

CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2002

Chairman Al Valdez called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. with Gary Larson, Gerald Bruce, Maurice Ayala, Andy Anderson, Michael Calta, Stuart Holland, Roger Larkin, and Dr. Andersen present. Geoffrey VandenHeuval arrived at 4:04 p.m. and Glenn Duncan and Gary Ovitt at 4:06 p.m. Preston Carr, Principal at Don Lugo High School was also present

Review/Approval of Minutes, August 26, 2002

Committee members had previously received and reviewed the minutes. Mr. Bruce made a motion for approval, Mr. Holland seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

COC Website Information

An information sheet regarding the website proposal was distributed. Mr. Holland explained that he and Mr. Calta met with Dr. Andersen and Bob Blackney, Director of Technology for the district. The district can provide the website space but can't provide technical support. The committee members will develop the content, route to the group for input and then submit to Dr. Andersen for final approval. They would like to include a brief biography of each member and the current projects. A question was raised as to whether each member would like their personal email addresses posted on the website to provide a way to give feedback. The information sheet included a choice of domain names. The district will pay for any domain name charges. If everyone agrees on the content, the website could be up in three weeks. If there were changes and reviews, it would take 30-45 days to go online. It was agreed that tentative agendas for committee meetings would be posted on the website with the disclaimer that they would be subject to change.

Mr. Ayala had a concern that the committee remains independent of the school board with the website. He stated they should act on their own volition with no need for approval by the district for the content. Mr. Holland explained the reasons for having Dr. Andersen's approval is for accuracy and also the Director of Technology won't post it without prior district approval.

Mr. Bruce asked for links to the website from the cities within the district and it was determined that it probably could be done. It was mentioned that the district has two websites and that one is out of date. Mr. Larson asked how soon a name could be chosen. Discussion was held regarding the names listed in the information sheet provided. Mr. Duncan moved the committee adopt www.cvusdoversight.org, Mr. Bruce seconded the motion and all agreed.

Mr. Valdez asked if the members could receive the notices earlier, maybe 7-10 days before the meetings. It was agreed that Mr. Valdez would contact Dr. Andersen by phone

or email to decide agenda topics and the notices and minutes would be sent out a week prior to the next meeting

School Grants

Documents were handed out regarding school grants and financial activity. Sandra Chen, District Fiscal Analyst/Facilities Planner, gave an overview of the state grants as approved so far. There was some discussion regarding the necessity to pass the State bond, Proposition 47, to provide enough funding to complete all projects on the Facilities Assessment Report. Mr. Anderson asked where extra money would come from if the State bond doesn't pass. The answer was that not all the projects on the Facilities Assessment Report would be completed if the State bond doesn't pass. The lists would have to be reviewed to decide which projects would be completed. The work already in progress on the new construction would be completed. Dr. Andersen also explained that Governor Davis said the bond would come back if it does not pass this time. Another question asked was were the citizens given this information that the passage of the State bond was necessary to get all the projects completed and the answer was yes. Information was shared with the group that there was only one time in the history of state bonds than an education bond did not pass.

Jim DiCamillo from WLC Architects, the firm providing architectural services for Wickman and Rhodes Elementary Schools, gave an explanation of how public school funding works, as well as how modernization funding and bond money will be used together to get more work done. He said that so far the bids for Wickman and Rhodes were coming in under budget, but that part of the contracts had not been bid yet, and that in a week we would have more information because the bid opening was scheduled for October 3rd. Extra costs on some projects were acquisition funds for Rhodes, and additional costs for methane mitigation for Liberty Elementary and Woodcrest Junior High.

There was discussion about site conditions affecting funding amounts. The State grant program provides a base grant and adds an equalizer depending on unique site conditions.

Ms. Chen explained the financial activity report. The budget is tentative and the only encumbrance so far is a small contract.

Committee members had concerns about other projects being done, particularly health and safety projects, and whether those projects are being addressed ahead of other projects. Dr. Andersen explained that the district was going through a process of surveying principals, researching work orders, and a site safety inspection was being done at each site. The year-round schools' inspections are completed and traditional schools are in progress. A copy of the reports of the survey or a briefing on results was requested for the next meeting.

Concerns were raised that prior to the bond passing citizens were given the impression that these things were already done, and the results were compiled into the Facilities

Assessment Report. Now it appears this process is being done again. Committee members are concerned that citizens would like to see these projects moving forward. Dr. Andersen explained that for Don Lugo High School input is also needed from the teachers. Administrators had given input but the teachers had not contributed before bond passage.

Mr. DiCamillo pointed out that he is meeting at school sites with principals and staff to ascertain needs, assessing needs and codes requirements. His staff is recompiling district's old drawings for 12 schools into CAD, and preparing projects to go through the Division of State Architect (DSA) approval process in preparation to move forward at many of the district schools. This behind-the-scenes labor is necessary before these projects can be started. Mr. DiCamillo also clarified that it is necessary to move carefully when planning the modernization projects to fully utilize modernization money and bond money together to get the most work accomplished at each site. Mistakes at the planning level can cost millions of dollars later on.

Mr. Larkin would like to get a list of schools getting state money, Measure M money, and modernization funding and how much. It was suggested that one item for the next agenda would be to go over the Facilities Assessment Report.

Mr. Calta made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Duncan seconded the motion. At 5:10 the meeting was adjourned to the bus to go on a tour of the Wickman Elementary School site and Don Lugo High School.

Bus Tour

Some committee members boarded the bus while others followed in their cars and traveled to the Wickman Elementary School site. While on the bus, Dr. Andersen and Jim DiCamillo gave brief explanations about the building of Wickman. The original schedule was to have the school completed by July 7, but it was necessary to advance the schedule by 30 days to early June. Wickman will be a year-round school and school will start in July. This schedule is necessary because of the large-scale developments being built in the attendance area. The design was also changed to include a two-story modular classroom building, which will add 10 classrooms for an increased capacity of approximately 250 children. This design change is referred to as "Super" Wickman. Mr. DiCamillo explained some terms that committee members should be familiar with in order to understand school construction. The modular buildings being placed at Wickman are permanent structures as opposed to portable buildings, which can be removed if attendance falls at a school. In the past the state school construction program required a certain number of portables on each site to allow the school to adjust to the capacity needed in a community.

A site map of Wickman was distributed and as the members sat on the bus Mr. DiCamillo gave an overview of the site and pointed out where the buildings will be when the school is finished. He talked about traffic circulation and the need for an alternate student drop off, and gave an explanation of how Wickman is being built. Rhodes Elementary School

is being built with the same plans as Wickman. Discussion was held regarding special education facilities at the school. There are classrooms at the sites for special education students and County funds are being used to build them. The cost of the modular building is comparable to constructed buildings but they are much more quickly constructed and pre-approved by DSA.

The bus tour resumed to Don Lugo High School where members toured the campus, especially the science classrooms, walked through the quad area and over to where there are almost 20 year-old portable classrooms. Mr. DiCamillo pointed out which buildings are eligible now for modernization funding because they are 25 years old and which buildings will be 25 years old very soon, as well as the portable buildings that are 20 years old and eligible for modernization or replacement. He detailed the choices the district needs to make as far as whether to modernize the science classrooms, build a new science wing and change existing science classrooms into regular classrooms, modernization or replace old portable buildings with permanent buildings. He also made it clear that it was necessary to keep reapplying to DSA to let the State know what the plans are and get prior approval or the district may lose funding. The district also will need to provide interim housing or space to use while the other buildings are being built or modernized. It is necessary to coordinate all efforts to phase in individual projects so when the entire project is completed we will end up with an efficient school.

The bus returned committee members to the district offices and the tour was completed at 6:33 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2002 at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Valdez will contact Dr. Andersen to discuss the next agenda. Mr. Holland will call with a request for documents required for the website.