

# COC REPORT MID-ANNUAL REPORT MARCH - SEPTEMBER 2014

## FOREWARD

Section 8 **Reports** of the Bylaws of the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) for Measure H, the \$7.8-M Sonora Elementary School District's Bond Issue states:

In addition to the Annual Report required in Section 3.2, the Committee may report to the Board at least semi-annually in order to advise the Board on the activities of the Committee. Such report shall be in writing and shall summarize the proceedings and activities conducted by the Committee.

## INTRODUCTION

This report to the Sonora Elementary School Board of Education (Board) from the Measure H Citizens' Oversight Committee covers our activities from March 2014 through September 2014.

## COC ACTIVITY SINCE ITS 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

At its 2014 Organizational Meeting on March 19, 2014, the COC elected Eve Sheehan-Smith, Chair; John Williams, Vice Chair; and Tom Mannix, Secretary. A 2014 Quarterly meeting schedule was approved. Bids accepted by the Board at its March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting for demolition and new construction related to the school fire were discussed as was the Board's new COC membership criteria.

## 2012-2013 SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND AUDIT

The COC reviewed this audit in March. In June, the COC sought additional information from the District. The additional data from the District was reviewed at our September 17, 2014 quarterly meeting. Because the September agenda listed the Audit Review as a Discussion Item, the COC was required to circulate two Action Items by email. The COC then unanimously agreed to reference the 2012-2013 Bond Audit in this report to the School Board. That Bond Audit concluded that "...in all significant respects, the Sonora School District has properly accounted for the...[Bond Money] ...expenditures were made for costs authorized by the voters of the District".

## COC MEMBERSHIP and VACANCIES

The COC operates under a California statute that requires a minimum of seven members. In June 2014, an appointment and a reappointment by the Board brought COC membership to five. The law requires:

- a member active in a business organization John Williams;
- a member active in a senior citizen's organization Tom Mannix;
- a member active in a bona-fide taxpayers association **Vacant**;
- a member who is a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District Eve Sheehan-Smith;
- two members of the community at large Charles Segerstrom and Don Rolle; and
- a member who is both a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in

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the district and active in a parent-teacher organization or school site council **Vacant**.

The Board worked hard to fill vacant COC positions. After making a good faith effort, the Board changed the COC Bylaws that may make it easier to fill vacancies. The Board followed language used by the Sonora High School District who faced similar difficulties filling COC positions.

With the start of a new school year, the Board and the School Administration are continuing to work to fill the two vacancies.

### COC Future Plans

The School District's outside auditors will present a 2012-2013 Audit of Bond Funds to the School Board and the COC. That audit provides the COC with the basis for our report to the Board and the public. The COC may have a copy of that audit before our next scheduled quarterly meeting, Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the SES School Library.