

# CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

October 16, 2014  
MINUTES

The meeting of the Sonoma County Junior College District Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee was held on October 16, 2014 in Bertolini Room 4733, on the Santa Rosa Campus. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

Frank Briceno  
Pam Chanter  
Michael Coutré  
Kerry Mahoney Davison  
Omar Paz, Jr.  
Nelson Weller

Others Present:

Frank Chong  
Eliah Elleger  
Tony Ichsan  
Doug Roberts  
Susan St. Clair

## INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting participants re-introduced themselves. Omar Paz introduced himself as a new member, replacing Joshua Pinaula.

### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, JULY 17, 2014

After a motion by Michael Coutré, that was seconded by Frank Briceno, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

### 3. BOND PROGRAM EXPENDITURES TO-DATE

Doug Roberts, Vice President of Business Services, gave an overview of the unaudited schedule of total bond expenditures from inception through September 30, 2014, listing all of the bond projects and expenditures broken out by series and fiscal year.

Doug Roberts said the \$221,000 that has been spent so far this year has been for technology and small projects.

During a discussion about land and building acquisitions, Doug told the committee that the district has purchased property adjacent, or near, to the Santa Rosa campus property, with the latest acquisition being the 1700/1710 Mendocino Avenue property. This property will be

converted to parking spaces that will provide much-needed parking, especially for the B. Robert Burdo Culinary Arts Center.

Doug Roberts said the Rocco property, on the south side of Elliott Avenue, adjacent to the Bech parking lot, may become available for purchase. Also, the district may consider a possible purchase in the future to serve as the Southwest Center.

When asked about the process for property acquisition, Doug Roberts responded that the administration will bring to the attention of the Board of Trustees land that has a potential to unify the campus, and it would be presented to the Board who would vote on the matter during a public Board meeting.

During a discussion about the balance of the bond fund, Doug Roberts said, as of June 30, there was about \$12 million remaining. He stated there is a requirement to spend 85% of a bond series within three years of issuance. He continued by saying that it is prudent to have some funds left for contingencies and when it became apparent that community colleges were not receiving sufficient funds from the state, SRJC reduced its Tech Plan from \$3 million, to \$1 million per year in order to retain a fund balance to see the college through times of insufficient funding.

#### 4. PROGRESS REPORT ON VARIOUS MEASURE A PROJECTS

Tony Ichsan, Dean of Facilities Planning and Operations, distributed a booklet identifying Measure A projects completed. Tony said the money to print the booklets came from the district's print budget, not from the bond fund.

#### 5. POTENTIAL 2014 BOND UPDATE

Frank Chong said the bond effort campaign is gaining momentum. The college's sports teams are volunteering in the phone banks and are having a friendly competition to see who can make the most calls. There has been a mailing to the SRT mailing list since some of the bond funds would be used to upgrade Burbank Auditorium. Frank Chong has been attending meetings of community groups and has been getting support for the bond. Nelson Weller said that at a recent farmers' meeting, they said how much they rely on SRJC to produce well-trained, qualified staff.

Frank Chong said that in 97 years, the district has only gone out for a bond once. He continued by saying as SRJC approaches its centennial, it is apparent that SRJC's buildings need upgraded and modernized. He said the older buildings are not energy efficient, there

could be potential safety issues in the labs, the technology is outdated, and there is poor use of space. He cited the example of our science building that was built in 1955.

When Measure H passes, Frank Chong said he plans to recommend to the Board of Trustees that a request for proposals be generated for an educational master planner to develop a cohesive master plan.

During a brief discussion about the bond timeline, Doug Roberts said there are bond issuance costs and the district wants to be “shovel ready” before issuing the bonds. Planning and strategy will be important because improvements will need to be staged since the existing buildings cannot be taken down.

The committee adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Date to be announced.