

# PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Published December 2019

MEASURE

E



Dear Residents of the Palm Springs Unified School District:

In 2008, residents passed Measure E, a \$516 million bond measure to build additional schools and renovate existing schools and support facilities. These bond funds will be spent on capital improvement projects and cannot be spent on teacher or administrator salaries, textbooks, or other operation costs.

One of the requirements of Proposition 39, the legislative authority of Measure E, is to assemble a Citizens' Oversight Committee. Our oversight committee was formed prior to the launch of any projects and has remained in place as projects are undertaken. The committee meets three times per year and all meetings are open to the public.

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The committee's primary function is to review all expenditures of the bond funds to ensure they are being spent as specified in the ballot measure. In addition, the committee is regularly updated on the status of projects and often tours construction sites to review the progress of projects.

To ensure that bond funds are being spent appropriately, one of the goals of the committee is to improve communication with the residents of our district. We believe it is critical that the community understand how their tax dollars are being spent as well as assuring residents that the funds are being spent appropriately. Please feel free to attend one of our upcoming meetings. If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members or phone the School District at (760) 883-2710.

## Committee Members/ Term Endings

### Diane Ross

Senior Citizen Organization  
Representative  
(May 2020)

### Asia Horton

At-Large Member  
(May 2020)

### Vacant

At-Large Member

### Mark Abercrombie

Business Community Representative  
(Jan 2021)

### Scott Fenton

Parent/Guardian of a Student in PSUSD  
(Jan 2021)

### Vacant

Taxpayer Organization Representative

### Vacant

Parent/Guardian of a PSUSD Student and  
Active in PTO/PTA/PTG/Site Council)

## CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Our committee is comprised of seven members representing various constituencies within the District. The committee must contain one member from each of five different groups (business community, a parent or guardian of a child enrolled within the District, a parent or guardian of a child enrolled within the District and also active in their school's PTO, PTA, or school site council, senior citizen organization, and a taxpayer organization) as well as two at-large members. Members may serve no more than two consecutive two year terms.

## CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WEB PAGE

You can find helpful information regarding the Citizens' Oversight Committee on the PSUSD web site, ([www.psusd.us](http://www.psusd.us)) including: agendas, minutes and reports from past meetings. In addition, meeting dates and times are posted here as well as committee vacancies as they occur. We encourage community members to fill out an Application for Membership during the recruitment of vacant seats.



The COC meets 3 times per year. The purposes of the committee are:

- To actively monitor all projects and expenditures approved by the voters.
- To provide proper oversight and accountability to ensure that Measure T, Measure E and Measure I funds are used as they were intended.
- To report to members of the community on the progress of Measure T, Measure E and Measure I projects.

## INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDITS

In Compliance with the requirements of Proposition 39, PSUSD engaged the CPA firm of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP, to perform an independent audit of the financial records of the bond program. A copy of the auditors' report for the year ending June 30, 2019 is located on the Palm Springs Unified School District website—Fiscal Services Financial Documents section.

In accordance with Education Code Section 15280(b), the auditors reported the following results of their procedures:

1. The general obligation bond fund expenditures were accounted for separately in the Building Fund of the District.
2. The net proceeds from the sale of the general obligation bonds were deposited into the appropriate accounts within the Building Fund.

The review of the expenditures for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 did not reveal any items that were paid from the general obligation bond funds that did not comply with the purpose of the Bonds that were approved by the registered voters of the District on November 2, 2004 and February 5, 2008.

The auditors also noted "there were no findings or recommendations reported."

In its review of the documents for the year ending June 30, 2019, the Committee has made the following findings:

	Yes	No
A. The committee met on a regular basis in compliance with State law.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. The committee has received reports, updates, information on the expenditure of the bond funds, and reviewed the expenditures made on projects authorized under the bond measure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Bond funds have been expended on the identified projects authorized by the bond measure.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. No Bond measure funds have been spent on teacher/administrator salaries or other school operating expenses.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. The annual fiscal and performance audit has been prepared by the school district and reviewed by the committee.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. The committee has received all necessary and requested technical and administrative assistance from the school district.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. The committee internet web site is operating and includes all required documentation and information.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Project Updates

## MEASURE E PROJECT UPDATES

There are a number of projects under way with the funds from Measure E. These projects are:



**Facilities Master Plan** - The completed 2019 Facility Master Plan is a long-term blueprint for meeting the changing facility needs of the district. Developed with input from the community, parents, and school and district staff, the plan contains a needs assessment for every school in the district. The plan contains recommendations on school reconfiguration and rehabilitation to align facilities best with future curriculum needs with the axiom of “*Instruction drives Construction*”. Projects are prioritized with the highest priority going to safety and security of campuses and buildings, creating engaging learning environments to support and advance teaching and learning environments, renovate and replace aging infrastructure.

**Phase II District-wide Fire Alarm Upgrades** – Existing fire alarm systems will be replaced at Cathedral City High, Della Lindley Elementary, Landau Elementary and Sunny Sands Elementary schools to enhance safety and meet current fire codes. The projects are in the Design Phase, with construction at the Elementary Schools scheduled for summer 2020 and the High School the following summer.

**DHSHS HVAC Addition at Locker Rooms** – This project involves the replacement of the existing Evaporative Coolers and Heaters on the Boys and Girls Locker Rooms with new HVAC units. Work is scheduled for summer 2020.

**Parking Lot Improvements at Rio Vista and Cathedral City Elementary Schools** – The parking lots at Rio Vista and Cathedral City Elementary schools will be renovated in summer 2020 to provide a safe and enhance flow of traffic for pick-ups and drop-offs of students. The bus lane at Rio Vista Elementary will be relocated to the west side of the campus to provide more queueing space for vehicles. Cathedral City Elementary will have changes to the bus lane and additional parking spaces added.

**Elementary Shade Canopies** – As continued awareness of the importance of having our younger students stay physically active while making accommodations to the Coachella Valley desert’s environment, most healthy children can safely participate in outdoor sports and other physical activities through a wide range of challenging warm to hot climatic conditions. Playfield shade structures will be installed at each of the district’s 16 elementary schools. The shade structures will be metal canopies approximately 30 feet by 60 feet. The structures have all been erected and are being utilized.



**District-wide heating and air conditioning replacements at Desert Hot Springs High and Cielo Vista Charter Schools** – A number of the existing air conditioning units at Desert Hot Springs High School (DHSHS) and Cielo Vista Charter (CVC) were over 20 years old and had reached their end of their useful life span. Units at CVC began being replaced during Thanksgiving Break and continued during the evenings and are now complete. Over the 2019 Winter Break, 30+ units were set over two days on the roof utilizing a helicopter at DHSHS. The helicopter was used for increased efficiency as a crane would have to be repositioned numerous times to reach all the units. All units were



connected and operational by the end of Winter Break and individual classroom unit replacement will continue during the evenings through the end of April 2020. This is the final phase of the Proposition 39 HVAC and Lighting Projects which were funded by a \$5 million dollar grant by the California Energy Commission. In order to maximize the energy savings, the District added bond funds to each project to ensure all fixtures and units at each of the schools could be replaced. Over the past 4 years HVAC or lighting upgrades took place at Desert Springs Middle, James Workman Middle, Mount San Jacinto High, Cielo Vista Charter, Palm Springs High, Cathedral City High, Vista Del Monte Elementary, Bella Vista Elementary, Rio Vista Elementary, Katherine Finchy Elementary, Cabot Yerxa Elementary, Cahuilla Elementary, Raymond Cree Middle and Cathedral City Elementary.

**Nellie Coffman Central Plant Upgrades** - Nellie Coffman Middle School’s (NCMS) central plant consists of electrical service and distribution gear for the entire campus; two cooling towers; and two chillers. The electrical gear and chillers were originally installed when the school was built in 1975. With a useful life of 30 years, the equipment was in need of replacement. The cooling towers had been replaced in the 1997, but needed replacement as its useful life was 20 years. Beginning in June 2019 the power was turned off to the campus and work began to replace Southern California Edison’s (SCE) main electrical gear to the campus, two cooling towers and one of the two chillers. The other chiller had been replaced as an emergency when it failed in 2017 and was reconnected to the new piping and pumps. The central plant upgrades were completed in August 2019 and will be commissioned over a twelve month period to assure efficient operations through all seasons.



**Parking Lot Improvements at Della Lindley Elementary School** – The parking lot at Della Lindley will be renovated in the summer of 2021 to provide safe path of travel for pedestrian and vehicles and enhance the flow of traffic for pick-ups and drop-offs of students. The bus lane will be relocated to the south side of the campus to provide more queueing space for vehicles and ten new parking spaces will be added.

**Agua Caliente Elementary Renovation** – The renovation of the existing Agua Caliente Elementary campus is complete. The existing school buildings were torn down and 60,000 square feet of new buildings have been constructed, including two-story classroom buildings. The administration and library area, multi-purpose building, classrooms and parking lots were re-arranged on the school site with the new entry of the school changing to the south portion of school site. The construction started in May 2017 and students moved into the new buildings in February 2019. Students, parents and staff celebrated the new school buildings by participating in a parade from the old school buildings to the new school buildings. The new building dedication ceremony was held in April 2019.

**Palm Springs High School Seismic Building Renovations** – Palm Springs High School Seismic project includes building upgrades to existing buildings built prior to 1980 that are in need of seismic and structural upgrades. The PSHS library and cafeteria were built in the 1940’s and have been identified as potential class 1 historic buildings, and the gymnasium built in 1980s have been reviewed for structural safety. The design for the structural requirements and building upgrades for the gymnasium, library and cafeteria have been approved by the Division of State Architect and are currently in the bidding phase. The construction is scheduled to begin in April 2020 and is broken into six phases to ensure no interference with the education needs of the students. Completion is slated for August 2022.

**Elementary School #17** – PSUSD owns land in western Desert Hot Springs, near interstate 62, north of Pierson Road. Plans will start for this school when enrollment near the school property is sufficient to require construction of a new elementary school.

**Palm Desert K - 8 School** – PSUSD owns land in eastside of Gateway and south of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the City of Palm Desert. Plans will start for this school when enrollment near the school property is sufficient to require construction of a new K – 8 school.

**Other** – Bond issuance costs, arbitrage fees and other non-construction costs are paid from Measure E bond funds.

**Proposition 39 HVAC and Lighting Projects** – The California Energy Commission through Proposition 39 has granted PSUSD roughly \$5 million dollars over a 5 year period to replace inefficient air conditioning units and lights fixtures. In order to maximize the energy savings, the District added bond funds to each project to ensure all fixtures and units at each of the schools can be replaced. These upgrades are taking place at James Workman Middle, Mount San Jacinto High, Cielo Vista Charter, Palm Springs High, Cathedral City High, Desert Hot Springs High, Desert Springs Middle, Vista Del Monte Elementary, Bella Vista Elementary, Rio Vista Elementary, Katherine Finchy Elementary, Cabot Yerxa Elementary, Cahuilla Elementary, Raymond Cree Middle and Cathedral City Elementary.



**Completed Projects:**

- Palm Springs High School Field Restroom Building
- Parking Lot Improvements at Two Bunch Palms and Katherine Finchy Elementary Schools
- Cathedral City High School Solar and re-roof project
- District-wide heating and air conditioning replacements at Palm Springs High, James Workman Middle and Mount San Jacinto High Schools
- Raymond Cree Portable Replacement
- District-wide Swimming Pool
- Roof Replacements at Rancho Mirage Elementary, Raymond Cree and James Workman Middle Schools
- District-wide Fire and Intrusion Alarm Upgrades
- Palm Springs High Auditorium Renovation-Seismic Upgrades
- Raymond Cree Restroom and Locker room Renovations
- District-wide Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP)
- Rancho Mirage High School Exterior Restroom Building
- Bubbling Wells parking lot revisions
- Palm Springs High Field House and Concession Building
- Raymond Cree Chiller and Cooling Tower Replacement Project
- Edward Wenzlaff Education Center Renovation
- Bella Vista Elementary School
- District-wide Playground Upgrades
- Rancho Mirage High School
- Palm Springs High New Band Room
- Cabot Yerxa Elementary School
- Painted Hills Middle School
- Cathedral City High Stadium Snack Bar, Restrooms and Girls Varsity Softball Dugouts
- New Service Center
- Nellie Coffman Middle 100 Wing Renovation
- Nellie Coffman Middle Seismic Retrofit

**Citizen Oversight Committee Annual Report Measure E - Ongoing**

Active Projects	Gross Expenditures thru 09/30/2018	Estimate to Complete	Total Project	Less: Approved State Funding	Estimated Bond Expenditures	Comments
Cathedral City E.S. Parking Lot	\$ 97,818	\$ 1,752,182	\$ 1,850,000		\$ 1,850,000	
ELEM Shade Structures	\$ 2,611,883	\$ 688,117	\$ 3,300,000	\$ -	\$ 3,300,000	
Facilities Master Plan Update	\$ 255,520	\$ 194,480	\$ 450,000	\$ -	\$ 450,000	
DW Drinking Fountains / Hydration Stations	\$ 1,494,975	\$ 505,025	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	
Maintenance & Operations Bond Projects	\$ 8,574,867	\$ 2,225,133	\$ 10,800,000	\$ -	\$ 10,800,000	
Nellie Coffman Chiller	\$ 2,125,283	\$ 3,624,717	\$ 5,750,000	\$ -	\$ 5,750,000	
Palm Springs H.S. Seismic	\$ 2,319,742	\$ 39,480,258	\$ 41,800,000	\$ -	\$ 41,800,000	
DLA 500 BLDG	\$ 79,224	\$ 1,120,776	\$ 1,200,000	\$ -	\$ 1,200,000	4 million DEV. fees
Prop 39 HVAC and Lighting	\$ 793,046	\$ 3,993,954	\$ 4,787,000	\$ -	\$ 4,787,000	
Other Bond Costs	\$ 232,626	\$ 17,500	\$ 250,126	\$ -	\$ 250,126	ongoing
Rio Vista E.S. Parking Lot	\$ 100,767	\$ 2,049,233	\$ 2,150,000	\$ -	\$ 2,150,000	
Two Bunch Palms E.S. Parking Lot	\$ 1,132,841	\$ 517,159	\$ 1,650,000	\$ -	\$ 1,650,000	
Completed Projects	\$ 297,150,669	\$ 1,552,270	\$ 298,702,938	\$ 75,885,515	\$ 222,817,423	
<b>Total Measure E</b>	<b>\$ 316,969,260</b>	<b>\$ 57,720,804</b>	<b>\$ 374,690,064</b>	<b>\$ 75,885,515</b>	<b>\$ 298,804,549</b>	

Measure E Funds received	\$ 304,690,000
Interest earned	\$ 7,276,148
Refunds	\$ 125,247
Current and Complete Projects	\$ (298,804,549)
Approved Future Projects	\$ (5,800,000)
uncommitted Measure E Funds	<b>\$ 7,486,846</b>

**Approved Future Project Budgets:**

Rancho Mirage K-8	on hold
Desert Hot Springs new elementary land	\$ 2,000,000
Fire Alarm Replacement Phase 2	\$ 3,800,000
DHSHS Locker Room HVAC	\$ 800,000
DSL Parking Lot	\$ 1,050,000
	<b>\$ 5,800,000</b>

State REIMB. For Bond Projects \$ 7,657,315 Cash deposited to Fund 40

## CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE UPCOMING MEETING DATES

February 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm

May 14, 2020 and October 12, 2020

Palm Springs Unified School District—District Administration Center

### Desert Springs Middle School New Solar Canopies

An additional \$1,602,073 Grant from South Coast Air Quality Management District AB 1318 Mitigation Fees Fund was awarded to the PSUSD for the installation of solar panels at Desert Springs Middle School in January 2017. The grant funds will cover the cost of a solar system which includes the following:

System Size 460 kW/DC

Annual Production of 793,000 kWh

1314 350-W SunPower panels

The solar system is sized to provide an estimated 77% offset of the school's electrical usage and estimated annual savings of \$140,664.

The solar canopy arrays are located in the front parking lot allowing for shaded parking and on the sports field hardcourt area allowing for shade for students on hot days.

The array installation was completed in January 2018.



### District Solar Projects

In 2013, PSUSD was awarded \$3,000,000 in grant funds from the AB 1318 Emissions Mitigation Fees (EMF) Funds distributed by South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for three schools that are within the 6 mile zone of the Sentinel Peaker Plant.

Since May 2014, with the installation of 2,252 solar panels, PSUSD has saved an estimated \$332,899 in producing its own power. In addition PSUSD has received \$160,547 in rebates.

## **Palm Springs Unified School District Board of Education**



**John Gerardi**  
Board President  
Trustee Area 5



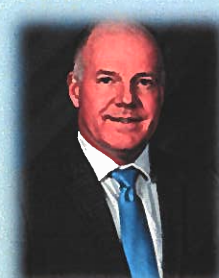
**Richard Clapp**  
Board Member  
Trustee Area 2



**Madonna Gerrell**  
Board Member  
Trustee Area 1



**Karen Cornett**  
Board Clerk  
Trustee Area 3



**Timothy S. Wood**  
Board Member  
Trustee Area 4