

**Merced Community College District
Bond Oversight Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 9, 2008**

Members Present: Mike Amabile (chairperson), William Edwards, Andrea Garibay, William T. Warner, Dick Gerbi, Shawna Guerrero, Lucille Milani

Members Absent: Mary Camper

Others Present: Larry Johnson, Sheila Flores (recording), Marvin Smith, Joe Allison

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Mike Amabile. The pledge of allegiance was led by Mike Amabile.

1. **Hearing of the Public**

There was no one from the public.

2. **Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on March 6, 2008**
It was MSCU (Milani/Garibay) to approve the minutes.

3. **Discussion and/or Action**

a. **Draft Review of 2007-08 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Annual Report**

Larry referred to a copy of the 2007-08 Bond Oversight Annual Report that was mailed to the committee members prior to the meeting. Larry explained that the bond oversight committee is responsible for ensuring that bond revenues are expended only for the projects listed on the bond list of projects and that bond revenues are not expended on any teacher or administrative salaries or other school operating expenses. The bond oversight committee is responsible for releasing at least once per year, a bond oversight report for the public, which outlines the activities of the committee. All documents received by the Committee and reports issued by the Committee shall be a matter of public record and be made available on an Internet website maintained by the Governing Board of the District.

Shawna Guerrero referred to the Five-Year Construction Plan and asked when Horticulture would be added to the Los Banos Campus program. Larry said that the Five-Year Plan is a projection of what could be offered in the future. At this point, there are no specific plans to add Horticulture to the curriculum. However, if there is enough interest, courses can be added to the schedule to accommodate students' needs.

Dick Gerbi asked why Merced Community College District uses the same auditor year after year. Larry explained that choosing an auditor is a philosophical choice. Some believe that the same auditor should be used, so they are familiar with the District; while others believe that a different auditor may be able to spot different things. Marvin explained that although we do use the same auditor, the audit manager is different every two years. And, it was determined that as soon as this auditor's contract is over, district representatives will go out for a competitive bid for auditor services.

William Warner asked where the audits were for this year. Sheila explained that the audit for the period ending June 30, 2008 is in progress and she will distribute the audits

prior to the committee approving the final report in March. The audits should be released sometime in January.

There was consensus from the committee that the report was acceptable as submitted. Sheila will bring back a final copy for approval at the next meeting.

b. **Construction Project Update**

Dr. Johnson referred to a handout, and gave a brief description of each of the projects. Below is a summary of his report:

Bonds Pass - On November 5, 2002, the Merced Community passed a bond for \$53,500,000 to pay for projects for the Merced Campus. On November 5, 2002, the Los Banos Community passed a bond for \$11,930,000 to pay for a new Los Banos Campus.

Los Banos Campus

Complete

Learning Resources Center Project

Complete

Science Building Remodel Project

Complete

North Loop Road Project

Complete

Dump Site Relocation

Complete

Lesher Building Remodel Project

Complete

Business Resource Center

Complete

Extension of Parking Lot J Project

Completed this month and provides an additional 225 parking spaces for students.

Administration Building Remodel Project

This project is in progress and will be complete in December of 2008. This project will provide a new state-of-the-art Board Room and renovated offices for vice presidents, Office of Instruction, Foundation, Research, and support staff.

Student Union Remodel Project

This project is also in progress and will be complete in the spring of 2009. When completed, the new building will provide students with a new activities work room, new meeting rooms and a conference center.

Allied Health Center Project

This project is progressing and will be complete in spring of 2009. This project will provide expanded learning opportunities for students and staff. The complex consists of two buildings, totaling 28,000 asf. The buildings include x-ray suites, offices, meeting rooms, study rooms and classrooms.

AG/IT Complex

This "ready-access" Final Project Proposal was re-submitted on September 15, 2008. Due to the fact that there will be no state bond for the next two years, this project was moved back to 2010-11. It is anticipated the project will be included in the 2010-11 state budget.

Vocational Building Remodel Project

This project was pushed back to a 2011-12 Initial Project Proposal, due to the condition of the state budget.

Theater/Arts Remodel Project

This project maintains its status as a 2011-12 Initial Project Proposal.

Larry referred to the college website: www.mccd.edu, which has a link to the Bond Oversight Committee. From this page, members can view the progress of each of the projects.

Dick asked if there was a time limit on spending the funds. Larry said that 85% of the funds from the bond sale need to be expended within three years. Marvin said that the District has held off on the last Merced bond sale until a time when the state implements a state bond. Merced College has been very successful with contributing funds to state projects in order to receive state funding. The higher the contribution, the higher points you receive; the higher the points, the better chance you have of being funded by the state.

Los Banos has issued all their bond sales. But there is still \$550,000 remaining. It has not been determined yet how this money will be spent. Larry said that the two remaining properties in Los Banos (133 acre and 10 acre sites) are both for sale. Dick asked what the college plans on doing with the proceeds from the sold properties. Larry said that there are no plans at this point for the funds, but the money from the sale can only be used on capital projects.

4. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Sheila asked committee members if a Thursday at 5:00 p.m. was a good time and day for them. The committee was in agreement that the day and time was good for everyone. So, Sheila will schedule the next meeting on a Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in March. The meeting will be held in the new Merced College Board Room.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

After the meeting a few of the members took a tour of the new Leshler Student Services Center, led by Sheila Flores.