

**Arcadia Unified School District**

**MEASURE A  
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**May 29, 2013  
Administration Center, Board Room  
234 Campus Drive  
Arcadia, CA 91007**

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Citizens' Measure A Oversight Committee was called to order by Chairperson Vicky Stiles at 6:04 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, in the Board Room of the Administration Center.

**B. Roll Call**

Committee Members present: Leigh Chavez, Matt McSweeney, Vicky Stiles, Albert Sylvia, Jennifer Tom, Lynne Whitaker, Gary Yamada

Committee Members absent: 0

Staff present: Christina Aragon, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services; Connie Chu, Senior Administrative Assistant

Consultants: 0

Visitors: 0

**C. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.

**Moved by:** Lynne Whitaker

**Seconded by:** Matt McSweeney

**Approved:** 7-0

**D. Approval of Minutes: March 5, 2013**

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the minutes.

**Moved by:** Leigh Chavez

**Seconded by:** Albert Sylvia  
**Approved:** 7-0

## **II. PARCEL TAX UPDATE**

### **A. Report on Parcel Tax Collections/Exemptions**

Ms. Aragon reviewed the expected parcel tax collections and exemptions for Fiscal Year 2012-2013. The revenue was updated to reflect the most current collection that was received in April. The District expects three more collections in May, July and August. Delinquent taxes are estimated at 3-5%.

Ms. Aragon reminded the Committee that the funds are being used to pay for teachers and counselors district-wide. The passing of the parcel tax was to prevent further reductions due to the State's continued economic crisis. In past difficult economic times, the State has generally recovered in 2-3 years while this economic crisis is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year. The District would like to build back programs to a level prior to the economic crisis, when the economy begins to recover and the State restores funding to school districts to the 2007-2008 funding level.

Individuals are required to file for exemption, but they only need to do it once for the duration of the parcel tax. Districts are only required to publish the information in the newspaper; however, the District reached out to the community in other ways as well.

Ms. Whitaker asked when the District expects to collect \$3 million as budgeted. Ms. Aragon said it depends on when delinquent taxes are paid.

### **B. Report on Expenditures**

Ms. Aragon reviewed the Expenditure Report. Early in the year, the District will be in the negative as expenditures will be made in anticipation of receiving the funds. Expenditure adjustments will be made each year based on what was collected to closely match what was received in parcel tax collections.

Mr. Yamada asked if the District would receive less funding due to the parcel tax. Ms. Aragon stated that the State does not reduce funding or penalize the District financially when a local parcel tax is passed.

## **III. ADMINISTRATION**

### **A. California's School Finance System**

The federal government contributes about 10% of the education budget. District funding is classified as general (no restrictions) or categorical (restricted by program). Districts receive funding from State general funds, local property tax and lottery, in addition to miscellaneous sources (e.g., donations from Arcadia Educational

Foundation, community, etc.). Districts are funded based on average daily attendance or ADA (i.e., student attendance). Enrollment is at 9,700 at this time; ADA is at 9,450. The general purpose money the district receives for each student is called revenue limit. Half of Arcadia USD's revenue limit comes from property tax; the other half comes from the State. Arcadia is a high wealth community and low wealth school district.

Mr. Sylvia provided an overview of how the new Common Core State Standards would impact the District (e.g., more writing tests, a great deal of training for students and teachers, etc.). Districts will not get enough money for the changes. The Governor is proposing \$1 billion to assist in Common Core implementation.

Ms. Aragon said the Governor is considering changing the calculation of how schools are funded, also known as Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Currently, the Governor is proposing one base grant – extra money for CSR, ELL and free/reduced lunch (under poverty level). Because the District has a low ELL and free/reduced lunch population, it will therefore not be entitled to as much funding in this area.

#### **B. 2012-2013 Annual Report Planning**

Ms. Aragon said the District will provide support to the Committee in drafting the Annual Report. Ideas were shared, including information about the Committee, parcel tax and how it was spent, Chairperson's Message, etc. A draft of the Annual Report will be shared at the next COC meeting in September.

#### **C. Questions & Answers**

Ms. Stiles asked if the District would reconsider the spending of Measure A based on the Governor's Budget Proposal. Ms. Aragon said it wouldn't be looked at differently as the District is currently deficit spending and the Governor's Budget Proposal will not provide that level of funding.

Mr. Yamada asked about the effect of Prop 30. Ms. Aragon said it's called the Education Protection Act (EPA), which came out flat – no additional funding/cuts.

### **IV. COMMENTS**

#### **A. Audience**

None.

#### **B. Committee**

None.

#### **C. Staff**

None.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** A motion was made to adjourn the Citizens' Measure A Oversight Committee meeting at 7:11 p.m.

**Moved by:** Gary Yamada

**Seconded by:** Leigh Chavez

**Approved:** 7-0

**NEXT CITIZENS' MEASURE A OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, September 30, 2013**

**6:00 p.m.**