

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
333 South Beaudry Avenue, Board Room
1:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Committee Members

Mr. Nick Melvoin
Ms. Mónica García
Ms. Kelly Gonez
Dr. George McKenna
Mr. Scott Schmerelson
Dr. Richard Vladovic

District Staff Members

Ms. Hilda Maldonado, Senior Executive Director,
Diversity Learning and Instruction
Dr. Frances Gipson, Chief Academic Officer,
Division of Instruction
Mr. Pedro Salcido, Senior Executive Director,
Finance & Policy

NOTES

The meeting convened at 10:11 a.m.

Superintendent Austin Beutner was present.

Mr. Schmerelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Nick Melvoin made remarks regarding his attendance at the Los Angeles School Police Badge Pinning Ceremony.

OVERVIEW OF COMPONENTS OF 2019-20 REVENUE STRATEGY PLAN

Mr. Pedro Salcido, Senior Executive Director, Finance and Policy, gave a brief overview of the Strategic Planning for Adequate funding in L.A. Unified. He explained that, due to underinvestment, public education requires a comprehensive strategy to generate and secure additional funding. District strategies include legislative strategies, statewide strategies, and local revenue measures.

2019 LOCAL TAX REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSIDERATION AND TIMELINE

Ms. Amanda Wherritt, Program and Policy Development Advisor, discussed opportunities for a local revenue measure in 2019. The next opportunity would be June 4, 2019, Special Primary Election for the Los Angeles City Council District 12 and the Run-Off Election for Senate District 33. The next opportunity would be November 5, 2019, Local and Municipal Elections. She discussed the timeline and deadlines for submitting election materials, the timing of tax assessments, and funding disbursement. She read the 75-word statement for the Proposed Abbreviated Ballot and discussed the parcel tax amounts tested by FM3 Research.

Mr. Salcido reviewed the cost per square foot of building improvements on a parcel which include the square footage of all habitable building structures, and each floor on a multi-story building, excluding garages, pool houses, cabanas, and other non-structural improvements. He discussed the equity found in per square foot structure, how it evenly distributes costs for taxpayers, and how the available revenues shall be dedicated annually to Los Angeles Unified School District schools and area Charter schools. He gave an overview of the proposed tax exemptions for any parcel owned by one or more persons 65 years of age or older, persons receiving supplemental security income for a disability, and persons receiving social security disability insurance benefits.

Mr. Salcido responded to a question from Dr. McKenna regarding the available revenues to be distributed to District schools and charter schools.

Remarks were heard from Dr. McKenna regarding the importance of the full ballot measure text to include that funding would target underperforming schools.

Mr. Salcido responded to a question from Mr. Schmerelson regarding disadvantaged students.

Remarks were heard from Ms. García and Mr. Melvoin regarding the proposed uses in the full ballot measure text.

Remarks were heard from Ms. Gonez regarding raising funding for early childhood education.

Mr. Salcido invited the following LAUSD partners to speak briefly about the 2019 local tax revenue opportunities:

Ms. Allison Gonzalez, Advocacy Manager, Families in Schools
Mr. Hector Sanchez, Director of Finance, Community Coalition
Ms. Maria Brenes, Executive Director, Inner City Struggle
Ms. Viviann Anguiano, Associate Director of Policy and Legislative Advocacy,
Alliance for a Better Community

POLLING UPDATE ON LOCAL REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Adam Sonenshein, Vice President, FM3 Research, gave an overview of the methodology used to calculate the need for additional funding in the LAUSD. The firm tested two different funding mechanisms. He shared the results of the voters' perception of LAUSD's need for funding. The firm did a survey for the initial vote by election interest. The results indicated the highest support for the measure among voters who would be more interested in a special election.

Mr. Sonenshein answered a question from Ms. García regarding the number of voters interested in the ballot measure. He answered a question from Ms. Gonez regarding concurrent elections, and a question from Mr. Melvoin regarding elements of a potential ballot measure and the methodology used to determine the results from voters.

LEGAL CONSIDERATION ON LOCAL REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Michael Strumwasser, Partner, Strumwasser and Woocher, discussed the limitations of the District campaigning for a ballot measure, and the governments use of public resources during a campaign to influence the public vote. He shared the basis of the case *Stanson v. Mott* and explained the rules

developed around this case in regards to campaigning. He also explained the misdemeanor liability for violation of these rules, including the exceptions.

Mr. Strumwasser responded to questions from Board members regarding how to prepare District staff for campaigning, and how to inform the communities about the election.

BOARD INPUT, DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Remarks were heard from Dr. Mckenna regarding making a concerted effort to use resources in the neediest communities.

Remarks were heard from Mr. Schmerelson and Ms. García regarding support from the community and parent representatives in favor of the Parcel Tax.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speakers addressed the Board on the issue indicated:

Mr. David Tokofsky, AALA

2019 Local Tax Revenue Opportunities

The Board of Education recessed the meeting at 11:51 a.m. and resumed in the Blue Room at 1:09 p.m.

OVERVIEW OF GOVERNANCE

Mr. Melvoin announced that on November 13, 2018, the Board tasked an ad hoc working group to address Board Rules and Governance policy. The Board noted at the time that the rules are fragmented and do not represent a cohesive governing philosophy and an organized administrative policy which causes confusion for Board Members, staff, and the public. The ad hoc working group is comprised of a representative from the Office of the Board Secretariat, Office of the Superintendent, Mr. Anthony Aguilar and Ms. Mary Lu Camacho, Office of General Counsel, Mr. Alex Molina, the Board Presidents' Office, Mr. Andrew Murphy, and Board Vice President's Office, Ms. Allison Holdorff-Polhill.

The ad hoc governance working group has been meeting routinely to draft the governance policy and determine the best course of action to update and organize the administrative rules and procedures. He shared the goals of the working group and the deadlines set to achieve those goals.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS SURVEY RESPONSES: BOARD ASSESSMENT OF STRUCTURAL EFFECTIVENESS (B.A.S.E.) SURVEY™

Mr. Bill Charney, Principal Consultant, Charney and Associates, explained that the firm surveyed Board Members prior to meeting to identify objectives and common ground for the governance workshop, and received responses from four Board Members. He reviewed the survey results and workshop agenda with Board Members and discussed each of the six key elements of a "Good Governance".

Remarks were heard from Ms. García regarding the Board's willingness to collectively agree to prioritize District responsibilities.

Remarks were heard from Dr. McKenna regarding working together cohesively for the greater good of students.

Remarks were heard from Ms. Gonez regarding her priorities as a Board Member and the importance of thinking about District rules and conditions to become more effective collectively.

Remarks were heard from Dr. Vladovic regarding how he can make a better impact in instruction and with fiscal matters as opposed to governance issues.

Remarks were heard from Mr. Melvoin regarding the importance of the Board defining governance policies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following speaker addressed the Board on the issue indicated:

Mr. Juan Jose Mangandi, Parent, Reimagining LAUSD

ADJOURNMENT

Remarks were heard from Mr. Schmerelson and Dr. Vladovic regarding Mr. William J. Johnston, former LAUSD Superintendent, who passed away on February 21, 2019.

Mr. Melvoin adjourned the meeting in memory of Mr. Donte Jones, Building and Grounds Worker, Stoner Avenue Elementary, who was tragically killed on February 15, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

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Materials related to an item on this Agenda distributed to the Board of Education are available at: <http://laschoolboard.org/02-26-19COW>.