



INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Friday, March 12, 2021
Via ZOOM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by ICOC member Hunsaker

Members Present: Michael Hunsaker, Sarah Rosenfield, Margo Cobian, and Rachel Alazar

Members Absent: Glen Winn, Beverly Ann Tolbert, and Athenia Luciano

District Representatives: Jack Kahn, Ph.D., Acting Superintendent/President
Ambur Borth Vice President, Finance & Administrative Services
Chris Miller, Director, Facilities
Dennis Astl, Manager, Construction & Facilities Planning
Julie Lanthier Bandy, Director, Communications, Marketing & Public Affairs
Heather Sutton, Acting Executive Assistant, Finance & Administrative Services

2. Introductions

ICOC members introduced themselves to Ambur Borth, the new Vice President of Finance & Administrative Services.

3. Public Comments

There were no Public Comment speakers.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 4, 2020 meeting were approved. (MSC: SR/MC)

5. District Reports

- a. President's Report – Jack Kahn, Ph.D.** Interim Superintendent/President Kahn reported that the District's current financial situation is positive and that it is primarily attributable to the cost savings associated with the campus being closed. He discussed summer/fall planning efforts and explained how the District is working to maximize available on-campus courses while still focusing on the safety of students and employees. ICOC member Hunsaker asked for clarification on how the state allocates property tax revenue to the District. Interim Superintendent/President Kahn and Vice President Borth responded noting that approximately \$90M of the funding from the state is from property taxes. ICOC member Hunsaker asked for clarification regarding current salaries of employees during the pandemic. Interim Superintendent/President Kahn reported on the Early Retirement Notification Program that was implemented in 2020, and the change that was negotiated for employee benefits. He reported that both cost-saving measures allowed the District to avoid any employee layoffs, and that none of the faculty that retired have been replaced. He also shared that additional savings have been realized from part-time faculty, as well as reductions in library and counseling services.
- b. Prop M Update – Chris Miller/Dennis Astl** Dennis reviewed the Project Update - Prop M Bond - Series A, B,C &D – report (on file) and discussed the changes since the last ICOC meeting. He explained that the District is pursuing the Living Building Challenge certification (a type of sustainability measurement) and that if certification is granted Palomar would be the first community college in the world to be awarded the certification. Dennis talked about the Kinesiology/Athletic Complex project and discussed several of the project components and their status. He reviewed the "Fallbrook 40" project status, and shared that Board approved keeping the modular buildings. ICOC member Hunsaker expressed concerns that Fallbrook students have inadequate access to STEM disciplines. Interim Superintendent/

President Kahn reported that the District is well connected with the Fallbrook Union High School District (FUHSD) and that Palomar has formed an advisory group to support the development of the Fallbrook Center. He noted that FUHSD has representatives as part of that group. He talked about supporting STEM needs and the middle college concept in support of Fallbrook's high school population. Dennis introduced the Student Retention Center project, and Superintendent/President Kahn elaborated on project's purpose. He provided a summary of the changes that have taken place in how California community colleges are funded and described some of the different "buckets" for which the state provides funding. He talked about some of the components that might be included in the Retention Center - basically anything that will help students to stay in college and complete their goals/ certificates/degrees. ICOC member Alazar talked about including space for student groups and grant funded programs; she advocated for user groups to assist the District in the design of the Retention Center.

- c. **Bond Expenditure Update – Ambur Borth** Vice President Borth reviewed the two key areas of the Measure M General Obligation Bond Construction Fund Financial and Performance Audits. She highlighted the Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs noting that there were *no findings* reported. Also, in the schedule of prior audit findings, there were *no audit findings*. Vice President Borth reviewed the Actuals Paid to Date for the Prop M projects broken down by periods 1-8 (corresponding to July 2020 – February 2021).

d. **Other** - none

6. Comments from Members

ICOC members Rosenfield and Hunsaker expressed concern that the meeting date was irregular, and the supporting materials were not available before the meeting to allow adequate time for review. Vice President Borth acknowledged the unusual situation and the circumstances that led to the meeting date change.

ICOC member Rosenfield asked for information on what the District is doing to support its Native American tribes. Julie Lanthier Bandy responded. She talked about the newly formed Native American Advisory Council and plans in development to form a student group in support of Native American students.

ICOC member Hunsaker commented on the World Health Organization's social distancing recommendations.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.