

**REGULAR MEETING
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
OF THE PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

February 10, 2020 – 6:00 pm

Meeting Location
Palm Springs Unified School District
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Asia Horton.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Horton led the pledge of allegiance.

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

Roll call was conducted at 6:04 pm and a quorum established by President Horton.

Members present: Mark Abercrombie
Scott Fenton
Asia Horton (President)
Jessica Huerta

Members absent: Diane Ross (Vice President)

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

Public Present: None

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

COC Special Meeting Minutes and Regular Meeting Minutes from September 23, 2019. The committee unanimously agreed.

6. **COC VACANCIES**

President Horton reminded the committee that there are currently 2 seats that are being recruited for:

- Parent/Guardian of a PSUSD Student and Active in PTO/PTA/PTG/ Site Council
- Taxpayer Organization Representative

7. **BOND EXPENDITURE REPORTS**

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

8. **UPDATE ON DISTRICT FACILITIES PROJECTS**

Julie Arthur gave an update on the current projects:

Agua Caliente Elementary School

Project is complete. New classrooms have been occupied for 1 year. The new playground is fully functional, since October. We are looking at getting a crosswalk in the parking lot to aide with student safety.

DHSHS Locker Room HVAC

The locker rooms at Desert Hot Springs HS currently only have swamp coolers. The (3) other High Schools in our district have a HVAC system in place. This is a big project that requires the Division of State Architect (DSA) approval and will have to go out to bid. High school gyms are used year round for athletic programs, so scheduling a project of this magnitude takes planning. Projected to begin next summer. Prop 39 funds will be used for this project. The drawings are in finishing stages.

District Wide Prop 39 HVAC and Lighting Projects

The district qualified for 5.5 million in grant funds with 50/50 match funding. We had to submit a plan to meet a payback time and energy savings within 8 years. Projects include LED lighting, HVAC unit replacement.

- Desert Hot Springs HS will begin over winter break. AC units will be replaced on top of the gym and administration offices.
- Working on the lighting and HVAC at Cielo Vista Charter.
- Finished projects at James Workman MS.

DLA 500 Building

This project is on hold. This building will be used for displacement during the PSHS seismic project.

[The DLA 500 building was reviewed structurally and it was determined the costs to mitigate the existing building may be better spent to replace with a smaller more classroom/media flexible space. Upon completion of the PSHS seismic project, this project will be next in line].

Elementary Parking Lot Renovation projects

- Cathedral City Elementary – project in the bidding stage.
- Katherine Finchy Elementary – completed.
- Two Bunch Palms Elementary – completed. Minimal repairs needed due to the February 14, 2019 rain storm.
- Rio Vista Elementary – project in the bidding stage. Project should begin during spring break.
- Della Lindley Elementary – project is in the design stage.

Elementary Shade Structures

This project is complete. All school sites will also be getting 9 trees to provide additional shade for the students while out on the playground and will require a separate irrigation system. This will go out to bid later in the school year. We have received positive feedback from all of the principals.

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.

Fire/Alarm System Replacement Phase 2

Complete system upgrades are needed to bring outdated fire/alarm systems up to code. The multi-site project completion projection is set for summer 2020.

Engineer is working to make systems an open source so the district can maintain them once installed.

M&O Bond Projects

Working on asphalt resurfacing projects and roof repairs.

Roofing projects complete at:

- James Workman Middle School
- Rancho Mirage Elementary School
- Raymond Cree Middle School

Nellie Coffman Chiller

Project is complete. The system was up and running 1 week prior to the 2019-2020 school year open. There are some engineering issues and we are working on a fix.

Palm Springs High School Restroom Building

The new restroom building was installed on the blacktop near the baseball fields and tennis courts on the west end of campus. This project is complete.

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 are in need of seismic upgrades:

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

Project is out for bid. The final price will go to the Board for approval in March. Project will begin at the end of March.

- Relocate equipment for cell tower.
- All storage containers will be out and purging waste.

- Library is scheduled to move when school ends in June and projected to be back up in January.
 - Member Abercrombie asked if portables will be used on campus during ongoing construction. Julie stated that there will not be portables.
- Kitchen/Cafeteria will be down during the first semester.
 - Member Huerta asked about a culinary kitchen or if food trucks would be a possibility for students. Brian stated that a culinary kitchen is not possible at this site and Nutrition Services is working on student meals.
- Gym/Mini Gym construction will begin in March on the mini gym.

Julie stated that the Board of Education approved modernization for the following sites:

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

Building age plays a part in determining these types of projects, we use the 25 year mark or sites that have never been renovated. The sites listed above are the same schools that are on the list for complete fire alarm replacement.

Brian asked members if they have any questions:

- Member Horton asked how the district fares in getting qualified contractors and what is the biggest hindrance?
 - Julie stated that the district is going out early to get started on projects before the heat of summer, it is difficult to get contractors to work in the summer months, especially on roofing and asphalt projects.
- Member Fenton asked if the district typically will get the same contractors coming back to bid jobs?
 - Julie stated that we do our best to keep in good standing so they want to come back.
 - Discussion ensued regarding how the district puts out their best effort to attract good contractors to want to do work for the district.
- Member Horton asked if the district has to follow the same bidding structure as the rest of the state districts.
 - Julie stated that the rules are very stringent.
- Member Abercrombie asked what the district considers small works projects.
 - Julie stated that anything over \$15K goes out to bid. Emergency repairs and certain issues can get waivers, (we work with a disaster company that can be called within hours of the disaster).
 - Julie also noted that the district has been going out to different areas to solicit bids.

9. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE COC MEETING DATE

The next COC Regular Board meeting will be held Monday, May 11, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the District Administration Center.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Member Abercrombie made a motion to adjourn and Member Huerta second. The committee was unanimously in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 649 pm.

Minutes approved at May 14, 2020, Regular Meeting

**see below*

President Asia Horton

Note: Due to COVID-19 the Citizens' Oversight Committee Regular meeting on May 14, 2020, was conducted via Zoom.

The above minutes were approved by consensus vote by all committee member present.