

SMMUSD Emergency/Temporary Parcel Tax Feasibility Committee

September 16, 2009

Minutes

The meeting commenced at 7:05, with Mike Matthews serving as temporary chair.

Each person gave a brief introduction with background on previous involvement in the district, particularly with regard to fund raising measures.

Mike Matthews thanked all the committee members. He stated how fortunate SMMUSD is to have such a depth of expertise and a willingness to share it. He expressed great confidence that the committee would take this task, research all aspects of it, and provide the Board of Education with a high quality recommendation. He read the charges that the Board of Education developed for the committee:

At its August 19, 2009, meeting, the Board of Education established and appointed members to the Emergency/Temporary Parcel Tax Feasibility Committee. The purpose of the committee is to examine the feasibility of an emergency and temporary parcel tax to offset all or a portion of the budget deficit due to the state budget crisis. In addition, the committee is to explore the potential of a capitol bond measure to modernize the district's schools.

Committee Charges:

- *The committee will be charged with the following goals:*
 - *Report to the Board of Education in two phases: 1) with a recommendation regarding the feasibility of an emergency and temporary parcel tax and 2) future capitol improvement bond measure to modernize the district's schools.*
 - *Work with a polling firm to craft questions for community input.*
 - *Work with the Chief Financial Officer to delineate the steps necessary to place a parcel tax and/or bond measure on a future ballot or special election and retain the necessary counsel for each step of the process.*
 - *The Phase I report, regarding the feasibility of an emergency and temporary parcel tax, should be made no later than the December 10, 2009, board meeting. The Phase II report, regarding the feasibility of a capitol improvement bond measure, should be made no later than the March 4, 2010, board meeting.*
- *The committee would be authorized to expend up to \$50,000 to poll the electorate.*

Chief Financial Officer Jan Maez then presented a budget summary in which she shared the SMMUSD Multi-Year Projection. This projection showed the District with an operating deficit of approximately \$12 to \$14 million in the current and two subsequent fiscal years. If there is no reduction in spending or increase in funding, the District will be out of funds during the 2010-11 school year, and will have a \$20 million deficit in the 2011-12 school year. The District is soliciting input from many sources, including: The Superintendent's Budget Committee, the Financial Oversight Committee, and this Emergency/Temporary Parcel Tax Feasibility Committee. There were many questions and much discussion from all members.

Neil Carrey expressed that he would be willing to serve as chair and was elected. He was congratulated and thanked.

The following subcommittees were created, and the chairs were also named:

- Polling Subcommittee – Rochelle Fanali, Chair
- Numbers Subcommittee – Paul Silvern, Chair
- Legal/Language Subcommittee – Tom Larmore and Lori Lieberman, Co-Chairs
- Timing Committee – Rebecca Kennerly, Chair (Denny Zane said he would assist)

It was determined that the Chair, the Subcommittee Chairs, and Measure R chair Shari Davis would form an Executive Committee.

It was moved, seconded and passed to provide the Executive Committee with the authority to solicit and hire a polling firm.

It was agreed that Neil Carrey and District Officials shall be the only persons to communicate with the press, so as to provide strong consistency in our message.

The next meeting will be on September 30 at a place to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.