



HIGH SCHOOL BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

& Commentary by Vivien Moreno

The Fullerton Joint Union High School District Board information available by calling 714-870-2800 or visiting www.fjuhsd.net

FJUHS Board Meeting November 12, 2019

New School Facility Bond

Five years ago, voters from Fullerton, La Habra, La Habra Heights, Brea, and Whittier supported Bond Measure I that proposed \$145 million dollars for the Fullerton Joint Union High School District to use for facilities upgrades to theaters, gymnasiums, pools, stadiums, and science classrooms. The district has spent all but the last \$20 million dollars of this bond and they have built a new theater at La Habra, new stadiums at Buena Park, La Habra, and Fullerton Union, new gymnasium at Sonora, modernized gymnasiums at Sunny Hills, Troy, and Buena Park, modernized theaters, and libraries and built two new aquatic facilities at Sunny Hills and Troy with additional pools funded for La Habra and Buena Park.

The board approved presenting another High School District bond to authorize \$300 million additional dollars to be used to build an undetermined set of new buildings and modernization projects. FJUHS Superintendent, Dr. Scott Scambray, and Director of Facilities and New Construction, Mr. Todd Butcher stated that the District Facilities Master Plan requires an additional \$500 million dollars to completely upgrade the district facilities.

In the past months, in response to repeated requests for a tangible updated project list to be presented to the Board by Trustee Marilyn Buchi, the principals presented a wish list including new locker rooms, band rooms, upgraded courtyards, paint and modernization of windows. None of the board members' questions focused on project longevity (previous school boards were very concerned that the projects built with bond money would last 20 years or more) but instead on the ability to vote in bond money because the polling indicates a positive outcome. A majority of the discussion to move forward with the bond took place during the October 22 meeting. The trustees did not hold any further public discussion on this bill, but the 4:1 vote to approve this additional bond to go to ballot may indicate that Trustee

Buchi, with the sole no vote, still carries strong reservations about the planning behind this new bond measure.

The superintendent and the trustees will submit the new bond using the same ballot language and project list as the previous bond did five years ago, except this bond, if passed, will charge each property owner an additional \$30 dollars per \$100,000 dollars of assessed value of their home (The assessed value of a home is the amount used to calculate the yearly property taxes). Renters will have the additional assessed tax passed on by increased monthly rents. This \$30 per \$100,000 will be applied in addition to the current \$19 per \$100,000 assessed value for Bond measure I. The supplemental ballot list of projects will not be updated, which Board President Joann Fawley is comfortable with. But Trustee Buchi felt disappointed in the draft of the resolution. She stated that voters will find it hard to believe that after spending millions of community dollars, the district's needs had not changed. Trustee Buchi is very proud of the constructed projects funded by Bond I, and she knows there are additional district facility needs, but she feels that asking for this additional bond feels rushed and not as well-planned as prior bonds have been. Trustee Dr. Chester Jeng brought up the issue that Fullerton Elementary School District is also presenting a bond to voters. Dr. Scambray assured him that the voters support another bond now. Once assured that La Habra was not putting a bond measure on his district ballot, Dr. Jeng was satisfied and raised no further issues.

The District needs to finish projects in progress and will require new construction funds to build a new athletic complex due to the unexpected failure of the Fullerton High School gymnasium. Plummer Auditorium needs have also not been addressed through the current bond. These projects, however, are not specified in the new bond language.

The FJUHS has an organizational meeting on December 10 at 6pm and the next regular meeting will be January 7 at 6pm.



NOCCCD Teachers Seek Better Pay, Benefits

A large contingent of over 100 North Orange County Community College District faculty members showed up at the November 12 Board of Trustees meeting asking for better pay and benefits in a meeting that included a public comments session that lasted approximately 2 hours. The room was a sea of red shirts.

Despite negotiations between the District and United Faculty, contracts are 18-months behind the target date that they were supposed to be signed.

According to Mohammad M. Abdel Haq, UF lead negotiator and Associate Professor of Sociology at Fullerton College, "While Fred Williams, our Vice Chancellor of Finance, makes nearly a quarter of a million dollars in salary and benefits, it seems that faculty salaries are not a priority of the districts' budget. Here is a direct quote from Mr. Williams in a 2015 memo, 'The results of the 2015 Total Compensation Comparability Study indicated that our

district is low in both salaries and benefits across the member units.'

Mr. Haq continued, "The District is risking the commitment that many of us have developed to our campuses. Our faculty is rightfully frustrated. We are angry at the fact that our district carries the second largest reserve [of funds] among all community colleges in California, yet we remain among the lowest paid in comparison to surrounding districts. We are angry at the fact that the District refuses to commit to us despite our commitment to them and to our students by wanting us to accept off-schedule one-time payments. What they do not realize is that committed folks commit to not accepting the crumbs. Just as we've shown commitment to our students, we are committed to fair wages, lab/lecture parity, and dependent health coverage so that we can have comfortable living and retirement for ourselves and our families. We deserve it."

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Nursing students showed up in solidarity with their professors.