

WEST HILLS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
9900 Cody Street
Coalinga, CA 93210

MINUTES OF THE CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE FOR SFID #1
December 15, 2009

7:00 p.m.

North District Center
1511 Ninth Street
Room 7
Firebaugh, CA 93622

COC Attendees:

Miguel Arias and Oscar Sablan

Other Attendees:

Ken Stoppenbrink, Willard Lewallen, Kevin Cobb, Richard Treece, Byron Woods, and Marcel Hetu

1. Call to Order

Miguel Arias led the group in the Flag Salute. No public comments were made at this time.

2. Action Items

There was not a quorum at this evening's meeting so no action was taken at this time.

Willard Lewallen did mention that he had worked on the modification of the bylaws as requested in a previous meeting.

3. Information/Discussion/Presentations

A. Property Acquisition

Willard Lewallen stated that the building south of NDC was in escrow. Oscar Sablan mentioned that he is carrying the mortgage to that building, and, cannot be involved in any decision-making conversations due to a possible conflict of interest. Willard Lewallen said he will keep the group abreast of the progress made through the escrow process.

B. Measure Q Projects, Cash Flow and Expenditures

Kevin Cobb discussed the progress of the different projects that have been worked on during the year. Project 418, bathrooms, has been completed and resulted in a \$36,796 over expenditure. This was due to the rental of outside modular bathrooms, including one for disabled individuals. Kevin also mentioned that he had included a "remarks" column on the spreadsheet AP Architects uses to identify projects, total costs, and budget/funding sources. This additional column will help

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everyone understand the progress that is being made for each project, and any other additional information that better describes what is occurring at different times of the year. Kevin also described what was going to take place with the parking areas that will be completed on both sides of the present Center.

A decision had been made to work on completing one of the parking areas, while the other one remains the same. The northern parking lot (between the Center and CDC complex), which is now an empty lot, will probably be the first completed. Once that is available to be used, then the southern parking lot will be completed.

Miguel Arias questioned why many dollars were spent on the present NDC building. Willard Lewallen stated that the present site will probably be around for five to seven years since we still need more dollars to pay for the new building. Therefore, the students and staff that will be at NDC during this time will need to be in a building that has bathrooms that are more suited to the increasing student population. The bathrooms needed to be in compliance with all standards for the disabled. The building also needed better security (alarm system, lighting, etc.), and a better AC/heating system. Both Ken Stoppenbrink and Marcel Hetu mentioned that there was a very concerted effort to minimize the costs that were spent on renovating the building.

C. Proposed New Building

Willard Lewallen discussed the following activities related to the construction of the new building:

- The NDC Facility Planning Committee had been meeting bi-monthly to discuss the design and features of the new building;
- COC members visited the Madera Community College Center recently to get ideas of what to include in the new building with more ideas to come following a visit to the Willows International Community College Center in Clovis.

Oscar Sablan asked what would happen with the CDC site, will a permanent building be built. Willard Lewallen stated that at this time there are no plans for a permanent building. Oscar stated that his daughter-in-law was working on a \$1,000,000 grant to start a pre-school in Firebaugh, and that he thought it would be a good idea to explore the possibility of a partnership with WHC on such a proposal. Willard Lewallen agreed to follow-up with Director of Child Development Centers. He will work with both Kathy and Stacy Sablan to see what could be done with such a partnership.

D. Update on Outreach/Learning Centers

Willard Lewallen explained to the group that he would like to utilize a new instructional model called "Streaming." Streaming would be used at new Learning Centers in Mendota and San Joaquin, as well as in Huron and Avenal. One of the biggest advantages is that it allows student access to the internet so they can pull down an instructor's lessons at any time and as many times as needed. Miguel Arias said he was happy to see WHC working further on the educational needs of Mendota citizens as this was a commitment made during the Bond campaign. Willard Lewallen

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also mentioned that he had met with both the City Managers of San Joaquin and Mendota to work on an MOU that would allow the cities and WHC to partner together.

A 1000 square foot building will be used in San Joaquin, and Mendota has come up with a 400 square foot building. It was recommended that Willard Lewallen work with the Mendota School Superintendent to acquire a school site, probably at the middle school. Willard stated he would email the Superintendent tomorrow.

E. Budget and Enrollment Updates

Willard Lewallen and Ken Stoppenbrink both discussed the budget challenges that WHC has and will face during the 2009-10 school year and future years. Over \$7,000,000 dollars have been cut from the District budget during the past two years and nearly \$8,000,000 has been cut over a three-year period. An additional \$1.5 million in cuts will need to take place this year.

All efforts have been made to save jobs and programs. However, it was mentioned that nearly 50% of courses offered one year ago are no longer being offered. Despite this situation, WHCCD is still seeing enrollment increases, but there are no extra dollars for more students. Classes fill up sooner and WHC has become more efficient and effective in the student-faculty ratio per its courses. By implementing this important practice the district should be helped in the future. Miguel Arias and Oscar Sablan also commented on the challenges that the k-12 schools have been facing while dealing with dwindling budgets, possible personnel cuts, and less grants to support programs.

4. Announcements and Upcoming Events

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2010, at NDC, at 7:00 p.m. The Facilities Planning Committee will continue to visit other Centers accumulating more ideas.

5. Committee Members Comments and Requests

There were no further comments or requests.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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