

**CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
OF THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
150 District Center Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92264**

February 8, 2021 – 4:30 pm  
Conducted via Zoom

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Member Abercrombie.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Abercrombie led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. NEW MEMBER WELCOME AND PRESENTATION**

Dr. Murray welcomed new members to the COC committee:

- Richard Clapp, at Large Member
- Helene Kalfuss, at Large Member
- Linda Scudder, Senior Citizen Representative

Dr. Murray presented the Citizens' Oversight Committee Orientation presentation.

**4. ROLL CALL (Establishment of a Quorum)**

Roll call was conducted at 5:18 pm and a quorum established by Member Abercrombie.

Members present:   Mark Abercrombie (Chair)  
                          Scott Fenton (Co-chair)  
                          Richard Clapp  
                          Helene Kalfuss  
                          Linda Scudder

Members absent:    Jane Lescure

District staff present: Brian J. Murray, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Business Svcs.  
                          Julie Arthur, Executive Director, Facilities Planning Development  
                          Peter VanBuskirk, Director, Fiscal Services  
                          Kristina Murphy, Senior Administrative Assistant, Business Svcs.

Public present:       None

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (solicited online and in writing 72 hours prior to the meeting)**

None

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Fenton made a motion and member Clapp second to approve the COC Regular Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2020. The committee unanimously agreed.

7. **PSUSD MEASURE E AUDIT**  
Peter VanBuskirk, PSUSD Director of Fiscal Services was present to discuss the Measure E Audit ending June 30, 2020.
8. **BOND EXPENDITURE REPORTS**  
The committee reviewed the quarterly expenditure reports provided by the District.
9. **UPDATE ON DISTRICT FACILITIES PROJECTS**  
Julie gave an update on the current bond projects:

#### **DHSHS Locker Room HVAC**

The swamp cooler system is being replaced with HVAC units. The design for this project is complete and has gone out to bid. We are looking for the project to be awarded at the Board of Education meeting on February 23, 2021. Project completion is slated for the end of summer.

#### **Elementary Parking Lot Renovation projects**

- Cathedral City Elementary – project is 100% complete.
- Rio Vista Elementary – project is 100% complete.
- Della Lindley Elementary – finished area in front of school. Moved bus drop off which alleviated congestion with parent/bus drop offs. Project is close to completion.

#### **Facilities Master Plan**

The California Department of Education requires California school districts to prepare and/or update their Facilities Master Plan (FMP) for their district every five years. Projects are prioritized with high priority going to safety and security of campuses and buildings with aging infrastructure. The FMP is complete and has been approved by the Board of Education.

During the Facilities Study Session on January 28, 2020, the Board was given the status of all current projects. They are looking at funding for new projects. Landau Elementary, Della Lindley Elementary, Sunny Sands Elementary, James Workman Middle and Cathedral City High are past 25-year mark and are up for modernization. Sunny Sand ES and Landau ES still have lots of portables being used as classrooms.

We are looking for confirmation at the Board of Education tomorrow night for projects to begin at the following school sites:

- Della Lindley ES
- Landau ES
- Sunny Sands ES
- James Workman MS
- Cathedral City HS

#### **Fire/Alarm System Replacement Phase 2**

Complete system upgrades are needed to bring outdated fire/alarm systems up to code. Several sites need complete replacement. We are in design stage and the engineer is working to make systems an open source so the district can maintain them once

installed. The upgrades will be incorporated into modernization projects at the following school sites:

- Della Lindley ES
- Landau ES
- Sunny Sands ES
- Cathedral City HS

### **M&O Bond Projects**

There are a series of projects currently underway, including the drinking fountain replacement project, which is in the last phase, (phase 5).

### **Nellie Coffman Chiller**

Project is complete, which entailed replacement of the entire chiller plant. The system was up and running 1 week prior to the 2019-2020 school year open. We encountered programming issues and had to change the switch gear. This project is complete. The remaining funds have been reallocated to another project.

### **Palm Springs High School Seismic**

Palm Springs High School Seismic Building Renovations project includes 5 buildings that were built prior to 1980 that are on the AB 300 list and need seismic upgrades:

- Library
- Cafeteria
- Gymnasium new ADA bleacher compliant bleachers.
- 500 Building
- Multi-purpose Room

The addition of a new mini gym is 90% complete. We were able to take advantage of students no being on campus and have saved close to \$700K on interim housing. Demo has begun on the existing gym, (should be completed in December 2021). Kitchen and dining hall are slated to be done in August. Storm drain system completely redone, which will take care of flooding concerns on campus.

### **Elementary School Shade Structures**

Elementary School shade structure project is complete. Finishing up with planting trees on every campus which will provide additional shade.

### **Palm Springs High School Chiller**

Palm Springs High School Chiller project is underway. Funding for this project was allocated with let over funds from the Nellie Coffman Chill project.

Julie asked members for questions:

Member Abercrombie asked if the PSHS auditorium chiller replacement would be the same project type as the NNC chiller project.

Member Clapp commented that the Agua Caliente modernization project came in higher than projected and asked if the Palm Springs High School seismic project is going to stay under budget?

- Julie stated that it should.

Brian asked Julie to elaborate on why ACES modernization project came in over budget.

- JA explained that students remained on campus while we essentially flipped the campus around. With the extended time of construction needed, prices went up in cost as the project progressed. The project was completely new construction unlike PSHS modernization.

Member Abercrombie asked what the hopes are for replacing metal modular buildings that are still on the campus at Sunny Sands ES; wood vs. steel framed?

- Julie stated that we are assessing our options to make that decision now.

#### 10. COC VACANCIES

Member Abercrombie reminded the committee that upon conclusion of this meeting, both his and Member Fenton's first term is ending. He noted that they are both willing to serve a second term. There is 1 additional seat open that we are actively recruiting for:

- Taxpayer Organization Representative

Brian asked if members have recommendations, to please forward names to the Business Services office or direct them to the website to complete an application for appointment.

#### NOMINATIONS AND VOTING FOR NEW CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

Member Abercrombie asked for a motion to nominate himself to return for a second term and continue as committee chair. Member Kalfuss made a motion and Member Scudder second; all in favor. Motion carried. Member Abercrombie asked for a motion to nominate Member Fenton to return for a second term and continue as committee co-chair. Member Kalfuss made a motion and Member Scudder second; all in favor. Motion carried.

#### 11. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE COC MEETING DATE

The next COC Regular Board meeting will be held Monday, May 24, 2021 at 4:30 pm conducted via Zoom.

#### 12. COC MEMBER PHOTOGRAPH (ZOOM SNAPSHOT)

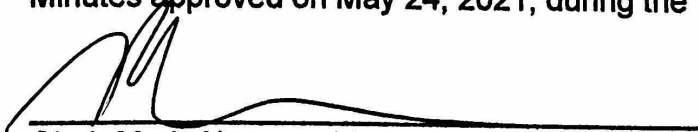
Member Abercrombie noted that there were technological issues with Zoom for some members, which joined by telephone. We will take the member photograph at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

#### 13. ADJOURNMENT

Member Abercrombie asked for a motion to adjourn. Member Scudder made a motion to adjourn and Member Kalfuss second; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Minutes approved on May 24, 2021, during the Regular Meeting.



Chair Mark Abercrombie