

Oxnard Union High School District  
Measure H Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee  
Minutes of the Initial Meeting

**Date:** March 22, 2011

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.

**Place:** OUHSD Board Room  
220 South K Street  
Oxnard, California 93030

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<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Members Absent</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Guests</b>
William Belcher	Efren Gorre	Bob Carter	Debra Creadick
Sol Chooljian	Howard Hoover	Bill Dabbs	Bill Meier
Patricia Lerner	Sandy Bieler Rao	Stephen McFarland	Carolyn Triebold
Norma Maidel	John Reardon	Chick Adams	
Rebecca Pecsok	Claudio Sandoval		
David Stiling	David Rodriguez		
Adolfo Murillo, Jr.	Rochelle Sullivan*		
David Covarrubias			

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CALL TO ORDER

At 4:55 p.m., Dr. Carter opened the meeting of the Oxnard Union High School District Measure H Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. He passed out the agenda and a Brown Act pamphlet to those in attendance. A packet of Measure "H" Projects was given to committee members as well.

Dr. Carter passed around correspondence from John Reardon regarding his not being present for this meeting. He also passed around a letter from Rochelle Sullivan stating that she had to disqualify herself from being a committee member due to her being employed part time by the district.

Dr. Carter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience members were invited to address the committee. Debra Creadick announced her concern about the lack of committee action on the building of the new schools outlined in the bond and also expressed her concern about accountability of the district to the public. Bill Meier expressed his concern about the spending of the bond money and his desire for a new high school to be built in Camarillo. Carolyn Triebold expressed concern about the direction of the school board and questioned if it is fiscally responsible to build a magnet school.

Dr Carter asked committee members to introduce themselves. The agenda was re-ordered to elect new officers for the committee. A discussion was begun about the role of the committee, the bylaws, the opinion of the bond counsel on the current status of the committee and the absence of several committee members. It was agreed upon that the committee would appoint an interim chair and secretary to run this meeting and then elect formal officers at a future meeting. Mr. Belcher made a motion to elect Patricia Lerner as interim Chair. Norma Maidel seconded. Motion carried 8-0. Norma Maidel made a motion to elect Rebecca Pecsok as interim Secretary. Patricia Lerner seconded. Motion carried 8-0.

## NEW BUSINESS

Patricia Lerner called the new committee meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Mr. Chick Adams, Bond Counsel, was asked to clarify the role of our committee. He explained that we are under the auspices of Proposition 39 that specifies that bond proceeds are only to be spent on items that are stated in the bond. It prohibits funds being spent on teacher salaries, although staff time spent on bond related tasks can be paid. The board of trustees makes the decisions on what is funded and the committee makes sure these are proper expenditures. All expenditures require a financial and performance audit. The committee reviews these audits. Mr. Adams stated that ideally, the committee should be shown projects at the early stages of consideration.

The staff contacts for the committee will be Bob Carter, Bill Dabbs and Steve McFarland.

Sol Chooljian asked Mr. Adams if items on the Measure “H” Projects sheet are allowable expenditures. Mr. Adams responded that they are allowable.

Patricia Lerner asked to consider the bylaws and terms of office for committee members. Mr. Covarrubias made a motion to send out a letter with the bylaws requesting input from members and then schedule a meeting for adoption of bylaws. Mr. Murillo seconded. Motion carried 8-0. Norma Maidel made a motion to elect interim officers and establish terms of office after adoption of bylaws. Rebecca Pecsok seconded. Motion carried 8-0.

Patricia Lerner asked Mr. Chooljian about his association with a taxpayer’s organization and if he was willing to a representative for said organization on this committee. A discussion began and it was recommended that the OUHSD board consider nominating a representative from either the Oxnard or Camarillo Chamber of Commerce to sit on the committee. Mr. Covarrubias made a motion to research a representative for this purpose and make the recommendation to the OUHSD board. Mr. Chooljian seconded. Motion carried 8-0.

Sol Chooljian questioned Mr. Adams about the bylaws. Mr. Adams looked them over and declared that they seemed to be generic.

Mr. Adams addressed the committee regarding Exhibit A – Ballot Measure Full Text. He brought up the issue of building a new pool at Adolfo Camarillo High School and if it is an allowable item for bond funds. He referred to the Foothill-DeAnza case which allowed a new pool to be built as an “upgrade” to an existing athletic facility in a broad sense even though a pool was not specifically listed in the text of the bond measure. He also stated that the solar projects were considered an electrical system upgrade. He stated that there is a “plain meaning rule” that says that words have their ordinary meaning.

Sol Chooljian questioned that according to the handout, \$50 million has already been sold out of the bond funds. Mr. Adams replied that this was the case and that the solar projects and pools had already been approved. Patricia Lerner responded that we need to get our committee together and get an audit of where the bond funds have been spent. Apparently, some Series A & B bonds had been issued in 2008 for short-term spending and then were reimbursed by Measure H funds. This had been done with NO OVERSIGHT!

David Stiling asked about matching funds. Dr. Carter stated that matching funds are only available to schools if they are overcrowded and have more students than specified capacity. OUHSD is in this position and so would qualify. Patricia Lerner asked for clarification on “High School #1” and “High School #2” listed in the bond. High School #1 is intended to be built in the Oxnard area. High School #2 is intended to be built in Camarillo (at this time an “academy”). At this time, the need for a new school is in Oxnard. Mr. Covarrubias requested that a spreadsheet be given to the committee with figures to help us understand where funds are slated to be spent from the bond. Dr. Carter stated that projects must be prioritized, worked on, and then submitted to the state for matching funds and that all plans must be finalized in order to be submitted.

Patricia Lerner suggested the committee go to the OUHSD board of trustees and let them know that we are not pleased that bond funds were issued without the oversight committee being formed legally. She volunteered to attend the board meeting on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> to make a statement.

Patricia Lerner asked if it was necessary for committee members to sign conflict of interest forms. Mr. Adams stated that is necessary and those they would be provided to us at the next meeting.

Committee members agreed that we would have our next meeting on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm to 8:00pm.

Rebecca Pecsok asked to be supplied with email addresses for committee members and OUHSD staff members.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, Patricia Lerner adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Rebecca Pecsok  
Interim Secretary