

**Maricopa Unified School District  
Bond Oversight Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, July 31, 2012  
Maricopa School Library**

**Attendance:** Committee members present were: Alberta Stubblefield, Susie Snedden, John Crump, Robert Teel, Kristin Blanco

Committee members absent: Jose Medel, Tina Wagner, Walter Wisniewski

**Opening Items:** The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Alberta Stubblefield at 6:02 P.M., followed by the flag salute.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2012, were read and approved subject to an amendment which added a word to the following sentence "Dr. Meier said that the pool and gym projects are bonded, and the architects assured him that the chosen new gym location is the best available in terms of preventing settling." Motion by John Crump; Second by Rob Teel: Motion approved.

**Public Comments:** Rob Teel asked Dr. Meier if the water had yet been turned off in order to check for system leaks. Dr. Meier said that he and Darwin hadn't figured out the logistics. John Crump recommended shutting the water off overnight and checking the meter in the morning, and possibly doing it in stages by isolating water lines. Richard Snedden suggested contacting the West Kern Water Agency for assistance.

**Bond Financial Audit Reports:** Dr. Meier reported that he had sent the Bond Committee's requests for corrections to the auditor who conducted the bond 2004-2011 bond audits, but that the auditor said that is not commonly accepted auditing practice and that there would be no material change. Dr. Meier suggested that the Committee could address the corrections in its annual reports. Susie Snedden expressed concern that because the auditor omitted and misrepresented key information regarding the Oversight Committee, the discrepancies in the financial statements between the Kern County Treasurer's office and the audit reports indicated a need for a second audit of the financial portion of the bond fund for the years 2008 to 2010. Dr. Meier said that a second audit will cost the district money, but that it is up to the Board to decide.

Susie Snedden moved and John Crump seconded that the Committee:

- 1) approve the Bond Oversight Committee's Draft Annual Reports to the Board and Public for 2004 to 2011, attached to the Roberts and James, CPA audits for those same years, and
  - 2) recommend that the district hire a separate auditing firm to conduct financial audits for the years 2008 through 2011, in particular to provide a record that accounts for any bond money that was "borrowed" by the district for other district projects, and
  - 3) recommend that the Board approve the separate auditing firm to conduct the bond audit for 2012.
- Motion approved.

John Crump asked that Dr. Meier provide financial reports and Board minutes to the Committee and other information that will clarify the Committee's duties required by Prop 39.

Dr. Meier said that he will add approval of a separate auditing firm on the Board's September 13 agenda.

**Annual Report to the Board / Public:** At the September 13, 2012 Board meeting, Susie Snedden will present the Annual Reports to the Board / Public for the years 2004-2011, on behalf of the Committee. Alberta Stubblefield asked Dr. Meier if the Board had approved Prop 39 bond policy and he said it will be on the Board's agenda. Dr. Meier reported that the Committee's Annual Reports to the Board/Public will be posted on the district's website along with any other pertinent bond information.

**Bond Financial Report:** Committee members asked Dr. Meier to provide them with a spreadsheet to show bond activity. He said that Debbie Pomisino will provide a detailed spreadsheet and also the project timeline sheet and projected costs spreadsheet to the Committee members.

**Projects / Timeline:** Dr. Meier said that the bids on the pool and gym projects closed July 11. The Board held a special meeting to approve the bids for most of the major contractors; however, they are still pursuing bids on some of the subcontracted projects.

The demolition and earthwork can be done, but the rest of the project is stalled because the state's DSA reviewer refuses to approve the project because he is continuing to require nonstructural changes to the proposal. Dr. Meier stated that it places Maricopa School unduly in the spotlight over nonstructural issues and he does not know when the district can expect the project to be approved. He said that the architect firm, Klassen Corp. was doing a good job and that he will continue to assist Klassen to move the DSA forward.

The cost of removing the asbestos from the old tennis courts and old pool cost \$77,000 above budget. The removal should be accomplished by August 10, then begins two weeks of earthwork (leveling, etc.) Dr. Meier presented a timeline for completion of the new pool and gym by the end of May or into June, 2013; however, he again reiterated that all plans hinge on DSA approval. Dr. Meier said that he will mail or email the Committee members the gym construction timeline and the Board-approved bids spreadsheet.

Barry Lindaman stated that Dr. Meier was hired by the Board to market the school to increase attendance, particularly at the high school level which dropped from approximately 115 students in 2007 to 78 in the current year. To help accomplish this objective, Dr. Meier has established a Strategic Plan for the District which offers different academic/ vocational pathways for students to choose, provides opportunities for Maricopa students to visit other schools with successful programs, encourages Maricopa students to share with other high school aged students through word-of-mouth about Maricopa's school plan and also markets the program through brochures and the school website.

Dr. Meier reported that the Board approved the expenditure of bond money to fund a list of projects in addition to the pool and gym that will be done concurrently with the pool and gym projects. Those projects include: laptop computers for students and staff; food service and culinary arts and health club equipment and improvements; campus camera upgrades/repairs; upgrading wood shop equipment, graphic arts, journalism and print shop equipment and upgrades; exterior painting and electronic school signage.

He said that the Board has established a contingency fund of approximately \$150,000. He also confirmed that no loans would be made from bond funds or into the bond.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. by Chair Alberta Stubblefield.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Snedden, Secretary