

PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Gault Elementary School Library
1320 Seabright Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA
Meeting of January 26, 2015

Minutes

Call to Order

PTOC Chair Sue Faix called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the library at Gault Elementary School.

Attendance at Meeting:

Allison Endert – Gault
Bill Maxfield - Delaveaga
Glenn Schaller – Appointed by Claudia Vestal
Helayne Ballaban – GSCFT
Jane Forbes – Westlake
Janet Gellman – SCHS
Janet Swann – Appointed by Deb Tracy-Proulx
Jolene Kemos, Branciforte Small Schools
Joyce Smith – Librarians
Lacie Gray, BayView
Laura Moya, DELAC
Martha Dyer – Mission Hill Middle School
Sue Faix – Appointed by Patty Threet

Staff:

Angela Meeker, Asst. Supt., Educational Services, SCCS
Jerene Lacey – Director, Finance, SCCS
Catherine Meyer-Johnson, Admin. Asst., Business Services, SCCS

Public Visitors:

Johanna Bowen, Visitor
Michael Grant, Visitor
Steve Strasnick, Visitor

Welcome

Chair Sue Faix welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for coming. Copies of the agenda, an SCCS Board agenda item of 1/14/15 regarding PTOC appointments, revised Minutes of the 10/13/14 PTOC meeting and of the 11/17/14 PTOC meeting, and an updated budget report on the Parcel Tax Revenue and Expenses, with back-up materials were distributed to those in attendance. Glen Schaller distributed a historic summary of SCCS Parcel Taxes and School Bonds. Janet Swann distributed information on the meanings of “supplant” v. “supplement”.

Committee Membership

Chair Faix asked members and visitors to sign in on the Attendance Sheet. All those in attendance introduced themselves to the Committee.

Order of Agenda

Upon request, “Celebration of Representatives” was moved to later in the agenda in order to move through the business items without delay.

Approval of Minutes

The revised Minutes of the 10/13/14 PTOC meeting and the 11/17/14 PTOC meetings were presented for approval. It was suggested that requests for revisions to the Minutes be clarified for all members at the meeting when Minutes are presented for approval. Discussion followed. Upon a motion by Helayne Ballaban, seconded by Martha Dyer, the Minutes for the 10/13/14 meeting and the 11/17/14 meeting were approved.

Public Comment

Steve Strasnick, a member of the public, asked what portion of the counseling secretaries' 3.0 FTE was actually spent on support of counselors. He asserted that the defined split of Measure A funds (54% to counselors, 46% to librarians) had changed over time to a current split of 74% to counseling, 26% to librarians.

Johanna Bowen, a member of the public, asked PTOC to consider that the availability of an open school library is decreasing.

Discussion followed. It was stated that a library could be kept open with classified staff. It was suggested that members research the hours of operation at the high school libraries, hours worked by classified aides, hours of instruction by certificated librarians, how textbooks are checked out and how much time is devoted to this task. This information will be collected by Joyce Smith for Harbor High, Janet Gellman for Santa Cruz High School, Sue Faix for Soquel High and Jolene Kemos for Branciforte Small Schools.

Review of PTOC Role, Function and Meeting Norms

The major role of PTOC is to oversee how the parcel tax revenues are spent. Members can advocate for changes by bringing information to Board members. Measure P will expire in 2017. A task force will be formed to work on the next parcel tax measure. Janet Swann and Jane Forbes will work together on the PTOC report to the Board and public on how parcel taxes are spent.

Angela Meeker provided an update on the PTOC roster of members. The Minutes of the 5/10/06 Board meeting defined the role, composition and term of PTOC. Some members have served for more than the 4 year term specified in these Minutes, for which the District is grateful. Currently, Board members, principals and the groups specified in the 5/10/06 Minutes have been asked to designate their representatives for the new 4 year term. Not all positions have been filled yet. We hope to have all members of the new PTOC committee at the next PTOC meeting.

It was pointed out that in the 5/10/06 Minutes, there is no mention of a PTOC representative for LifeLab. However, Measure P supports "science". At the elementary level, the LifeLab is science. A Motion was presented by Jane Forbes and seconded by Janet Gellman to recommend to the Board that a LifeLab representative be added to the composition of PTOC. The motion passed.

It was suggested that translation be available at meetings for the District English Learner Advisory Committee representative, one of the interest groups specified in the 5/10/06 minutes. A question was raised regarding PTOC minutes and agenda materials should also be translated.

Budget Overview

Jerene Lacey presented an updated budget summary regarding revenues and expenses for Measures I, J and P. In response to a request made at the 11/17/14 PTOC meeting, she also provided a detailed breakdown, by parcel tax, of how funds were allocated. Certificated teachers general have 10 sub days per year. Since elementary art and music teachers are totally funded by parcel taxes, sub costs are budgeted out of parcel taxes, as well. It was pointed out that there is currently \$91,421 showing as carryover to 2015-16. Perhaps members should consider how those funds could be spent this year. Jerene explained that due to changes in personnel, medical insurance and statutory deductions rates, expenses have varied, resulting in the \$91,421 overage.

Celebration of Representatives

Angela Meeker conveyed her and Superintendent Kris Munro's appreciation of the time and commitment shown by PTOC representatives over the past years, including their thoughtful questions. Angela spoke of the programs the parcel taxes made possible. She distributed Certificates of Appreciation to PTOC members who have served over the past year(s), and invited all to partake of cake and sparkling cider.

Public Comment

Steve Strasnick suggested that it might be appropriate to have an at-large member of the community serve on PTOC. He also suggested that members review the adopted budgets posted on the District’s website.

Johanna Bowen stated that a quorum did not exist at the PTOC meetings of 10/13/14 and 11/17/14, so no business could truly be done. She suggested that the motion which passed on 10/13/14 to designate Sue Faix as Chair was invalid, and that it should be voted on again at the present meeting.

Upon motion by Helayne Ballaban, seconded by Joyce Smith, members voted unanimously to designate Sue Faix as the PTOC Chairperson.

Next Steps:

It was suggested that if all newly designated 23 members were to attend the next meeting, the Gault library would not be large enough to accommodate the group. It was proposed that the next meeting be held on March 2, 2015 at the Harbor High library. Joyce Smith will confirm its availability, and PTOC members will be notified.

Topics proposed for discussion at the next meeting include:

- Update on Task Force
- Update by Report Committee
- High School Library survey
- AVID & S4C, appropriate use of Parcel Tax funds?

Adjournment

There being no other official business to come before this Committee, Chair Faix adjourned this meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Meeker, Asst. Supt. Educational Services
Santa Cruz City Schools

Sue Faix, Chair
PTOC