

**VENURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Parcel Tax Oversight Committee
October 16, 2019
Minutes**

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee (PTOC) of the Ventura Unified School District was held in the Einstein Room at 255 W. Stanley Avenue, in Ventura, California, on November 14, 2019. Don Wood, called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Roll Call/Introductions

Committee Members Present: Charles Caulkins, Elke Fedde, Steve Offerman, Michael Richards and Don Wood
Absent: Dannielle Brook and Lisa Hildebrand

Staff Members Present: Anna Campbell, Rosi Cortéz, Dr. Jerry Dannenberg and Betsy George
Absent: Kurt Sowa

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Elke Fedde to approve the agenda, Don Wood seconded the motion. The agenda was approved as presented. Absent: Dannielle Brook and Lisa Hildebrand

Public Comments – none

Approval of Minutes

The approval of minutes deferred to a later time due to lack of quorum from previous meeting. Mr. Offerman arrived later in meeting. A motion was made by Steve Offerman to approve the minutes for the June 4, 2019 meeting, Charles Caulkins seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as presented. Abstain: Michael Richards; Absent: Dannielle Brook and Lisa Hildebrand

2018-19 Actual Receipts and Expenditures

The committee received a two-page Parcel Tax 3-Year Plan handout of 2017/18 prior year actuals, 2018/19 actuals, 2019/20 projected, and 2020/21 projected. One side has a more general plan, and the other side provides broken out information within each category.

Staffing, Maintain Class sizes - full-time equivalents (FTEs) fluctuate slightly due to maintaining class size 34:1 instead of 35:1. Committee requested a breakdown of FTEs per year since figures fluctuate.

Art & Music Programs - Mr. Offerman asked what the New West Symphony (NWS) is. Ms. George explained they are the Harmony Project, a partnership the District has with the NWS. They serve approximately 120 students. They primarily meet at Sheridan Way and DATA, but students from EP Foster and Will Rogers participate as well. The FTEs for the music/art teachers are fixed. The same teachers have been sustaining the program past several years—Paul Browne, Heidi House and Betsy Manninem teach in the music program, and Nancy Kellogg teaches the art program. Ms. Fedde asked if the contribution for Harmony Project is a match. Ms. George explained NWS spends between \$150,000-\$200,000 on the program, and VUSD contributes a small amount.

Parcel tax revenue for all the new building was discussed. Although there are several new developments. Ms. George ensured committee that new developments are monitored very closely—not necessarily due to parcel tax income, but for student enrollment purposes. Most new developments are not single-family homes (Solano Heights and The Farm), rather apartment or condo units. Apartment units are usually built on one parcel.

Technology – teachers applied for use/deployment of Chromebooks K-12 (grant style) instead of automatically deploying new Chromebooks to school sites. This practice will be continued. The District has new curriculum in the past five years for math, English, social science and science due to state standards change. Teachers voluntarily pilot for one year and then choose what they want to use and it is voted on. Secondary teachers chose a predominantly online curriculum—needing not only a textbook, but Chromebooks as well. 2019/20 projected \$631, 000 for devices is due to the replacement of original Chromebooks purchased in 2016/17—these will start to fail in fourth year of use. Some of the budget also includes teacher computers. Mr. Offerman requested more detailed breakdown in Technology section.

Ms. Fedde asked if there is a rule on using funds for instrument repair versus an experience—could there be flexibility? Ms. George confirmed that durable goods had been the practice by previous predecessor versus experience (music festivals). Ms. George also confirmed that sites have a fairly robust site budget with funds that could be used for fieldtrips, and there is a specific music festivals budget since participating in festivals is part of a student’s grade. A change in direction would need to be discussed with Dr. Rice and the Executive Cabinet.

2018-19 PTOC Report Planning

Books were closed September 2019. Staff will assist with drafting the report and providing to the PTOC by email by November 8, 2019. The report will most likely be presented to the Board of Education during the meeting of January 14, 2020 (tentative date as Board has not adopted 2020 board meeting dates).

Next Meeting Date – Thursday, November 14, 5:30 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.