



Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education

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May 17, 2017

Mr. Clifton Cates and Mr. Quincy Hocutt
Citizens Oversight Committee for Measure TT

Dear Clif and Quincy:

Thank you for meeting with the two of us about your concerns with the additional information the COC needs to receive. Although Board Trustee Larry Torres did not meet with you, he is in agreement with this response.

We very much appreciate your service and diligence regarding the law and the oversight of TT expenditures, but we are dismayed by the tension between the committee and our chief of facilities. We know that Mr. Cayabyab has a strong personal sense of his role and abilities in this arena, but we believe he is a facilities chief of the highest competence, and we know that superintendents of nearby districts would gladly take him from us. We have no reason to doubt his character, given his long years of service to the country and his previous experience in this role in other school districts. We know of no instances where his character has been called into question, so we hope you can work out your differences.

While we appreciate that Clif has said repeatedly that no allegation of malfeasance is being made, it appears that Quincy does not trust Nelson ("fox guarding the hen house") or the Pasadena Unified School District in general. This is straining an important relationship. In fact, we regret Quincy's steps to ask Nelson's subordinates to meet with him privately and without Nelson's knowledge. A greater openness would be helpful. Please do consider Nelson's request to have Ms. Kenne present in such meetings. We understand that Quincy has had experience similar to the projects undertaken within Measure TT, but we hope this valuable background does not translate into feeling that he could do the job better than those entrusted with the work.

We are glad that Trustee Kimberly Kenne has agreed to help with obtaining information for your committee, and we thank her for that. However, excessive gathering of detail may lead to two undesirable outcomes that we caution against. First, it may slow the process of spending the TT funds and therefore the completion of the projects at our schools. The delays at the state level already feel too long for our school communities. Second, we have learned from experience that it can drain the time and energy of our staff, which can lead to low morale.

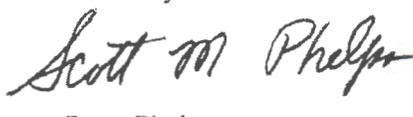
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Finally, while we understand your request for specific kinds of information, we hope that the expanded knowledge will not lead the committee into a project-management role. Our conversation with you showed that you have successfully shepherded many projects in your professional life, but we feel that your role is to advise us on whether expenditures using TT funds are appropriate or not. We appreciate and need that skilled oversight.

We look forward to improved relations between your committee and our facilities chief, and we hope that Ms. Kenne can provide the interaction and data communication that will help. We do feel your committee should receive the administrative support it needs to function, so please keep us aware of whether you have what you need. We have investigated your requests for changes in the PUSD website but are still looking for the best ways to address those concerns.

Thank you again for discussing these matters with us, and for all your time and diligence for the benefit of our schools and students. We could not carry on Measure TT without you.

Sincerely,



Scott Phelps
Board Member

Elizabeth Pomeroy
Board Member



Lawrence Torres
Board Vice President