damico, Alan Ricci, Francisco Tamayo) regarding the IT Infrastructure needs of the District. There were a number of questions and dialogue between District staff and the CBOC. The discussion included concerns regarding bandwidth, use of devices (eg. Ipads) and testing requirements. Funding concerns for future IT need

were expressed.

The District/schools IT infrastructure as it exists today does not meet the capacity needed for the “common core” requirements/testing. The IT and staff response to my questions were somewhat evasive as to when the necessary infrastructure would be completed; how much money would be necessary to accomplish this necessary/required task; and how much Prop O money would be used to complete the infrastructure needs.

The “take away” from the CBOC/staff dialogue was there needs to be a better integration and communication of the IT needs of the District and its students and the formulation of the final District Master Plan expenditure plans. As this District proceeds in the future our Committee encourages a robust dialogue between IT staff and Program Management personnel on their needs and incorporation into the expenditures by school for their long term needs.

An example of a funding issue is that of system redundancy/backup. There is no external data backup for District IT data. This is not Best Practice and a significant funding concern. It was recommended there be a joint workshop between the CBOC and Board regarding IT funding needs of the Bond Program.

Performance Audit. Our Audit Subcommittee and CBOC will be reviewing the initial District’s response over the next month. There is a strong possibility the CBOC’s response and review of the Audit will be incorporated into a comprehensive dual report to the Board of Trustees.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or ask questions at the Board meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Marinovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "M".

Nick Marinovich, Chair
Sweetwater Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee