

SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS
PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
District Office
133 Mission Street, Ste. 100
Santa Cruz, CA
Meeting of December 3, 2019
Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Matt Farrell at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office. Roll call was taken.

Attendance at Meeting:

Rob Darrow, Representative at Large
Matt Farrell, Senior Organization Representative
Carol McKee, Elementary Parent Representative
Isabelle Tuncer, Secondary Parent Representative

Absent:

Linnaea Holgers, Business Community Representative

Staff:

Jim Monreal, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, SCCS
Catherine Meyer-Johnson, Executive Assistant, Business Services, SCCS

Public Visitors:

None

Public Comment

None

Draft Minutes for 9/30/19 PTOC Meeting

The draft minutes for PTOC's meeting of 9/30/19 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved. (MSP: McKee/Tuncer/4-0).

Agenda

Asst. Supt. Jim Monreal introduced himself to Members, and spoke of his past experience with PTOC when he worked for the District in 2015-16, including his participation in the response to the Grand Jury concerns and the Parcel Tax renewal campaign.

He reviewed the agenda. Materials distributed included: the agenda, draft Minutes for the PTOC meeting of 9/30/19, 2018-19 Unaudited Actuals for Measures I, J, O and P, 2019-20 Budget Summaries for Measures I, J, O and P, and Measure J expenditures to date for 2019-2020.

2018-19 Parcel Tax Budget Summaries

The Parcel Tax Budget Unaudited Actuals (Expenditure) Summaries for Measures I, J, O and P were reviewed. Discussion followed.

- Staff aim to match budgeted expenses to the revenue expected for the year. Changes can result from agreements negotiated with bargaining groups throughout the year.
- Secondary sites incur greater expenses than elementary, and require more augmentation. We try to maintain equity between the sites.
- Measure P programs' expenses are paid first. The remainder left of Measure P revenue is applied to salaries to keep class size low. Accounting maintains a list of the teachers affected by Measure P, including 14 Transitional Kindergarten teachers and 45 Kindergarten through Grade 5 teachers. The State contributes some funding for Kindergarten through 3rd grade. The certificated bargaining agreement also

spells out class size. The result is that Measure P funds are totally expended each year. In 2014-15 the General Fund contributed to smaller class sizes. Since then the elementary student population has declined, eliminating the General Fund contribution. Salary raises and increased benefit costs add to expenses.

- The other parcel tax measures are more tied to programs.
- Asst. Supt. Monreal commented that Santa Cruz remains committed to maintaining the educational goals of the districts. Other districts may direct their efforts to bonds and facilities.
- The District auditors will visit in February and March to validate the Districts accounts. They will check on the appropriate use of funds from the parcel tax.

2019-20 Parcel Tax Budget Summaries

Members reviewed the projected budgets for Measures I, J O and P. The District tries to match expected revenue to the programs supported.

- A 2% increase in salaries was recently approved. STRS and PERS rates are set by the State. PERS recently increased by .1% for classified.
- The total FTE for Measure I is 12.5, compared to 5.79 for Measure P. There are fewer benefits costs for the art and music teachers supported by Measure P. Benefits costs are approximately \$30k/year for a classified staff member, compared to \$14-15k/year for a certificated staff member. Some positions are funded from other sources than parcel tax.
- Measure I supports certificated librarians. SCCS is one of just a few school districts with certificated librarians. Measure I funds librarians, library assistants and textbook clerks. Measure I also supports counselors. Measure I cannot completely cover the costs. The General Fund augments 33.2% of the cost.

Librarians

Previously, it was suggested that a librarian be invited to attend a PTOC meeting. Asst. Supt. Monreal said that an invitation would be sent to PTOC members when librarians were scheduled to present to the Board.

It was commented that Members enjoyed hearing from the Life Lab teacher who attended the last PTOC meeting. Members felt that they can better advocate for future parcel taxes if they know about the work being done in the programs supported by parcel taxes.

Future Meetings:

Members discussed the possibility of scheduling meetings earlier in the day. All agreed that they were available during workday hours. Members would like to know when Board presentations are scheduled, and would welcome the opportunity to interact with the Board. The public can address the Board at the beginning of Board meetings.

Members requested that agenda packets have their pages numbered. A draft of the final report will be presented at the next meeting. Year to date expenditures for Measures O and/or P will be discussed.

Asst. Supt. Monreal invited Members to contact him with any questions they might have later.

Upcoming meeting dates are 3/3/20 and 4/21/20. (Note: since the 12/3/19 meeting, the 3/3/20 meeting has been postponed to 3/10/20.)

Adjournment

There being no further business to be discussed, upon a motion, made and approved (MSP: McKee/Tuncer/3-0), the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Monreal
Asst. Superintendent, Business Services
Santa Cruz City Schools

Catherine Meyer-Johnson
Executive Asst., Business Services
Santa Cruz City Schools