

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

November 1, 2021 – 4:30 pm  
Conducted via Zoom

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by Member Abercrombie.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Abercrombie led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Roll call was conducted at 4:35 pm and a quorum established by Member Abercrombie.

Members present: Mark Abercrombie (Chair)  
Richard Clapp  
Justin Decker  
Helene Kalfuss

Members absent: Scott Fenton (Co-chair)  
Linda Scudder

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

Public present: None

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

None

5. **NEW MEMBER OVERVIEW PRESENTATION**

Brian Murray welcomed new member Justin Decker to the Citizens' Oversight Committee. His membership application was approved by the Board of Education at the October 26, 2021, meeting. Brian reviewed the new member presentation to the committee.

- Member Clapp – part of the responsibility of the committee is to let people know if anything inappropriate is going on, how does the committee do that?
  - Brian – in the review of the project expenditure report.

Brian asked members of the committee and district support staff to introduce themselves.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Clapp made a motion and member Kalfuss second to approve the COC Regular Meeting Minutes from June 7, 2021. The committee unanimously agreed.

7. **BOND EXPENDITURE REPORTS**

The committee reviewed the quarterly expenditure reports provided by the district.

8. **UPDATE ON DISTRICT FACILITIES PROJECTS**  
Julie gave an update on the current bond projects:

**Agua Caliente Elementary Modernization**

Project is complete. A small amount of funding remains for furniture.

**Bubbling Wells Elementary Modernization**

School built in the 1980's - 1<sup>st</sup> phase of modernization.

**Cathedral City High Modernization**

School Built in 1991. We will compare to what the new standards are for assessment. DSA within the next 12 months. Looking to expand the kitchen.

**DLA 500 Building Remodel**

Built in 1968. Seismic assessment found it not structurally compliant. Bringing to code would cost more than replacing the entire building. Issues with flooding during rain as well. Design up to date for 2021 classroom instruction areas. Teachers will be teaching to multiple classes at 1 time and will be Livestream ready. Esports classroom, fastest growing sport currently. We have had a team that began in 2019. There is a curriculum meeting the B requirement of the A – G graduation requirements, some colleges are offering scholarships.

- Member Abercrombie noted that this project was originally budgeted with PSHS seismic and put on hold for a time.

**DHSHS Locker Room HVAC**

The swamp cooler system is being replaced with HVAC units. Project is 99% complete, working on the punch list.

**Della S. Lindley Elementary Modernization and Design**

School built in 1986-87 and is up for modernization.

Kindergarten areas need to be updated per California Department of Education requirements. Expanding out the kitchen as well. In DSA approval before summer. Temporary housing will be phased in.

**Prop 39**

Projects underway districtwide. PSHS Blackbox theater lighting needs to be replaced, (from the late 1980s).

**Elementary Parking Lot Renovation projects**

All parking lots redesigned to make pick-ups drop-offs more efficient. Almost all sites are complete:

- Cathedral City Elementary
- Two Bunch Palms Elementary
- Della Lindley Elementary

**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 was completed in 2019, but we are updating, adding TK classrooms district wide by 2025.

**James Workman Middle Modernization**

School built in 1996. Remove all portables and renovate all classrooms with permanent 1 story buildings. Will also be modernizing offices.

### **Sunny Sands/Landau Elementary Modernization**

Remove metal modulars and replace with permanent 2 story classroom buildings. Giving play space back to the schools that are currently inhabited by portables. Construction materials will be wood frame.

- Member Clapp asked if there are any projects that qualify to be refunded by the state
  - Julie – seismic funds may be available. Funds go back into the general bond fund, (\$6-10m per site).

### **Fire/Alarm System Replacement**

The fire alarm system replacement has been incorporated into the modernization projects for James Workman, Cathedral City High, Landau and Sunny Sands elementary schools.

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

There are a series of projects currently underway, including the drinking fountain replacement project, phase 5 is almost complete. Asphalt work and roofing projects at various sites.

### **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 complete and ready for use, along with the ASB, kitchen and dining areas. The storm drain system was completely redone, which will take care of flooding concerns campus wide. Continuing to work to finalize renovation of the gymnasium. The project should be wrapped up by Feb 2022.

- Member Clapp commented on the budget for this project; committed vs. budget. Looks as though we are spending less. The school was remodeled back in 1990's. Why wasn't the drainage tested then? Is there a guarantee that it will work this time?
- Julie - The remodel did not modernize the campus. The modernization price was locked in in 2020, saving \$7-8m. Any remaining funds will go back to the general bond fund.

### **Palm Springs High School Richards Center Central Plant Replacement**

The central plant replacement at the Richards Center at Palm Springs High School is underway. Funding for this project was allocated with let over funds from the Nellie Coffman Central Plant replacement project. The chiller in the auditorium central plant was failing. Temp chiller will run building while renovation is being done. Building needs to stay up and running at all times, (timeline - 4 months).

## 9. COC VACANCIES

Member Abercrombie noted that we are actively recruiting for the following positions:

- 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 consideration.

## 10. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE COC MEETING DATE

The next COC Regular Board meeting is currently scheduled for Monday, January 31, 2022, at Palm Springs High School from 6pm-7pm. We will convene for a Special Meeting and project tour at 4:30 pm. Dinner will be provided upon conclusion of the tour.


Member Clapp encourages meeting at different sites for the committee to see projects that are underway or that have been completed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Minutes from this meeting will be approved during the next Regular Meeting.

  
Chair Mark Abercrombie  
Co-Chair Scott Fenton

2/1/2022  
Date