Morongo Unified School District

Citizen Oversight Committee

Joshua Tree Professional Development Center – Meeting Room

6061 Sunburst Ave., Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 6 p.m.

**Attendees**

Committee members present:

- Jeff Brady
- John Cole
- Jennifer Cusack
- Paul Hoffman
- Bryan Sullivan
- Rebekah Wahlberg

Others present:

- David Daniels
- Mike Ogdahl
- Faith Segovia
- Patricio Vargas

1. Call to Order
    a. Committee Chair Jeff Brady called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.
2. Adoption of minutes from March 5, 2025
    a. Committee member John Cole moved to adopt minutes, and Committee Vice Chair Bryan Sullivan seconded.
3. Update on Projects
    a. Mike Ogdahl, director of maintenance and operations, presented an update on Measure C projects in progress, including:
        i. Construction is proceeding on schedule and on budget for the new kitchen at 29 Palms Junior High School.
        ii. The architect is waiting for engineer drawings for shade structures for Condor, Friendly Hills, Oasis, Onaga, 29 Palms, Yucca Mesa, and Yucca Valley Elementary Schools. La Contenta Middle School was added to the shade structure project, as well.

iii. Plans for stadium improvements at 29 Palms and Yucca Valley High Schools are ongoing.
    1. Civil engineer walkthroughs are scheduled for both sites.
    2. The district met with an architect to discuss a design plan for the new concession stand at the 29 Palms site.
    3. A purchase order was issued for the geotechnical and topographic survey for the Yucca Valley site.
iv. The district is waiting on pre-plan check drawings for the relocatable restroom building at 29 Palms Junior High School. Approvals are anticipated around October.
v. The district is in the planning stages for new HVAC systems in the gyms at 29 Palms, Yucca Valley, and Black Rock High Schools, as well as in a few classrooms at Onaga Elementary School.
vi. The district is in the design and planning stages for SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) portable units at Yucca Valley, Condor, Oasis, and Onaga Elementary Schools, as well as 29 Palms Junior High School.
vii. All sites are getting PA and bell system upgrades. An architect has done site walks with district IT personnel and the project is in the planning stage.

4. Financial Report
    a. Faith Segovia, director of fiscal services, gave a report on bond expenditures to date.
        i. From July 2024 to present, the district has spent $928,143.15 on the new kitchen at 29 Palms Junior High School. The project has a budget of $5 million total.
    b. The district is looking at implementing a different tracking system for project management that will allow for more customization and options when presenting reports to the committee.
        i. This software is designed to facilitate tracking and reporting of finances on both bond and non-bond projects, so it won't be funded out of bond money.
    c. Ms. Segovia also shared a report on the bond sales.
        i. Bond sales went well. The district has received $33 million to date for series A.
        ii. There will be three series of sales altogether; the remaining amount of the bond will be divided equally between series B and C.
        iii. The district's goal is to spend all of the money received from series A before selling series B.
        iv. The district would also like to get a shovel-ready project ready to go as soon as series B sells.

5. Public Comments
    a. MUSD Superintendent Dr. Patricio Vargas shared his appreciation for the committee members' service, as well as his excitement about what the district is working on and the district's increased enrollment.
    b. Committee member Jennifer Cusack shared her concerns as a member of the public about the school district's future projects. She wrote a letter to the school board expressing the importance of creating facility master plans for both Yucca Valley and 29 Palms High Schools to address what the schools need to ensure their students have as many opportunities for learning and development as possible.
        i. Ms. Cusack specifically pointed out the importance of functional athletics facilities, highlighting how school athletics are the best way to involve parents and the community at large in the school district.
6. Committee Comments
    a. Committee member Daniel Iniguez may be unable to stay on the committee due to work commitments.
        i. The district needs to confirm his continued availability with him; if Mr. Iniguez is unable, the district will open the committee vacancy to applicants.
    b. Ms. Cusack asked for more notice for future meetings, and Mr. Brady asked for meeting documents to be provided in advance so committee members could review in preparation for the meeting.
    c. Committee member John Cole shared that he has a potential conflict of interest due to his role as an officiant for the high schools' track meets.
        i. As it isn't currently track season, Mr. Cole will remain on the committee until at least its next meeting.
        ii. The district will speak to its legal counsel about the next steps.
    d. Ms. Cusack asked for clarity on what the MUSD Board's priorities are for bond projects, and whether they've changed since this committee's last meeting.
        i. There was a change in board members in the fall, and the new board conducted a work study session in the spring to identify priorities.
        ii. The board's priorities aren't necessarily pertinent to this committee's duties, however, as this committee's role is financial oversight of projects in progress.
    e. Ms. Cusack asked for reporting on interest rates and earning for the bond funds the district received.
        i. Ms. Segovia said she could provide information on quarterly interest rates and earnings.

ii. District representatives clarified that the bond funds are meant to be spent, though, not accrue interest. 85% of funds from series A must be spent within three years, and the district's intent is to spend 100% of the money.

f. Committee member Paul Hoffman asked district representatives to provide a fuller picture of project plans and the associated spending.
    i. District representatives assured the committee that the committee will be able to review the full financial picture in future meetings.
    ii. David Daniels, assistant superintendent of business services, clarified that the committee will receive incremental updates on projects during the interim meetings, like this one, and that the committee will see a larger annual report with the full picture at the committee's annual meeting.
    iii. Ms. Segovia noted that the district is required to have an external firm audit the bond spending for every year that the district spends money from the bond.
        1. The external firm's audit will be made available both to this committee and to the public at large. The audit for the 2024-25 fiscal year should go to the board of trustees in December.
        2. Funding for this audit comes from the district, not from the bond.

g. Mr. Brady asked that future meeting agendas reflect that all projects discussed are previously approved by the board.

h. Mr. Brady and Mr. Cole will share a report on this committee meeting at the next MUSD Board meeting on Oct. 14.

7. Future Meeting Schedule
    a. The committee set its following two meetings for Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026, at 6 p.m., and Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at 6 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Joshua Tree Professional Development Center's meeting room.
8. Adjournment
    a. Mr. Brady adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.