

Measure J Citizens Bond Oversight Committee

Annual Report July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023

Background & Fiscal Reporting

- In 2018, the Mt. Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) placed a \$150 million school bond Measure J on the ballot, which passed.
- The ballot measure language: To improve and upgrade science, technology, and vocational education classrooms, replace outdated plumbing, and electrical wiring, upgrade alarm/emergency communication systems, and improve student safety/campus security.
- The district has sold \$95 million in bonds (\$20,000,000 Series A, \$75,000,000 Series B) and has expended \$25,101,319 million in funds for this Fiscal Year.

NOTICE TO VOTERS

SCHOOL SAFETY AND CLASSROOM IMPROVEMENT MEASURE FOR MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Neighbor,

As we welcome students back for the 2018-2019 school year here in Mt. Diablo Unified School District, we are excited about advancing our commitment to providing a high-quality education in a safe and welcoming environment with equitable and high expectations, access to academic technology, and excellent instruction that prepares students for college and/or careers and life in the 21st century.

Recently, our Board of Education took important steps to ensure that our schools and facilities are safe and updated to provide a 21st-century learning environment worthy of our students, teachers, and staff, and the communities we serve.

First, the Board approved a plan to develop a comprehensive Facility Master Plan, designed to fully assess the conditions of all of our school and district facilities. The assessment will be closely reviewed to determine capital and operational needs for each school, as despite ongoing work, there is still much work to be done.

We also launched a survey to solicit input from our community, asking them to identify their priorities for moving forward to update our schools. The response has been tremendous, and we thank those of you who took the time to participate and provide such valuable feedback. The survey will remain online at www.mdusd.org/localmeasure so those who have not yet participated can do so.

Second, our Board has voted to place a \$150 million bond measure on the November 6, 2018 ballot to repair and improve our schools. The measure, if approved, would cost approximately \$15 per \$100,000 of assessed, not market, value per year and would provide locally-controlled funding to upgrade and improve schools throughout our district. More information about voting and the measure are found in this brochure and at www.mdusd.org/localmeasure.

We appreciate your ongoing involvement in our schools, your support for our students, and for being a valued partner in education.

Sincerely,
Nellie Meyer
Dr. Nellie Meyer
Superintendent, Mt. Diablo Unified School District

Local Funding for School Improvements

In order to make repairs and upgrades to support 21st-century education, the MDUSD Board of Education voted to place a \$150 million bond measure on the November 2018 ballot. The measure will cost approximately \$15 per \$100,000 of assessed, not market, value per year. If approved by 55% of voters, funds from the measure will:

- Improve technology and science in classrooms
- Expand vocational and career technical education classrooms
- Repair leaky roofs and replace outdated plumbing
- Upgrade computers and engineering classrooms
- Upgrade fire alarm and emergency communications systems
- Replace outdated electrical wiring
- Improve student safety and campus security

Mandatory Fiscal Accountability Provisions

The measure requires strict fiscal accountability, including:

- Every penny would stay in MDUSD schools, be controlled locally and could not be taken by the State
- Independent citizens' oversight and reports to the community would be required to ensure funds are spent as promised
- No funds could ever be used to increase salaries, benefits or pensions for administrators, teachers or other school employees

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS — HERE'S WHAT YOU TOLD US:

Improve technology and science in classrooms	87.7%
Repair and replace aging roofs and outdated plumbing and electrical wiring	85.9%
Improve campus safety and security	85.6%
Upgrade computers and engineering classrooms	85.3%
Upgrade fire alarm and emergency communications systems	82.9%
Expand vocational and career technical education classrooms	79.2%

*Number indicates percentage of respondents marking a high or medium priority

Measure J Current CBOC Members

Member Name	Organization Represented	Appointment Date
Denise Huffman Cruz	Parent or Guardian of a Child Enrolled	12/14/22
Justin Pickering	Parent or Guardian and Active in PTO	12/14/22
Jay Bedecarre	Business Organization	5/13/19
Jim Walsh	Senior Citizens' Organization	6/10/19
Gina Haynes Chair	At Large Community Member	9/14/22
Jack Weir	Taxpayers' Organization	6/24/19
John Ferrante	At Large Community Member	5/13/19
Erin Adrian	At Large Community Member	6/13/24
Marc Williams	At Large Community Member	6/24/19

Measure J CBOC Meetings

- **June 15, 2022 (Quorum Present)**

Quarterly Report Ending 3/31/22 Actual Expenditures \$2,260,000 Interest: \$527,459.93

- **August 18, 2022 (Quorum Present)**

Quarterly Report Ending 06/30/2022 Actual Expenditures \$2,378,922.16 Interest: \$656,998.66

- **November 17, 2022 (Quorum Present)**

Quarterly Report Ending 9/30/2022 Actual Expenditures: \$7,103,452.45 Interest: \$656,998.66

- **February 16, 2023 (Quorum Present)**

No quarterly report.

- **March 30, 2023 (Quorum Present)-Special Meeting**

Discussion of Concerns With Track 1 of Schneider Contract LED Lighting. Questionable Savings Projects & Contractor Profit

- **April 20, 2023 (Quorum Present)-Special Meeting**

Letter to Governing Board Requesting Independent Legal Counsel to Support Measure J Committee, Expanded Performance Audit Due to Concerns With Energy Savings Contract (Not Competitively Bid)

- **May 18, 2023 (Quorum Present)**

Quarterly Report Ending 3/31/2023 Actual Expenditures: \$13,556,093.43 Interest: \$2,119,414.59

Conclusion

The Measure J CBOC has been frustrated with the lack of concern by the District and Board of Education with the 50-million-dollar, energy-saving contract with Schneider Electric for Track 1 and Track 2 scope. Concerns include violation of government code sections, savings less than expected project savings, prime contractor mark-ups, no access to independent legal advice to review the contract, and limited access to public records related to the Bond Expenditures.

In summary, the CBOC reports:

- District property owners are already paying interest on bonds sold, yet actual construction results lag years later than originally proposed; and
- There is questions as to whether state contract law has been violated; and
- The district is not meeting its obligation to residents and taxpayers to achieve the promises in Measure J bond language in a timely, and efficient, manner.

Special Meeting

Superintendent Clark, Board President McFerrin, Board Vice President Mayo, Trustees, educational partners, taxpayers/property owners, community members, district staff, and other stakeholders. You are invited to attend a Special Meeting called by the Measure J CBOC to discuss our concerns with Track 1 and Track 2 of the Energy Saving Contract with Schneider Electric on:

September 19, 2024, at 5 PM at DENT