

**SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS**  
**PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
District Office  
133 Mission Street, Ste. 100  
Santa Cruz, CA  
Meeting of September 30, 2019  
Minutes

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office. Roll call was taken. Asst. Supt. Patrick Gaffney reviewed the agenda.

**Attendance at Meeting:**

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

**Absent:** None

**Staff:**

Patrick Gaffney, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, SCCS  
Catherine Meyer-Johnson, Executive Assistant, Business Services, SCCS

**Public Visitors:**

Jane Forbes, Westlake Life Lab Teacher

**Public Comment**

None.

**Agenda**

Asst. Supt. Patrick Gaffney reviewed the agenda. Materials distributed included: the agenda, draft Minutes for the PTOC meeting of 5/7/19, 2018-19 Actuals Expenditures Summaries for Parcel Tax Measures I, J, O and P, 2019-20 Budget Summaries for Measures I, J and P and Measure I expenditures to date for 2019-2020.

**Draft Minutes for 5/7/19 PTOC Meeting**

The draft minutes for PTOC's meeting of 5/7/19 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved. (MSP: McKee/Darrow/4-0).

**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.

- Members asked if the actual expenditure totals for 2018-19 were close to the amount forecasted.
- It was noted that General Fund augmentation seems to be increasing annually since 2015-16. The parcel taxes were originally proposed based on the anticipated cost of the programs. The challenge is to build in escalation. Over time, step and column increases cause the cost of the program to increase. It costs more to keep that experienced talent. The District can consider changing the amount of the parcel tax when it is time to renew. The Board will have to decide whether the program allocations can be continued.
- It was noted that General Fund augmentation for Measure I (secondary) for 2018-19 is more than twice the General Fund augmentation for Measure J (elementary).

### **2019-20 Parcel Tax Budget Summaries**

Members reviewed the projected budgets for Measures I, J and P. The Measure O Budget Summary will be provided at the next PTOC meeting.

- Measure P augments class size reduction. What positions are funded for class size reduction? Why does Measure P balance to zero? Why is there no General Fund augmentation for Measure P?

### **Measure I Expenditures to Date for 2019-20**

The Measure I Expenditure report shows only one expense (other than salaries and benefits). That expense is the OPALS library software.

### **Future Meetings:**

The dates for future meetings were discussed. The tentative meeting dates set are: 12/3/19, 3/3/20 and 4/21/20.

Vice Chair Rob Darrow suggested that it would be interesting and valuable to hear from staff whose programs are supported by the parcel taxes. A different group could be invited to each meeting.

Jane Forbes, a Life Lab teacher at Westlake who was attending the meeting, said she would be happy to provide information to PTOC. Jane explained that each elementary school has a slightly different Life Lab program. At some sites, like Westlake, the PTA funds extra Life Lab staff hours beyond those paid for by Measure P. At Gault, the PTA funded extra hours to ensure that the new Life Lab teacher had adequate time after the former Life Lab teacher retired. Life Lab curriculum is focused on the new science standards. Students plant, harvest, cook plants harvested, and learn about nutrition and the insects who live in the gardens. At Gault, students participate in the Ocean Guardians project, starting native plants at the school and then transplanting them to Seabright Beach. Some Life Lab sites are in flux. Bay View's garden was impacted by bond improvement projects. The Life Labs are celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The public is invited to visit Life Labs at the elementary schools on October 19.

Members asked whether Measure P funded Life Labs at the middle schools. Is Measure P for K-5 or K-6? Middle Schools include Grade 6. Branciforte Middle School has had a hard time getting their Life Lab garden up and running. Mission Hill Middle School does not have a big enough campus to accommodate a garden. Jane commented that she had served on the first PTOC committee. Previous to the parcel tax, all the elementary schools' gardens were funded by the PTA. The original Measure P included the elementary schools only for Life Lab. When Measure P was renewed, it was decided not to increase the tax.

It was proposed that elementary and secondary library media teachers be invited to the next meeting. It was commented that the District is one of only 16 districts in the State that have certificated librarians, and that students benefit by learning how to use the library.

### **Asst. Supt. Patrick Gaffney Announcement**

Asst. Supt. Pat Gaffney announced that he had been offered a position with another district and would be leaving SCCS effective 10/1/19. He thanked members for their commitment and participation on PTOC.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Gaffney  
Asst. Superintendent, Business Services  
Santa Cruz City Schools

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