Morongo Unified School District

Measure C Bond Citizen Oversight Committee

Joshua Tree Professional Development Center – Meeting Room

6061 Sunburst Ave., Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 6 p.m.

Attendees

Committee members present:

- John Cole
- Jennifer Cusack
- Daniel Iniguez
- Bryan Sullivan
- Paul Hoffman
- Rebekah Wahlberg

Others present:

- Dr. Patricio Vargas
- David Daniels
- Mike Ogdahl
- Faith Segovia
- Andrea Kozlosky
- Andrew Spear

1. Call to Order
    a. Committee Vice Chair Jennifer Cusack called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.
    b. Committee member Paul Hoffman moved to adopt the agenda; member Bryan Sullivan seconded the motion. The agenda was adopted.
2. Adoption of minutes from May 26, 2026
    a. Committee member John Cole moved to adopt the minutes from the May 26, 2026 meeting; member Daniel Iniguez seconded. The meeting minutes were adopted.
3. Projects Update
    a. Mike Ogdahl, director of maintenance and operations, presented an update on Measure C projects in progress, including:
        i. The kitchen project at 29 Palms Junior High School has been completed.

1. In response to a question from Mr. Sullivan about follow-up on the project, Mr. Ogdahl reported that staff and students are pleased with the new kitchen. A few minor issues remain to be addressed, but the project has been well received.

ii. The project to improve HVAC systems is in the construction phase at 29 Palms Junior High School, 29 Palms High School, Yucca Valley High School, Onaga Elementary School, and 29 Palms Elementary School.
    1. The bid was awarded to Trane U.S., Inc.
    2. Construction is scheduled primarily during periods when students aren't on campus, including holidays and summer break, to minimize disruptions to instruction.
    3. Mr. Cole asked whether the project involves replacing existing equipment or upgrading HVAC systems. Mr. Ogdahl explained that the scope varies by site: some sites will receive like-for-like replacements, while the gymnasiums that have evaporative cooler systems will be replaced with air conditioning and new cooling towers will be installed at Onaga Elementary.
    4. Ms. Cusack asked for clarification regarding the HVAC project financial reporting. Mr. Ogdahl explained that since the HVAC project is billed as one whole project, it's divided up equally among each school site.

iii. The project to make roofing improvements at 29 Palms High School, 29 Palms Junior High School, 29 Palms Elementary School, Palm Vista Elementary School, Yucca Valley Elementary School, Morongo Valley Elementary School, and Yucca Valley High School is in the bidding phase.
    1. The bidding phase is anticipated to go from October to December 2026, with the Board of Education to award the bid in December. Estimated completion is in May 2027.
    2. Mr. Cole asked when the work would be done. Mr. Ogdahl explained that most construction would be scheduled after school hours, at night, on weekends, and during other periods when school is not in session.
    3. Mr. Cole also asked whether the new roofing would be similar to the existing roofing. Mr. Ogdahl explained that the project involves removing the existing foam roofing and replacing it with thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO), a type of rubber.
        a. Assistant Superintendent of Business Services David Daniels added that TPO roofing is more durable than foam roofing. He explained that foam roofs can be expensive to maintain and replace and are susceptible to water damage,

despite having been popular in the past because of their insulating properties. He also noted that birds can damage foam roofing. a. The district has been gradually replacing foam roofs over the past 10 years and will use Measure C funding to replace the remaining foam roofing included in the project.

iv. The project to upgrade PA and bell systems at Landers Elementary School, Joshua Tree Elementary School, Morongo Valley Elementary School, Palm Vista Elementary School, Yucca Mesa Elementary School, Yucca Valley Elementary School, 29 Palms Junior High School, Black Rock High School, the Academy of College and Career Excellence, and 29 Palms High School is in the bidding phase.
    1. The Board of Education is anticipated to award a bid in January 2027. Construction is anticipated to start in February 2027 and finish in February 2028.
    2. Mr. Ogdahl reported that clocks have been added to the scope of the project, which has caused a bit of a delay.
    3. Mike: clocks have been added to upgrades; caused a bit of a delay to add clocks to scope of project
    4. Mr. Daniels explained that the project also includes classroom audio systems intended to support instruction. The Board of Education requested these improvements to help the district better deliver instructional services.
        a. Mr. Cole asked how the classroom audio systems would be used. MUSD Superintendent Dr. Patricio Vargas explained that teachers would have microphone-like devices to amplify their voices in the classroom. The systems would also integrate with the PA system to support schoolwide communication, security, and other communication needs.
        b. Mr. Sullivan asked whether the upgrades would also be integrated with multimedia systems. Mr. Daniels was unsure and noted that the district's IT are the subject matter experts on the project and could speak to the technical details.
    5. Dr. Vargas asked whether the PA system upgrades would be installed at all school sites.
        a. Mr. Ogdahl explained that IT staff had provided input on which sites had the greatest need for upgrades and because some schools had recently received improvements, it was

determined that those schools didn't need the system upgrades.

b. Dr. Vargas expressed the view that all school sites should receive the upgrades. Mr. Daniels stated that he would follow up with the appropriate staff regarding the scope of the project and the possibility of expanding it to additional sites.

v. The project to add shade structures at Condor Elementary School, Friendly Hills Elementary School, Landers Elementary School, Morongo Valley Elementary School, Onaga Elementary School, Oasis Elementary School, 29 Palms Elementary School, Yucca Mesa Elementary School, Yucca Valley Elementary School, and La Contenta Middle School is preparing for the bidding phase.

1. The bidding process is anticipated to start in November 2026 and end in February 2027. Construction is anticipated to begin in March 2027.

vi. The project to build a new administration building at 29 Palms Junior High School is in the design and development phase.

1. The school district has engaged Ledesma & Meyer for construction management services. Design plans were submitted to the Division of State Architects (DSA) in August.
2. The project is anticipated to receive DSA approval by December 2026, and the district plans to seek Board of Education approval for the bid in January 2027. It's anticipated that the project will enter the bidding phase in spring 2027, with construction beginning in summer 2027.
3. Dr. Vargas asked about the anticipated construction timeline. Mr. Ogdahl estimated that construction would take approximately one year, although the project could take longer.
    a. Mr. Vargas asked whether construction would occur while school is in session. Mr. Ogdahl confirmed that it would and noted that shade structure construction would also take place during the school year.
    b. Mr. Hoffman asked about the building's size. Mr. Ogdahl did not have the exact square footage available but stated that the building would be similar in size to the administration building at Yucca Valley Elementary School. The building will include offices, conference rooms, and a staff break room.

vii. The project to add SELPA portables at Yucca Valley Elementary School, Condor Elementary School, Oasis Elementary School, Onaga Elementary School, and 29 Palms Junior High School is in the design and development phase.
    1. The district has engaged Ledesma & Meyer for construction management services.
    2. The architect is finalizing floor plan design drawings for district review and approval.
    3. It is anticipated that plans will be submitted to DSA in January or February 2027, with approval to bid and bidding to follow in spring 2027. It's anticipated that construction will begin in summer 2027.
    4. Mr. Sullivan asked whether the SELPA units would be trailers or portable classrooms. Mr. Ogdahl explained that the units would be modular buildings installed on concrete foundations. Unlike conventional portable classrooms, the units would not be hollow underneath and would not be designed to be moved after installation. They would not, however, be traditional stick-built classrooms.
    5. Mr. Iniguez asked whether the PA system upgrades would extend to the new portable units. Mr. Ogdahl confirmed that the upgrades would be integrated into the units. High school stadiums

viii. The project to make stadium improvements at Yucca Valley and 29 Palms High Schools is in the design and development phase.
    1. The district has engaged Ledesma & Meyer for construction management services. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2027.
    2. Mr. Cole asked if construction is anticipated to interfere with school activities. Mr. Ogdahl acknowledge that construction would have a significant impact for sports and activities that typically use the fields. To help reduce the impact, the district is hoping to delay construction until after graduation.
        a. Ms. Cusack asked what arrangements would be made for athletic activities while the fields are closed and whether construction could be staggered to avoid closing both stadiums at the same time. Mr. Ogdahl explained that the athletics directors would be responsible for coordinating alternate arrangements. Staggering the projects would not be feasible because of the time constraints associated with the bond funding.

i. Ms. Cusack noted that the junior high school has a field that could potentially be used by the high school, and asked whether Yucca Valley High School would face greater challenges. Mr. Ogdahl explained that Yucca Valley High School had played all away games during a previous season.
ii. Ms. Cusack noted that the closures could affect fundraising activities. Mr. Daniels said the greatest impact would likely be during football season.
iii. Ms. Cusack also recommended communicating with parents well in advance, noting that field closures could be particularly unpopular with parents of graduating seniors. Mr. Ogdahl stated that the district is working to minimize the impact of construction on school activities as much as possible.

4. Financial Report
    a. Faith Segovia, director of fiscal services, gave a report on bond expenditures to date:
        i. Ms. Segovia explained that the district provides three reports to track bond expenditures. The first two are summary reports: one organized by school site and the other by project. The third is a detailed transaction report showing individual transactions associated with each project.
            1. Ms. Cusack asked whether project costs would continue to be divided equally among participating school sites. Ms. Segovia explained that the reporting method would remain unchanged because projects are bid and billed as a single project rather than as separate contracts for each site. As a result, individual site costs cannot always be identified precisely.
        ii. Dr. Vargas asked whether the PA and bell system project could be expanded to include all school sites. Mr. Daniels stated that an expansion may be possible but would require the district to address the additional scope in the budget.
            1. Mr. Iniguez asked whether the additional work could be established as a separate project so that the current work could proceed without delay. Mr. Daniels said that this approach could be considered.
            2. Ms. Cusack asked how many schools were not included in the current project. Ms. Segovia reported that six schools were not included. Mr. Daniels explained that the district's primary focus

had been finalizing the scope of the current project and that any expansion would need further consideration.

iii. Ms. Cusack asked whether the 29 Palms Junior High kitchen project came in under budget.
    1. Mr. Daniels explained that the district must complete contractor retention payments and finalize the budget with the county. The Board of Education has approved the notice of completion, but it had not yet been filed with the county.
    2. Ms. Segovia noted that if there are any remaining funds once the notice of completion is finalized, those funds will be released for use on other projects.

iv. Mr. Daniels noted that project costs have increased significantly: The total bond authorization is approximately $88 million, while the current project budget is approximately $78 million. The district will need to continue discussions with the Board of Education regarding future project priorities and available funding.
    1. Mr. Daniels reported that approximately $8 million of the $33 million in Series A bond funds had been spent to date. The district plans to apply for matching funds from the state to help offset project costs and will explore combining bond funding with other local funding sources, including deferred maintenance funds, where appropriate.
    2. Mr. Daniels noted that one concern raised by the Board of Education is whether the district can spend at least 85% of the Series A funds by April 2028. He stated that the district does not anticipate difficulty meeting this requirement from a compliance standpoint.
    3. Mr. Daniels also explained that the broader question for the Board of Education is whether to continue planning additional projects or allow the projects already underway to progress before committing to further work. Projects are generally prioritized on a first-come, first-served basis to help ensure efficient completion.

v. Ms. Cusack asked when the district would issue Series B bonds. Ms. Segovia explained that the timing would depend on when the district's available cash begins to run low. Mr. Daniels added that subsequent bond issuances are typically spaced approximately two to three years apart.

vi. Mr. Hoffman asked what would happen if a project exceeded its budget while under construction and additional funds were unavailable. Mr. Daniels explained that the district generally does not recommend starting projects unless there is a reasonable plan to cover their costs. If a reliable

but slower funding source, such as state matching funds, is anticipated, the district may proceed with the understanding that the project timeline could be extended. However, the district seeks to avoid starting projects without sufficient funding to complete them. Mr. Daniels noted that the district works with financial advisors, bond counsel, and underwriters to plan funding and bond issuance strategies.

vii. Ms. Cusack asked whether most of the current projects were expected to begin or continue construction the following summer. Mr. Ogdahl confirmed that summer was the anticipated timeframe for the major projects.

viii. Ms. Cusack also expressed the desire for more active public outreach regarding Measure C projects rather than relying solely on a static webpage. She emphasized the importance of keeping the public informed about project progress and expenditures.

ix. Mr. Daniels noted that this committee's report from the previous meeting had not been presented to the Board of Education. He requested that a report be prepared for the next Board of Education meeting and asked Mr. Cole to present it at the November 10, 2026, meeting.

5. Public Comments
    a. There were no public comments.
6. Committee Comments
    a. There were no further committee comments.
7. Staff Comments
    a. There were no further staff comments.
8. Next Committee Meeting
    a. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2027 at 6:00 p.m.
9. Adjournment
    a. Ms. Cusack adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.