Citizens' Oversight Committee

Seeking Applicants

Public Notice

The Ojai Unified School District Board of Education is seeking applicants for a Citizens' Oversight Committee for Measure J and Measure K Bonds. The Committee will meet at least quarterly and have the responsibility of informing the public concerning the expenditures of the OUSD bonds, and making an annual report to the Board and the community regarding the District's adherence to the law and to the text and intention of the Measure related to the expenditure of these funds. The committee members serve for a two-year term for no more than three consecutive terms. There is currently one (1) opening on this committee of seven (7), which is one member active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, Ojai Valley Board of Realtors).

State law requires that the Committee be composed, at a minimum, as follows:

- One member active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District (i.e. Chamber of Commerce, Ojai Valley Board of Realtors),
- One member active in a senior citizens' organization.
- One member active in a bona fide taxpayers' organization.
- One member who is a parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District.
- One member who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and who is active in a parent-teacher organization such as the PTA or School Site Council.
- Two other members, selected from the public at large.

Please call Kelly Haslam at (805) 640-4300, ext. 1006 further information. An application is attached to this post, which may be obtained at the Ojai Unified District Office or located on the District Website at http://www.ojaiusd.org. The Board will interview qualified applicants, deliberate, and appoint candidates at an upcoming Board Meeting.

Ojai Unified School District Election of 2014 and 2020
General Obligation Bond

Citizens' Oversight Committee Procedures, Policies and Guidelines

INTRODUCTION

Measure J and Measure K were approved by at least 55% of the voters of the Ojai Unified School District pursuant to the provisions of the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000, codified at Sections 15264 and following of the Education Code. The Act requires the Board of Trustees (the "Board") to appoint a Citizens' Oversight Committee (the "Committee") after the successful bond election.

Legal authority for formation and duties of the Committee is found in Sections 15264 and 15278 to 15282 of the Education Code. The purpose of these Procedures, Policies and Guidelines is to direct the formation and actions of the Committee by reference to the statutory requirements.

Where the statutory direction is insufficiently specific, the Board has furnished missing details. In addition, the Board sets forth below its expectations, suggestions, and desires for the operations of the Committee.

I. Establishment

The Board is required to appoint members to an independent citizens' oversight committee as a result of the passage of Measure J at the election conducted on November 4, 2014, and Measure K on November 3, 2020 *Educ. Code §15278(a).*

II. Statutory Purpose

A. The Committee is charged by statute with the following purposes:

1. To promptly alert the public to any waste or improper expenditure of school construction bond money. *Educ. Code §15264(c).*
2. To inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues. *Educ. Code §15278(b).*
3. Ensuring that bond revenues are expended only for the purposes described in the California Constitution and Education Code; that is, for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities, including the furnishing and equipping of school facilities, or the acquisition or lease of real property for school facilities. *Calif. Const. art. XIIIA, §1 (b)(3); Educ. Code §15278(b)(l).*
4. Ensuring that no funds are used for any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses. *Calif. Const. art. XIIIA, §1(b)(3)(A); Educ. Code §15278(b)(2).*

III. Members

A. Minimum Size The Committee shall always be comprised of at least seven members. Educ. Code §15282(a).

B. Required Members Pursuant to statute, the Board shall appoint to the Committee the following members: *Educ. Code § J 5282(a).*

1. One member active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District.
2. One member active in a senior citizens' organization.
3. One member active in a bona fide taxpayers' organization.
4. One member who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District.
5. One member who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and who is active in a parent-teacher organization, such as the PTA or school site council.
6. Two other members selected from the public at large.

C. Board Procedures for Appointment of Committee

1. Appointment

a. Persons interested in serving as members of the Committee shall submit a written application to the Superintendent, specifying such information as the Superintendent shall reasonably require. Such information shall include, at a minimum:

(i) the specific position or positions listed in Section III.B above for which the applicant qualifies;

(ii) such information as may be necessary to verify that the applicant meets that qualification requirement.

b. The Superintendent shall forward the names and applications of those applicants meeting the qualification requirements, and a recommendation as to the appointment of each applicant to the Board of Education.

c. Applicants shall be nominated by motion of a member of the Board.

d. The Board or any member thereof may request additional information about any applicant, including a personal interview. All such information shall be public, and any such interviews shall be conducted at a public Board meeting.

e. Members shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Board. The appointment shall specify which specific position(s) listed in Section III .B the appointment fulfills.

2. Failure to Appoint

a. Willful failure to appoint the Committee is grounds for legal action by any taxpayer against the Board. *Educ. Code § l 5284(a)(4).*

b. The Board will make a good faith effort to appoint the Committee and fill vacancies to ensure that the Committee is fully constituted and functioning. No vacancy, at initial appointment or otherwise, will prevent the Committee from meeting and conducting its business.

c. In the event that the Superintendent does not receive acceptable applications from the public to fill all of the positions specified in Section lll.A above, or if at any time there is a vacant position on the Committee, the Superintendent shall cause a notice of the vacancy to be posted in a conspicuous public place (i.e., where regular public notices of the Board are posted), specifying the eligibility requirement for the vacant position and that a written application must be submitted to the Superintendent, and such notice shall remain posted until the vacancy is filled. The Superintendent, in his discretion, may advertise the vacant position in a newspaper reasonably expected to be circulated among interested persons, and may contact organizations to request the nomination of interested persons to fill the positions that require active membership in such organization.

d. The Board may determine to appoint members of the Committee from time to time, in addition to the seven positions specified in Section III. A, above, and without regard to the membership requirements so specified.

D. Additional Eligibility Restrictions The following persons are not eligible to serve on the Committee: *Educ. Code §J 5282(b).*

1. Any employee of the District.
2. Any official of the District.
   For purposes of this limitation, the Board finds that any elected or appointed member of the Board is an "official of the District" within the meaning of Section l5282(b). The Board finds that no member of any other citizen committee of the District appointed by the Board to serve without pay is an "official of the District" within the meaning of Section l5282(b).
3. Any vendor, contractor or consultant of the District.
   The Board finds that no person is a vendor, contractor or consultant of the District prohibited from serving on the Committee within the meaning of Section l5282(b) unless such person, or any company of which such person is an owner or part owner, agrees or has agreed to perform services or furnish goods or supplies to the District under any agreement or contract that has not been fully performed. Prior contractual relationships with the District do not disqualify a person from serving on the Committee.

DI. Term

1. Each of the members specified by statute is appointed for a term of two years. *Educ. Code §J 5282(a).*
2. No member shall be appointed to more than three consecutive two-year terms. *Educ. Code §15282(a).*
   The Board hereby further establishes the following provisions on the terms of members:
3. Any additional members appointed pursuant to the Board's reserved prerogative under Section III.C.3, above, may be appointed to a term of less than two years, as the Board shall specify, but shall not be appointed to a term any longer than two years.
4. Any additional members appointed pursuant to the Board 's reserved prerogative under Section III.C.3 shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.
5. Any member appointed to meet any of the criteria of categories 1 – 5 described in Section III.B, above, shall serve only so long as such member continues to fulfill the requirement of the position to which appointed.
6. Notwithstanding the two-year term required by statute, the term of any member shall terminate upon terminate upon:

   a. death of the member
   b. written resignation of the member
   c. disability or illness of the member, upon a finding by the Board that the member is unable to effectively continue to serve on the Committee
   a. the sale or provision of any goods or services to the District, or entry into any contract with the District for such sale or provision, whether or not related to the bond program, such that the member becomes a "vendor, contractor, or consultant" within the meaning of Section III.D.3, above
   b. the employment, appointment or election of such member to a position

with the District, such that the member becomes an "employee of the District" or an "official of the District" within the meaning of Section lll. D. l or 2, respectively

f. failure of the member to participate in the meetings and activities of the Committee, upon a finding by the Board that the member is unable or unlikely to effectively continue to serve on the Committee.

The Board requests that Committee members keep the Board informed regarding the status of other members, so that the Board can take appropriate action to replace or reappoint Committee members in a timely manner.

7. The term of any member appointed to succeed a member whose term has been terminated pursuant to Section III.E.6 shall be two years, or such lesser time as remains in the term of the departing member, as the Board shall determine.

8. In order to provide for consistency and continuity in the Committee's operations and deliberations, and to establish a Committee whose entire membership does not turn over every two years, the Board may request the resignation of one or more, but fewer than all, members after one year, in order to reappoint such member, or any other person meeting the requirements for the seat that has been vacated by such resignation, to a two-year term.

F. Compensation Members serve without compensation. Educ. Code §l5282(a).

IV.

V. Authorized Activities

In furtherance of its purposes, the Committee is authorized by statute to engage in the following activities: *Educ. Code §15278(c).*

A. Receiving and reviewing copies of the annual, independent performance audit required by the Constitution.

B. Receiving and reviewing copies of the annual, independent financial audit required by the Constitution.

C. Inspecting school facilities and grounds to ensure that bond revenues are expended in compliance with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 1 of Article XIIIA of the California Constitution.

D. Receiving and reviewing copies of any deferred maintenance proposals or plans developed by the District, including any reports required to be given to the Legislature by Section 17584.1 regarding a failure to set aside 1/2 of 1% of current year revenues for deferred maintenance expenditures.

E. Reviewing efforts by the District to maximize bond revenues by implementing cost- saving measures, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

1. Mechanisms designed to reduce the costs of professional fees.
2. Mechanisms designed to reduce the costs of site preparation.
3. Recommendations regarding the joint use of core facilities.
4. Mechanisms designed to reduce costs by incorporating efficiencies in school site design.
5. Recommend actions regarding the use of cost-effective and efficient reusable facility plans.

V. Initial Organization Officers

In order that the Committee serve effectively and fulfill the purposes for which it is established, the Board recommends to the Committee that the Committee shall organize and conduct meetings as follows:

A. Officers

1. Initial Meeting. At the initial meeting of the Committee, the Superintendent or a person designated by the Superintendent should open the meeting and facilitate the selection by the Committee members of a presiding officer. Thereafter, selection of a presiding officer and any other officers of the Committee should be by whatever means the Committee determines.

2. President. The Committee should designate a member as presiding officer or president to preside over meetings of the Committee.

3. Representative. The Committee should designate a member or members to represent the Committee at public meetings of the Board and make reports thereto on a regular basis as the Committee shall determine or as the Board may request.

4. Secretary. The Committee should designate a member as secretary to keep accurate minutes of the Committee's meetings and actions, in order to fulfill the legal requirement that such minutes and documents and reports be entered into the public record.

B. Reports; Meetings

1. Reports. The Committee shall issue regular reports on the results of its activities. A report shall be issued at least once a year. *Educ. Code §15280(b)*.

2. Annual Meeting of the Committee. The Committee is required to conduct at least one annual meeting, the purpose of which is to receive the reports and documents required to be provided to the Committee by the Board, and to approve a report of the Committee. *Educ. Code §15280(b), 15278(c).*

3. Other Meetings of the Committee. The Board recommends that the Committee meet as often as necessary, at least quarterly, in order to effectively perform its duties.

4. The Board will reserve a place on the regular Board agenda for address by a representative of the Committee. The Committee is not expected or required to make a report at each regular Board meeting.

C. Notice of Meetings; Minutes

1. The Committee's meetings are governed by the Ralph M. Brown Act, commencing at Section 54950 of the Government Code. *Educ. Code §J 5280(b).*
   a. All Committee proceedings shall be open to the public.
   b. Notice to the public of any meeting of the Committee shall be provided in the same manner as the proceedings of the Board.

2. Minutes of the proceedings of the Committee and all documents received and reports issued by the Committee are a matter of public record. *Educ. Code §15280(b)*.

3. The District shall maintain and make available to the Committee an Internet website for publication of proceedings of the Committee. *Educ. Code §J 5280(b).*

4. All documents received and reports issued by the Committee shall be made available to the public on the website. *Educ. Code §J 5280(b).*
In order to publicize and make available the Committee's proceedings, the Committee Secretary shall provide to the Superintendent any documents received by, and reports issued by, the Committee, in whatever form received or issued, and minutes of the meetings of the Committee or any subcommittees created by the Committee. District staff are directed by the Board to assist the Committee in publicizing its meetings, in complying with the requirements of the Brown Act, and in posting documents and reports on the website maintained by the District for the Committee. District staff will assist the Committee in these and the other activities of the Committee as provided in Section IV.D, below.

D. Technical Assistance

1. The Board is required to provide the Committee with any necessary technical assistance and shall provide administrative assistance to the Committee in furtherance of its purpose. *Educ. Code §J 5280(a).*

2. The Board is required to provide sufficient resources to publicize the conclusions of the Committee. *Educ. Code §15280(a).*

3. No bond funds shall be expended on any activities or technical assistance provided to the Committee. *Educ. Code §15280(a).*

4. The Board will not treat this prohibition against expending bond funds to provide technical assistance to the Committee to include the preparation and photocopying for the members of the Committee copies of the annual independent performance audit and the annual independent financial audit of the bond program required by the Constitution.

5. In order to allow the Committee its independence, the Board does not expect to send a staff representative to each meeting of the Committee. At the Committee's request, the Board will endeavor to provide the materials, meeting space, and staff consultation as the Committee shall require, specifically taking into account whether the request involves a reasonable expenditure of District general funds. The Board does not expect to purchase specialized software or hardware, commit additional staff time, or engage consultants to develop information for, prepare reports for, or attend meetings of, the Committee beyond what is required by statute and what is prepared for the Board.

OJAI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE - BOND PROJECTS

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT

NAME: _____

Last First MI

_____

Address

_____

City State Zip Code

Telephone Number(s): Home_____ Work_____ Cell_____

E-Mail: _____

Fax: _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

_____

College and/or University (undergraduate and graduate, if applicable) Degree/Major

_____

Vocational and/or other Institutions Certificate/Technical Training

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:

Name of Employer: _____

Address: _____

Position: _____

Areas of Expertise:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (Seminars, Workshops, Volunteer Work, Community and Professional Organizations, etc.)

_____

_____

Please answer the following questions.

1. How many years have you been a resident of the Ojai Unified School District?

_____

2. Do you have or have you had children/grandchildren in the Ojai Unified School District?

Yes_____ No _____

If yes, what are the age(s) of the child (children)._____

3. Do you know of any reason such as a Conflict of Interest that would adversely affect your ability to serve on the Citizen's Oversight Committee? If so, please explain.

_____

_____

_____

4. Please explain why you would like to be appointed to this committee and attach your typed response with this application.

Please check the category below in which you would qualify to serve on this committee according to the required members pursuant to statute. *Educ. Code §l 5282(a).*

_____One member active in a business organization representing the business community located within the District (Chamber of Commerce, or other professional boards such as Ojai Valley Board of Realtors).
_____One member active in a senior citizens' organization.
_____One member active in a bona fide taxpayers' organization.
_____One member who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District.
_____One member who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and who is active in a parent-teacher organization, such as the PTA or school site council.
_____Two other members, selected from the public at large.

Mail, Fax, E-Mail Completed Applications to:

Sherrill Knox, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Ojai Unified School District
PO Box 878
Ojai, CA 93024
Fax: 805-640-4419 or
E-Mail to the attention of : abelcher@ojaiusd.org

OJAI UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Please respond to the following questions:

1. Tell us about yourself, how long have you lived in the community, any community activities you have been involved in, or any involvement in the schools.

2. Are you familiar with OUSD Bonds Measure J and Measure K?

3. What do you see as the role of the Citizens' Oversight Committee?

4. What special skills do you bring to the Citizens' Oversight Committee?

5. Is there any special interests you would feel strongly about representing as a member of the Committee?

6. What do you think the relationship between the Citizens' Oversight Committee and the Governing Board should be?

7. Do you have any questions for us?