

**CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Pasadena, California

July 16, 2017

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*Kimberly Kenne – Board Liaison*

Mr. Roy Boulghourjian  
President, Board of Education  
351 South Hudson Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Re: Illegal Board-approved expenditures of Proposition TT funds

Dear Mr. Boulghourjian:

In its letter to you of May 23, 2017, the Citizens' Oversight Committee explained why it had disapproved Board Report 114-B, which sought an additional \$200,000, payable entirely from Proposition TT funds, for legal services rendered and to be rendered to the District by the law firm Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo. The problem was that the authorization was not limited to Proposition TT-related school construction legal services but allowed Proposition TT funds to be used for general legal services.

The District's response was simply to reword the language of Board Report 114-B and resubmit it to the Board as Board Report 113-B. There was no other change—to the underlying contract or to the contemplated use of TT funds. The Board then approved Board Report 113-B, which the District may now follow.

In the opinion of the Citizens' Oversight Committee and the opinion of its independent counsel, the use of Proposition TT funds, past or future, to defray legal

expenses for anything other than those directly related to Proposition TT-sanctioned activities is illegal. The Committee strongly urges the Board of Education to rescind its approval of Board Report 113-B, limit the authorization as necessary to insure compliance with the California Constitution and Education Code, and restore to the Proposition TT account any illegal expenditures already made.<sup>1</sup>

Sincerely,

/s/ Clifton B. Cates  
Chair, Citizens' Oversight Committee

cc: All members of the Board of Education  
Brian McDonald

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Brian McDonald's letter to me of July 12, 2017, a copy of which was sent to you, misses the essence of the Committee's objection: that Board Report 113-B permits the illegal expenditure of Proposition TT funds. The accompanying spread sheet does not show the reason for the legal services; it merely shows the District's allocation of the fees to various schools and "7-11 Committees." As such, Dr. McDonald's letter is entirely nonresponsive to the Committee's concern.