

PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Harbor High School Library

300 La Fonda Ave.

Santa Cruz, CA

Meeting of May 16, 2016

Minutes

Call to Order

PTOC Chair Sue Faix called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in the Harbor High School Library. Roll call was taken.

Attendance at Meeting:

Barbara Lawrence – Library Media Teachers

Greg Brown - VAPA

Helayne Ballaban – GSCFT

Janet Swann – Appointed by Deb Tracy-Proulx

Jolene Kemos - Branciforte Small Schools

Karan Violante - SCCCE

Laura Jones – Delaveaga Elementary

Michelle Morton – Appointed by Deedee Perez-Granados

Monique Kremer – Appointed by Sheila Coonerty

Shannon Greene – Harbor High

Sue Faix – Appointed by Patty Threet

Absent:

Allison Endert – Gault

Glen Schaller – Appointed by Claudia Vestal

Jane Forbes – LifeLab

Janet Gellman – Santa Cruz High School

Jodi Mulder – Appointed by Alisun Thompson

Lacie Gray - BayView

Monika Adam – Appointed by Jeremy Shonick

Natasha Flechsig – Branciforte Middle School

Staff:

Catherine Meyer-Johnson, Admin. Asst., Business Services, SCCS

Kyle Rucker, Interim Finance Director, SCCS

Public Visitor:

Sheila Coonerty, Board Trustee

Welcome

Chair Sue Faix welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for coming. She introduced Barbara Lawrence, the new representative for Library Media Teachers, and Laura Jones, prospective representative for Delaveaga Elementary School.

Agenda

Materials distributed included: the agenda, draft Minutes of the 3/14/16 PTOC meeting, text of the ballot measures for Parcel Taxes I, J, O and P, a Summary of Services Paid by each Parcel Tax as of 2nd Interim, 2/29/16, and three worksheets detailing expenditures to 4/30/16 from each of the current parcel taxes and a draft annual report for PTOC.

Minutes

The Minutes of the 3/14/16 PTOC meeting were presented for approval. The minutes were approved. (MSP:

Kemos/Kremer, 7-0, with 3 abstentions)

Membership Updates

Currently there are vacancies for representatives from DELAC, Mission Hill Middle School and Soquel High. Janet Swann announced that she intended to resign at the end of the 15-16 year. Chair Faix said that she would reach out to the sites to find new representatives.

Purpose

Members discussed the purpose of their service on PTOC. Members were encouraged to read the ballot measure language included in the agenda packet. PTOC members ensure that parcel tax revenues are spent on the programs and services specified in the ballot texts. Some members felt members can make recommendations to the Board, as with the text book clerk hours. Others felt that the PTOC Bylaws do not specify that members should make recommendations to the Board. Trustee Sheila Coonerty stated that recommendations are not part of PTOC members' jobs, but that input was welcomed.

PTOC Member Training

Members commented that the training provided at the last meeting was very helpful. A fall training for members was discussed, perhaps as part of a longer first meeting. A training topic could be scheduled for each meeting. The first meeting could be scheduled after the District unaudited actuals are presented to the Board in September. A training binder was suggested, to include information on SACS, financial reports and ballot language. Info on how the parcel tax fits into the entire District budget was suggested as a topic.

Announcement – Resignation of Jim Monreal

Interim Finance Director Kyle Rucker announced that Assistant Superintendent Jim Monreal had announced his resignation from Santa Cruz City Schools, effective 6/30/16.

Expense Reports

Kyle explained the new format for the financial reports brought to PTOC for review. Separate spreadsheets are now provided for each Parcel tax, color coded for service categories, including library, counseling, arts and music, and science. Kyle suggested that members look at the FTE and # of bodies, rather than salary amounts.

Questions were raised about the library assistant at AFE – why does it get funded by Measure J when AFE serves K-12? Does this position support literature enhancement? The AFE librarian runs the resource center and provides administrative support to consultant teachers. Should this come out of Measure I? At present libraries are completely funded by parcel tax revenue. State law mandates that libraries must remain open. Discussion followed regarding whether the parcel tax supplements the library program or whether it supplants a program that the District would have paid for, through classified salaries.

Members discussed differences between sites regarding art, music and lifelab classes offered and equity issues. All elementary students receive art instruction. It was pointed out that VAPA expenses are partially covered through parent fundraising, and that in some cases, the PTA supplements programs. It was questioned why music is not offered to Grades K-2 at Delaveaga, why lifelab is not offered to Grade 6 students, and why art, music and lifelab is not offered at Small Schools.

Annual Report

Chair Faix presented a draft annual report for PTOC. Some members felt that that a need for additional textbook clerk hours at the high schools should be stated. A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft report as presented. It was not carried. (Swann/Greene/5/2/3 abstaining).

An alternative version of the annual report was proposed by Shannon Green, with stronger language in the conclusion referencing Grand Jury concerns that Measure I expenditures were not in accordance with the purposes of Measure I. Specifically, the concern was that credentialed teacher librarians were providing clerical support for checking in and out textbooks, instead of working with students to develop research skills and study of literature.

After discussion regarding wording, it was proposed to include this sentence: "It is the belief of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee that the expenditures are in accordance with the ballot measures with the exception of the librarian portion of Measure I..." A motion was made and seconded to approve the report with this sentence. It

was not carried. There were not enough members present for a quorum vote. (Jones/Lawrence/8/1/1 abstaining.)

Members discussed whether a vote could be taken at a later date, either by phone or online. It was unclear whether this was permitted under Brown Act rules.

Next meeting & Adjournment

It was proposed to have a special meeting on 5/26/16 to finalize the annual report. It will be held in the Harbor High Library from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. There being no other official business to come before this Committee, Chair Faix adjourned this meeting at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Meyer-Johnson,
Administrative Asst., Business Services
Santa Cruz City Schools

Sue Faix
Chair
PTOC