



Proposition S Communications/Stakeholder Engagement November 11, 2011- March 8, 2012

Special Events (upcoming)

- Dedication ceremonies
 - Clairemont High School automotive facility, **March 22 (Thursday) 2 p.m.**
 - Hoover High School green construction facility, **March 29 (Thursday), 10:45 a.m.**
 - Jefferson Elementary School joint-use field, **April 12 (Thursday), 10 a.m.**

Meetings (upcoming)

- Design Task Force
 - Mtg. No.1 – Crawford High School & Mann Middle School, Mann MS library, **March 22 (Thursday), 6 p.m.**

Print/Online Media Coverage

- San Diego Uptown News*, March 8, "New Joint-Use park space opening next month at Jefferson Elementary in North Park"
- San Diego Union-Tribune*, March 2, "Hoover High opens green tech building"
- San Diego Union-Tribune*, Feb. 28, "New 'green' wood shop unveiled at Hoover"
- San Diego Union-Tribune*, Feb. 27, "Schools get in touch with digital tools; District sees benefits in shift from traditional textbooks"
- Mission Courier Times*, Feb. 3, "PHAME Crusader: Katherine Nakamura's Efforts Pay Off"
- San Diego City Beat*, Jan. 18, "Bond watchdogs howling over how school board pays its advisor"
- Peninsula Beacon*, Jan. 12, "New Pointers weight room beginning to emerge after delays"
- Mission Courier Times*, Jan. 6, "School Board Approval Advances PHAME"
- San Diego Union-Tribune*, Dec. 8, "Madison High unveils new TV studio"
- Voice of San Diego*, Dec. 8, "Growing Bill Looms for School Repairs"
- Voice of San Diego*, Nov. 21, "Housing Crash Now Threatens School Construction"
- Tierra Times*, Nov. 17, "Serra High earns a 'W' on its new football field; Prop. S funds field & new track"
- San Diego Union-Tribune*, Nov. 17, "SD Unified urged to halt bond projects"
- University City Community Association Newsletter*, Nov. 2011, "History Revisited: Redevelopment of the Normal Street Education Center"
- The following articles pertain to the Project Stabilization Agreement:
 - *The Daily Transcript*, Jan. 17, "PSA not needed for efficient construction that benefits local workers"
 - *The Daily Transcript*, Dec. 29, "Building businesses while building better schools" (column by Tom Lemmon)
 - *The Daily Transcript*, Dec. 27, "People of San Diego will have their say on PLAs in June" (column by Eric Christensen)
 - *San Diego Union-Tribune*, Dec. 26, "Some Labor Successes Despite Poor Economy" (column by Lorena Gonzalez, secretary-treasurer of SD-Imperial Counties Labor Council)
 - *The Daily Transcript*, Dec. 16, "SD Unified extends its labor agreement to all Prop. S projects"
 - News Ticker, Dec. 14, "Hiring Local; SD Unified Prefers SD Builders"
 - *The Daily Transcript*, Dec. 12, "Proposition S labor agreement good for taxpayers and local jobs" (column by Tom Lemmon)
 - *San Diego Union-Tribune*, Dec. 10, "Report finds district gains from labor pact; critics disagree, contend policy is costing schools, taxpayers millions"
 - East County Magazine, December edition, "San Diego Unified School District extends labor agreement"
 - *The Daily Transcript*, Nov. 14, "Construction careers for San Diego's work force" (column by Tom Lemmon)

Broadcast Media Coverage

- ❑ *NBC 7/39*, March 4 – “Project Labor Agreements: Politically Speaking “
- ❑ *Univision San Diego*, Feb. 29 – “Academia de tecnología verde” (Green Technology Academy)—Hoover High’s Green Construction Technology
- ❑ *KUSI 9/51*, Feb. 7 – “New cooking class at San Diego High School” (culinary arts)
- ❑ *KUSI 9/51*, Feb. 7 – “Media and entertainment classes at San Diego High School” (broadcast journalism)
- ❑ *Fox 5*, Dec. 9 – James Madison High School Journalism Facility
- ❑ *KGTV 10*, Dec. 8 – State Partnership Academies Face Budget Cuts

Stakeholder Communications

- ❑ Friday Notes/News Blog (web/e-newsletter, website)
 - March 9: Prop. S Update – Hoover’s Green Technology Facility
 - March 2: Prop. S Update – Clairemont High rededicates Ernie Beck Field
 - Feb. 24: Prop. S Update – Language Academy dedicates new joint-use field
 - Feb. 10: Prop. S Update – Marshall ES drop-off/pick-up safer for students
 - Feb. 2: Prop. S Update – Hoover HS athletic facilities pass half-way mark
 - Jan. 13: Prop. S Update – Budding journalists hone their skills in new facility (Madison HS)
 - Dec. 8: Prop. S Update – Sustainable Technologies Facility construction progressing (Scripps Ranch HS)
 - Dec. 2: Prop. S Update – Morse HS CDC reaches construction milestone
 - Nov. 18: Prop. S Update – San Diego HS students settle into new classrooms
- ❑ Social Media (Facebook, Twitter – listed in order it appears on feed)
 - Hoover’s Green Technology Facility
 - Clairemont High rededicates Ernie Beck Field
 - Language Academy dedicates new joint-use field
 - Marshall ES drop-off/pick-up safer for students
 - Hoover HS athletic facilities pass half-way mark
 - Budding journalists hone their skills in new facility (Madison HS)
 - Sustainable Technologies Facility construction progressing (Scripps Ranch HS)
 - Morse HS CDC reaches construction milestone
 - San Diego HS students settle into new classrooms

Advertising

- ❑ *San Diego Monitor*, November edition, “SDUSD Offers Free Classes for Contractors”

Special Events (accomplished)

- ❑ Dedication ceremonies
 - Clairemont High School automotive facility, March 8
 - Hoover High School Green Construction Technology facility, Feb. 29
 - Language Academy joint-use field, Feb. 21
 - Madison High School broadcast journalism facility, Dec. 8

Meetings (accomplished)

- ❑ Site Master Planning & Design Task Force
 - Mtg. No.2 – Kearny High School, March 1
 - Mtg. No. 1 – Kearny High School, Dec. 15

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New joint-use park space opening next month at Jefferson Elementary in North Park

<http://sduptownnews.com/new-joint-use-park-space-opening-next-month-at-jefferson-elementary-in-north-park/>

March 8, 2012

By Monica Garske | SDUN Reporter

(From left) Richard Barrerra, school board president; David Monroe, deputy director, City Parks and Recreation Dept.; Todd Gloria, District 3 City Councilmember; Francisco Morga, principal of Jefferson Elementary School; Gilbert Gutierrez, area six superintendent for the school district; and Scott Reese, assistant director, City Parks and Recreation Dept. at the groundbreaking for the joint-use park on Oct. 13, 2011. (Photo courtesy of SDUSD)



A joint-use agreement between the San Diego City Council and the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) is bringing a recreation space to Jefferson Elementary School in North Park.

Both the City and the School District approved the \$1.9 million park space, located south of University Avenue at 3770 Utah St. Work on the park was completed last month.

Cynthia Reed-Porter, communications supervisor at SDUSD, said the project came out of necessity because Jefferson Elementary was lacking in sufficient play space for its students.

Reed-Porter also said the joint-use field was developed on SDUSD property and is predominantly funded by the School District's Proposition S bond program, which provides funds for improvement projects at school facilities throughout the district.

"Our list of projects that need [Proposition] S funding is never-ending, so we do have to be prudent with the dollars. This park project at Jefferson Elementary was a great candidate. The students needed a play area and since it's a joint-use park, we'll be able to maximize the space within the community. We want it to become a meeting hub for North Park residents," Reed-Porter said.

Per the 10-year agreement, Reed-Porter said the School District will have use of the park during school hours and the City will have use during non-school hours.

Stacey LoMedico, director for the City of San Diego Park and Recreation department said, "The field will be available to the general public 30 minutes after the end of the school day, as in accordance with the joint-use agreement, which also includes [City use on] weekends and school holidays. We anticipate the public to use it for not only general recreation, but also permitted sports and league-related events."

While construction and design for the park is funded by Proposition S dollars, LoMedico said the City will cover the annual maintenance costs, which amount to approximately \$13,000 a year.

District 3 Councilmember Todd Gloria said he believes this joint-use agreement is well worth it, as the park will become an invaluable asset to the North Park community.

"I'm proud to work with our school district to create this benefit for North Park residents and local students. These improvements will provide a revamped play space for Jefferson students and much-needed park space for neighborhood recreational activity," Gloria said.

The joint-use field is currently closed to the public, but is being used by the school. Reed-Porter said it will officially open to the public on April 12. She also said a dedication ceremony will take place on-site that day, as well as a Jog-A-Thon held by Jefferson Elementary School students.

Once it's open, there will be a substantial amount of new recreation space available. Randy White, a real estate specialist for SDUSD who works directly with the City on joint-use facilities and agreements, said this particular space is approximately one-and-a-half acres in size. This includes one acre of synthetic turf field with a walking track and half an acre of hard court space, which includes play equipment and striping for four square, basketball courts and tether ball. A children's play area is also included.

White said the park also includes accessible routes and concrete walkways, three benches, a drinking fountain and 15 parking spaces.

"The community would like the field to be used for various sports [including] baseball, softball and soccer," White said. "The field will probably be for practices, not games, but this is still questionable. Neighbors can use it for flying kites, picnics and tossing around the Frisbee," she added.

For more information, visit fpcprojects.sandi.net.

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HOOVER HIGH OPENS GREEN TECH BUILDING

By Karen Kucher

Originally published March 2, 2012 at 12:01 a.m., updated March 1, 2012 at 7:04 p.m.

SAN DIEGO — Hoover High School this week celebrated the completion of the \$3.9 million Green Construction Technology Facility, a building that will serve as the center of an academy dedicated to sustainable architecture, building trades and engineering.

The building houses a classroom and a full wood shop.

“This is what a wood shop looks like in the 21st century,” said Shawn Loescher, director of the Office of College Career and Technical Education at San Diego Unified School District.

The building includes an automated mill that can work from computerized designs, specialized saws and other equipment. It replaces an old wood shop at the school.

“They are going to be looking and studying how we go about designing and constructing buildings in the 21st century and beyond, really looking at energy efficiency from all aspects. Not only in the materials we use but in construction practices (on) how we lower our carbon footprint,” Loescher said.

The building, which earned a silver certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, has wide-open working spaces and uses less energy than comparable buildings and will demonstrate concepts students are learning. It was funded by proceeds from Proposition S, a district bond measure, as well as a state grant.

Students who enroll in the academy can take classes in general contracting and construction, architecture and engineering, and fine woodworking. As many as 200 students can enroll in the academy and can receive high school and community college credit from some courses.

Karen Aguilar, a math resource teacher who is director of the academy, said students will be able to do mentorships, job shadowing and field trips to job sites.

Karen Kucher • U-T

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New 'green' wood shop unveiled at Hoover

By Karen Kucher

San Diego Union-Tribune Newspaper

Originally published February 28, 2012 at 3:36 p.m., updated February 28, 2012 at 4:55 p.m.

SAN DIEGO — Officials are marking the completion of the \$3.9 million Green Construction Technology Facility at Hoover High School, a building that will serve as the center of an academy dedicated to sustainable architecture, building trades and engineering.

A ribbon-cutting will be held Wednesday at the building, which houses a classroom and full wood shop.

“This is going to be the first official big day where the building goes into full operations,” said Shawn Loescher, director of the Office of College Career and Technical Education at the San Diego Unified School District. “This is what a wood shop looks like in the 21st century.”

The building includes an automated mill that can work from computerized designs, specialized saws and other equipment. It replaces an old wood shop at the school.

“They are going to be looking and studying how we go about designing and constructing buildings in the 21st century and beyond, really looking at energy efficiency from all aspects. Not only in the materials we use but in construction practices (on) how we lower our carbon footprint,” Loescher said.

The LEED-certified silver building meets sustainable design and green building strategy standards, has wide-open working spaces and uses less energy than comparable buildings and will demonstrate things students are learning. It was funded by proceeds from Proposition S, a district bond measure, as well as a state grant.

Students who enroll in the academy can take classes in general contracting and construction, architecture and engineering and fine woodwork. As many as 200 students can enroll in the academy and can receive high school and community college credit from some courses.

Karen Aguilar, a math resource teacher who is director of the academy, said students will be able to do mentorships, job shadowing and field trips to job sites.

The goal is to provide something students can connect to their classroom learning to help them stay connected to school, Aguilar said.

“It is always more interesting to learn about a field when you can see real examples of it,” Aguilar said. “It makes it so much more engaging than if it is just out of the book.”

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Schools get in touch with digital books

Districts see benefits in shift from traditional textbooks

By Karen Kucher

Originally published February 27, 2012 at 5:48 p.m., updated February 27, 2012 at 6:35 p.m.



A digital book in every student's hands in the next five years.

That's the goal federal officials set out last month, just weeks after Apple announced plans to partner with publishers to offer titles for under \$15 and provide a free application that makes it easy for anyone with a Mac to create a digital book.

For some in the education field, the announcements signaled a new chapter in the evolution of technology in the classroom and a shift in the nation's \$7 billion-plus textbook market.

From Julian to Coronado to Lakeside, school districts around the region are joining others in the state and country in putting high-tech tools in the hands of students to use educational apps and electronic books to augment and even replace traditional textbooks.

The devices vary — some are buying or renting iPads while others are choosing Android tablets or netbooks. But educators agree that the education experience will look very different in the near future as technology changes the way students learn and teachers teach.

Even though iPads are expensive and most school districts are strapped for cash, some districts in the region have been acquiring the devices for students, often using proceeds from voter-approved bond measures.

Cathedral Catholic High School this fall will put iPads in the hands of its 1,700 students and 110 teachers and staff, charging parents a \$350 technology fee to cover the expense. The Encinitas Union School District has bought about 1,200 of the devices and next fall will buy another 2,500 for its third- through sixth-graders, using bond funds.

The biggest roll out by far will be done by the San Diego Unified School District, which announced late Monday it will be purchasing close to 20,000 iPads for its fifth- and eighth- grade classes and select high school subjects this spring.

Some district teachers already have proposed using Apple's free application to create their own interactive digital textbooks. Darryl LaGace, San Diego's chief information and technology officer, called the application "a game changer."

"You have somebody who no longer needs to be an expert in programming being able to assemble content in a rich multimedia experience for kids and organize it in a way that a teacher would," he said.

Early electronic textbooks were simply PDF versions of the printed page but the offerings that get educators most excited are those that are interactive and include such things as embedded videos, audio clips, photo galleries and animation. School officials say they hope Apple's foray into textbooks means that publishers will produce more electronic educational titles in the near future.

"They are holding onto a dying industry and I think they are not helping us go any faster as a result of that," LaGace said. "We need to be working with them. They need to be working with the state. All players need to be involved here to push this evolution."

As Jeffrey Felix, superintendent of the Coronado Union School District put it, "The Apple thing is going to goose it."

Still others expect textbooks, digital or otherwise, to play a lesser role in the classroom of the future as digital learning continues to evolve and teachers and districts choose to create their own content.

Many teachers already pull outside resources such as YouTube clips, handouts and online versions of textbooks to augment classroom textbooks. Encinitas Union Superintendent Tim Baird said he'd like to see publishers break digital books into individual units so teacher can purchase a unit on photosynthesis, for example, but not have to buy the entire book.

"I think digital textbooks are an intermediate stopgap between where we are now with paper textbooks (and the future) but I think in this day and age, you don't need something that starts on page one and goes to page 327. You don't need a textbook model," Baird said. "Ultimately, my hope is that the child will never have to take home a textbook again or it will be the iPad. ... That ultimately we are textbookless and paperless."

In their announcement, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski encouraged schools and companies to pursue getting digital textbooks into students' hands within five years.

“We spend \$7 billion a year on textbooks, and for many students around the country, they're out of date,” Genachowski said. By switching to digital versions, “we could be spending less as a society on textbooks and getting more for it.”

Hurdles remain. Districts not only have to find the money to purchase the devices, they have to make sure they are providing robust wireless service to support the devices.

Coronado High has a bring-your-own-technology policy that encourages students to use their own devices at school. The campus has new servers but has struggled at times to keep all the mobile devices connected to the Internet. Things improved after they tweaked settings and instructed teachers and students to stay away from bandwidth-hogging sites that stream music and videos, Felix said.

Other schools also are launching pilots to test out what works and what doesn't, testing both curriculum as well as hardware.

“It is not the thing that anybody wants to rush into. That's why you are seeing pilots,” said Karen Wagner, learning resources coordinator for the county Office of Education. “They are phasing in this process so they can identify where the need is, where the successes are and then put those elements into place so it is successful on a larger scale.”

Educators say interactive textbooks can get students more engaged and encourage them to go deeper into subjects. Districts that roll out iPads and other high-tech devices to students worry about theft and damage. Baird said he's been surprised at how careful his elementary students have been. Out of 1,200 iPads, he's only had a couple of broken screens, and some of that damage was caused by staff members.

Textbooks for \$15 or less sounds like a good deal — particularly when traditional books often run \$75 to \$100 — but the math may not add up for taxpayer-supported schools compared with colleges or private schools, said Greg Ottinger, director of online learning at the county Office of Education.

“I think it is important to be a careful consumer. That's the message we try to send,” Ottinger said. “In some private schools, the \$15 textbook could be an excellent model” because parents have to buy new books every year. In public schools, however, books are purchased by the school district and reused year after year, so that \$15 per-year recurring fee may not be a bargain.

“From a purchasing standpoint, the new model costs more money and the publishers make more money on this model,” Ottinger said.

California's suspended approval process of textbooks also raises questions about how quickly newer digital textbooks might be acquired by schools, particularly at the elementary level.



San Diego Union-Tribune Newspaper

Textbooks used in K-8 grades must be vetted through a state process, while those used in grades 9-12 must be reviewed by local school boards. The state in July 2009 halted the adoption of instructional materials — first until 2013-14 and then extending it until the 2015-16 school year — because of the state’s budget crisis. Lawmakers also gave school districts the flexibility to spend textbook dollars as they saw fit — and many have spent those dollars on retaining teachers.

“If we were flush with money and we had done the adoptions, you’d see a lot of districts switching to digital or at least incorporating it. Certainly it would play a larger role,” said Tom Adams, director of curriculum and instructional materials with the state Department of Education. “We are broke.”

Districts can use local funds to purchase any materials they want, Adams said, but if they use state funding they need to buy state-adopted materials.

John Sipe, senior vice president and national sales manager for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, said publishers are focusing more on the high school market, not only because of the state moratorium but because there are more devices there than in grades K-8.

“We have to provide our content wherever the customers want it and we provide it for whatever platform they choose to implement, whether it’s the iPad, the Kindle or the Nook, or simply the printed format,” Sipe said.

With material adoptions halted, some districts seeking digital textbooks have turned to free resources.

At Coronado High, biology students are using a digital textbook provided by nonprofit company CK-12 under a pilot program that’s also testing Android tablets. Felix, the district’s superintendent, said one of the benefits of it is that students can embed their own video clips and images and even reorganize the way the topics are introduced.

“It matches up nicely with the existing biology textbook, which is a very old version of a textbook so it needed to be replaced anyhow,” he said. “Because we don’t have the funds to replace the textbook we thought it might be good to try this free textbook with the device as well.”

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Mission Courier Times

PHAME Crusader: Katherine Nakamura's Efforts Pay Off

By Charles Iyoho Staff Writer | Posted: Friday, February 3, 2012 8:00 am

(Mission Times Courier, San Diego, CA) - Katherine Nakamura remembers clearly her son's first musical concert at Patrick Henry High School's cafetorium in fall 2008. Her husband, sitting beside her, expressed aloud his displeasure with the facility to Nakamura, who was then President of the Board of Education for the San Diego Unified School District

"He spent most of the concert hissing at me that I should be ashamed of myself," said Nakamura, whose husband is an architect and school designer.

"I had just spent eight months working to get Proposition S on the ballot, funding for its political campaign and gathering political support from across the city, among my many other duties at the time," she said. "My response to him was, 'Could you give me a minute?'"

Hard work pays off – Nakamura became one of the main driving forces behind the movement to get funding for the new Patrick Henry High Arts, Media and Entertainment Academy (PHAME) center. PHAME will supplant the school's inadequate multipurpose cafetorium.

Following years of extensive planning sessions and meetings by Nakamura and her supporters, San Diego school board members, during their regular meeting Dec. 13, voted unanimously to approve funding for PHAME, a new and expansive facility, whose features are expected to include a theater and orchestra pit, a new production studio – with career technical educational facilities for vocational training – and dressing rooms. A groundbreaking for the facility has been tentatively scheduled for June 2012.

For many individuals, including parents, school officials, city officials and local performance groups, the new center has been a long time coming. It took more than 42 years and several failed attempts by past principals for the school to finally receive the funding needed for the facility. "It's been a battle every step of the way," Nakamura said.

PHAME: The Beginning

Nakamura saw the urgency of getting a new performing arts building at Patrick Henry when school officials revealed to her their decades-long efforts toward building a new facility.

Intrigued, she began looking into the project and, following further research on the issue, she realized it wasn't just the Patrick Henry community that had been devoid of a local performing arts hub. The whole eastern region of San Diego – despite strong appeals and demands for one – was similarly starved.

A couple of weeks following her son's concert in November 2008, Nakamura and Matthew Kalal, director of Visual and Performing Arts at Patrick Henry High, began the initial planning process for the new performing arts facility in the family room of her home, outlining their plans on sliding glass doors with colored grease pencils.

They crafted ideas for an auditorium, a production studio, and a community performing arts center. Their plans morphed into the first three phases of the project.

It was also during these meetings the two eventually came up with the name PHAME.

The need for the facility had become so apparent that engineering students at Patrick Henry began drawing up designs and plans for the project, said Nakamura.

“I couldn’t believe such a high performing school didn’t have so much as an auditorium,” Nakamura said.

For the next few years, Kalal and Nakamura continued to work on the original vision brainstormed in Nakamura’s living room. The two rallied students, teachers and parents to speak at more than ten meetings held by the Board of Education. Although their efforts eventually led to funding for the first two phases of the project, they still had a long way to go, according to Nakamura.

A Bump in the Road

In the fall of 2010, Nakamura lost her re-election bid with the Board of Education, mainly due to “just working too hard trying to solve the budget crisis,” she said.

The election loss appeared to be a setback, but Nakamura, with the help of her supporters, continued to work tirelessly on PHAME.

She collaborated closely with the superintendent, Richard Barrera, the president of the Board of Education, and Kevin Beiser, who served as a representative for Patrick Henry on the board. Nakamura later introduced an idea for the final phase of PHAME, which would consist of a joint-use agreement with either Grossmont Community College or the San Diego Community College.

After several months and failed attempts, however, no deal ever went through.

The following June, Nakamura and Kalal received further bad news during a meeting with Patrick Henry principal Patricia Crowder and the school’s facilities department when they were told that the project needed to be scaled back and reduced in scope.

Crowder, Kalal and Nakamura were devastated.

“It would simply have destroyed the very essence of the facility and its original vision, not only for the school, but for the community,” Nakamura said.

Unfazed by the setback, Kalal and Nakamura spent the next few weeks meeting at Coco’s Bakery Restaurant, developing strategies, planning meetings and devising plans to get more supporters by outlining the need to replace Patrick Henry’s outdated facility.

Nakamura eventually created and developed phame.us, a website where she could post information on the project, updates, plans and pictures.

Months later, Nakamura, and the newly developed PHAME Academy Action Committee, began holding a series of meetings in the backroom of Nicolosi's Italian Restaurant.

Nakamura said the meetings typically consisted of community leaders, students, parents, teachers, planning groups and performing arts groups.

During the summer, the committee also held community meetings in Patrick Henry's cafeteria, inviting a select group of influential individuals who could help with the project.

Making Real Progress

During a Nov. 29 Board of Education meeting, members of the PHAME Academy Action Committee urged board members to place a motion by Beiser to make PHAME a priority project for the school district as an agenda item.

Immediately afterward, Barrera co-sponsored Beiser's motion, but in a nod to opponents on the Board, board members required that the schools in the cluster contribute 4 percent to the project.

In the following weeks, Nakamura, and her supporters, rallied parents and community members in the area's cluster schools.

On Dec. 13, 2011, their concerns were allayed when Board of Education members voted to approve final funding for the PHAME project.

The Last Phase

Nakamura said school officials are still seeking donations from community members to support PHAME.

The Patrick Henry High School Alumni Association will be hosting a golf tournament and barbeque May 21 at the Admiral Baker Golf Course.

Officials have also contacted famous Patrick Henry alumni, such as actress Annette Bening and actor Brian Stokes Mitchell.

Nakamura said she and supporters are also starting the Cowles Mountain Community Foundation.

The first event, the "Call of the Mountain," has been slated for spring.

"We still have a way to go to make PHAME everything it can be for the community," said Nakamura. "But PHAME is well on its way."

For more information on PHAME or to donate, visit phame.us.

Wednesday, Jan 18, 2012

Bond watchdogs howling over how school board pays its advisor

Consultant stands to gain financially by convincing SDUSD to sell more bonds

By [Emily Alpert](#)



A screen shot of Mark Young talking to the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education in July 2010

San Diego Unified had a tough call to make two years ago. The school district gets money to remodel schools by selling bonds. Then it pays for those bonds over time. If it chose bonds that took longer to pay off, schools would get more money now while construction is cheap—but they'd also end up spending more money later. It was kind of like using a credit card to snap up a good deal.

Mark Young was advising the school board on whether to take that risk. As a financial advisor, Young is supposed to help San Diego Unified reduce debt costs and risks, according to a contract signed with the school district in 2009.

But Young also had a financial stake in that decision. When San Diego Unified decides to sell more bonds, his firm—which helps get the bonds onto the market and earns a small percentage of whatever is sold—gets more money. During the last school year, his firm was paid \$175,000 in such fees.

“He advises you on the sale of bonds. The bonds that he sells?” Leonard Pinson asked at a meeting last month. Pinson sits on the [Independent Citizens Oversight Committee](#), which monitors school construction. “Anybody got a problem with that besides me?”

Young doesn’t actually sell bonds himself, but he’s paid more when more of them are sold. He’s worked for San Diego Unified for years as a consultant through [Gardner, Underwood & Bacon](#), whose role is to negotiate with underwriters, prepare legal documents needed to sell bonds and help select companies that get the bonds onto the market. That firm was purchased last year by Loop Capital Inc.; Young stayed and continued to do the same kind of work for San Diego Unified through Loop.

Pinson and others on the watchdog committee have long been concerned that the way the firm was paid could create a conflict of interest. They called for an independent, conflict-free opinion last year. The school district’s external auditor agreed, saying San Diego Unified should hire another advisor to weigh in on the decision.

“The second financial advisor would be free of any potential bias that might arise from being compensated directly from the issuance of the Proposition S bonds,” the audit by [Christy White Accountancy Corporation](#) concluded in January 2011.

So, San Diego Unified hired another company last May to give a second opinion. The watchdogs were pleased. The school board had already decided to go ahead and use the longer-term bonds for a year, but the watchdog committee believed the board would get another opinion before any future bond decisions.

But when the school board sat down in December to get advice on when and how to sell bonds, they heard only from Loop, the firm that Young now works for. The board asked Loop to come up with a new plan for the sale of additional bonds, allowing the district to fund more school construction projects while prices were low.

[Education cuts mean hacking off limbs above the tourniquets](#)[School board under fire and recounting the recount](#)[Juicing Barry Bonds](#)[Pink slip stories](#) [Fixing the wrong problems](#)[san diego unified](#)[bondsschools](#)Some school board members didn't even know the other financial advisor existed. That company, Keygent, painted a dimmer picture than Loop in its report. It said it would end up costing much more to sell the bonds. Loop predicted it would cost less than \$14 billion; Keygent pegged it at more than \$19 billion.

"Keygent said, 'You can't issue as many bonds,'" said John Gordon, a member of the watchdog committee. District officials "didn't give them a fair hearing."

Ron Little, the school district's chief financial officer, said the second opinion reshaped the advice that Loop ended up giving the school board, even if Keygent didn't talk to the board directly. Little added that the Keygent report was released at a public meeting of the watchdog committee, so anyone could have picked it up if they wanted, including school board members.

But the fact that the school board was never presented with the second opinion throws into question whether San Diego Unified really fixed the problem that the watchdogs pointed out—that the district was relying on an advisor who had a financial stake in selling more bonds.

Now the school district is replacing Loop because the company wants to become an underwriter, which sells bonds to investors. Having the same company serving as advisor and underwriter is widely seen as a conflict of interest—indeed, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board proposed last year that companies shouldn't be able to act as financial advisors and underwriters on the same financial deal.)

But it's unclear whether San Diego Unified will keep paying the new advisor the same way—more bonds equals more money—or change the system to stop a possible conflict of interest.

How San Diego Unified compensates its bond advisors is common in the financial world. Financial experts sometimes call them "contingent fees." That means how much the advisor earns depends on whether something else happens—in this case, how much funding the school district gets through bonds. Governments sometimes prefer doing business this way because they won't have to pay if they don't have income.

“You have to be a little bit sympathetic toward the need to do it. Frequently it’s just not possible for a local government to have those funds,” said Frank Hoadley, Wisconsin state director of capital finance. “But it’s a problem.”

The [Government Finance Officers Association](#) says school districts and other government agencies should avoid paying their financial advisors based on how many bonds they sell, “to remove the potential incentive for the financial advisor to provide advice that might unnecessarily lead to the issuance of bonds.” Instead, it recommends paying them a flat fee or by the hour to avoid the conflict of interest.

“You want an honest, independent financial adviser who is going to tell you whether it’s something you should be doing or shouldn’t be doing, without any bias in giving you that advice,” said Jeffrey Esser, CEO of the Government Finance Officers Association.

Lori Raineri, an independent financial advisor based in Sacramento, pointed out that just because a conflict of interest exists doesn’t mean that someone is giving bad advice. They may still give the school district sound advice, ignoring how it impacts them personally. But Raineri added that it’s risky to put the financial advisor in a position where what’s best for them isn’t necessarily what’s best for the school district.

In San Diego Unified, the finance chief negotiates with the financial advisor and other consultants, before any bonds are sold, to determine how much the advisor will earn. The fees can vary depending on how much the district plans to sell and how complicated the financial deals are, but they come out to a share of the bond revenue.

Little said Keygent weighed in only once because it would be wasteful to have two financial advisors at all times; San Diego Unified hired Keygent only for six months for \$7,500.

He argued that there was no conflict of interest because the financial advisors would ultimately get the same amount of money once all the bonds were issued. San Diego Unified is authorized to sell \$2.1 billion in bonds, and they’ll all be sold sooner or later, no matter what Loop does.

“It’s not an issue,” Little said.

ut that assumes that the financial advisors will stick around to see all of the bonds sold. That isn’t the case in San Diego Unified, which will replace Loop this year.

The school district is now weighing whether to do things differently with a new financial advisor, perhaps by paying a fixed fee or hourly wages. "I don't know which method is the best way," said school board President John Lee Evans. "But I do want us to be careful that there is no conflict of interest—real or perceived."

Peninsula Beacon -- January 12, 2012

New Pointers weight room beginning to emerge after delays

by Scott Hopkins

Another new structure at Point Loma High School (PLHS) is nearing completion after many delays and difficulties that may now, ironically enough, be turning out best for students.

There won't be any textbooks used in this building, and it's likely no science experiments or historical debates will take place within its walls. Numbers, however, will play a key role as Pointer students do something else: sweat.

The school's new weight room, a key component in interscholastic sports success, but also in everyday physical education classes, is quickly taking shape in the southwest corner of Pete Ross Stadium west of the bleachers.

But, as The Beatles sang, the project has followed "(A) Long and Winding Road" since its proposal four years ago. The road included a funding grant, disputes among parents, school district demands and concessions — plus unforeseen construction issues.

When construction finally began several months ago, several problems arose, including the discovery of massive concrete footings from a long-ago structure, that drove the cost above original estimates, said John Murphy, PLHS athletic director.

The project's fortunes took a big positive turn recently when the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) agreed to allow use of PLHS's discretionary Proposition S bond money to pay for increased costs above those previously allocated under the ballot measure.

With the building's costs covered, the original seed money for the project, a grant from the Jimmy Johnson (of NASCAR fame) Foundation two years ago, will now be used to equip the building with top-quality weight training and workout equipment.

Head football coach Mike Hastings has been poring over brochures and catalogs while he and Murphy meet with representatives of various suppliers to select the best components and stretch their budget to benefit the students.

After opening in the coming months, school officials expect the weight room to provide a modern, comfortable facility for many years that will help students improve their physiques and gain strength.

The school's former weight room was housed in two portable classrooms at the same location, but the dilapidated buildings were condemned by inspectors and ordered demolished.

When officials at PLHS were surveyed for Proposition S site needs, the weight room was listed and included on the planned improvements at the school. However, it was not scheduled to be built until 2014.

In 2009, parent Lisa Tumbiolo applied to the Jimmy Johnson Foundation for funding that is

given out annually for worthwhile projects at local schools. Johnson's "Lowe's Toolbox for Education" group, founded in 2006, donates to San Diego County schools. Johnson grew up in El Cajon.

The PLHS application, which included a video produced by then-school ASB President Josh Morse, was personally reviewed by Johnson. The foundation approved a grant of \$90,000 to help replace the facilities and invited PLHS leaders and parents to appear with Johnson at a "Homecoming Rally" at the Lowe's store in El Cajon.

Originally it was believed a basic weight room could be built by parents for \$185,000, but conflicts among them stalled the project.

Then, SDUSD officials listed requirements for the facility that drove costs up.

The final project's configuration does not include air conditioning and water fountains that were part of the hoped-for features.

Like any project, recent changes had to be made to ensure enough electrical outlets were available for current exercise equipment that feature digital readouts.

The new building will also signal the riddance of a school eyesore where a temporary outdoor training area was set up on the school's tennis courts as old weight machines deteriorated and rusted while being exposed to the elements.

Read more: [San Diego Community News Group - New Pointers weight room beginning to emerge after delays](#)

School Board Approval Advances PHAME

By Charles Iyoho Staff Writer | Posted: Friday, January 6, 2012 8:00 am

(Mission Times Courier, San Diego, CA) - It took 43 years, but it looks like Patrick Henry High School may finally get its Performing Arts and Media Center. In a move that's sure to bolster the school's status as a critical component of the community – and perhaps even the state – San Diego Unified School District board members during their regular meeting Dec. 13 voted unanimously to approve funding of the new Patrick Henry High Arts, Media and Entertainment Academy – also more simply referred to as “PHAME.”

The historical meeting highlights the urgency and enormity of an issue that has drawn a significant amount of support from parents, school officials, city officials and local performance groups such as Tifereth Israel Community Orchestra, the Christian Youth Theatre, the San Diego Shakespeare Society, Step In Step Dance Studio and the San Diego Musical Theatre.

San Diego Unified School District Area 2 superintendent David Lorden said Patrick Henry's current multipurpose center has been an issue of concern for more than 42 years – with several principals in the past failing to get a new facility, despite repeated attempts. He described the current facility as “inadequate to accommodate its music and theatre programs.”

School officials hope that the facility will become a vital component of the performing arts community.

“Patrick Henry High School was built without an auditorium and we have asked for a proper facility for decades,” said Patricia Crowder, Patrick Henry principal. “We have asked for this academic facility at every opportunity, using every policy, procedure and process available to us.”

Funding for the new facility will come from Proposition S, a \$2.1 billion San Diego Unified facilities bond measure that was passed with 68 percent of the vote in 2008, and from California's Proposition 1D, a \$10.4 billion facilities bond for Kindergarten-University that passed with 56.4 percent of the vote in 2006.

The bond money being used to build PHAME cannot be used to pay teacher or administrator salaries, according to officials of the PHAME Academy.

Lorden said officials recently developed a proposal to build a professional theatre by allocating \$2.9 million from other Proposition S projects within the Patrick Henry High School cluster to increase the current Proposition S funds designated for the theatre project budget.



Union-Tribune Newspaper

Madison High unveils new TV studio

By Nathan Max

Thursday, December 8, 2011

CLAIREMONT — When Madison High School launched its broadcast journalism program last year, it didn't have much of the required equipment to produce programming.

Now, the school has a 3,250-square-foot facility that would make many television stations envious.

Students, teachers and administrators unveiled the school's new state-of-the-art, \$2.6 million, high-definition broadcast studio Thursday morning, a project that was funded through Proposition S and a Proposition 1D grant.

The new building boasts a two-set broadcast studio with an adjacent eight-workstation control room, a classroom, three editing rooms and a machine room with computerized processing and distribution equipment.

"It's really validated for them what the course is meant to do, which is prepare for a career experience," Madison High Principal Richard Nash said. "The equipment has to be industry standard to validate that for students. It steps up the rigor of the curriculum when you can place it in the context of industrial need."

Proposition S, a \$2.1 billion bond measure, was passed in 2008 with the goal of repairing, renovating and revitalizing San Diego Unified School District schools.

Students in the program produce a real television news program called, "The Hawk Eye News," that is disseminated throughout the school once a week. As they learn more, the students are working toward making it a daily show, Nash said.

Cheyenne Overall, a 17-year-old senior, said students have been using the new facility since September, and the difference compared with last year has been, "beyond expression."

"We didn't have a TelePrompTer last year, so we had to use cue cards," said Overall, who produces and writes for The Hawk Eye News. "We didn't have enough cameras, so we couldn't change the angle or the shot. Now, we have all this new technology. It's so much more convenient. Everything goes smoother, and I feel like we learn so much more."

Growing Bill Looms for School Repairs

Posted: Thursday, December 8, 2011 5:15 pm

Leaky roofs. Frayed wiring. Broken ramps. Three years ago San Diego Unified had a long list of needed repairs. It estimated it would need \$755 million to tackle all of them over the next decade.

The problem threatened to undercut political support for the school district if it asked taxpayers for more money.

Taking care of repairs is seen as a sign of financial prudence. Financial hawks want to see that governments are spending their money wisely before they ask for more.

So before San Diego Unified asked voters to pay for a new bond to build and renovate schools, it came up with a plan to defeat its repair problem. That won over the San Diego County Taxpayers Association, which gave its blessing to their \$2.1 billion school renovation bond.

Fast forward three years. San Diego Unified is stuck with the same problem. And it is again looking to taxpayers to fix it. But this time around, it might not be able to sway the Taxpayers Association and other critics who argue the district broke its promises to keep schools in shape.

The school district has fallen behind on its praised plan. Most schools are in worse shape than before. It will cost an estimated \$137 million more to fix them because repairs were pushed back. They could be pushed back even more if the school district has to pause school construction and renovation, as is being contemplated. So the school board is now exploring whether to ask taxpayers to pay for another bond — again to tackle its nagging repairs.

The school repair boondoggle comes down to three things:

- Taxes are bringing in less money than expected to fix up schools.
- The school board decided to use bond money to install technology and build new facilities before turning to repairs.
- And the school district has spent less than it planned on repairs to help save money in its day-to-day budget, which pays for teachers and treasured programs.

All in all, San Diego Unified had hoped to devote an average of \$69 million annually to repairs and upkeep for a decade. Last year it only chipped in \$38 million.

The problem is a classic one for governments. Nobody comes down to the school board to plead for new carpets or better plumbing. So repairs get pushed to the back burner when money is scarce. But the problem doesn't go away. It only gets more expensive.

"Deferred maintenance is not sexy. It's not visible. It's boring," said Brian Pollard, who sits on a committee overseeing school construction. "They can delay it all they want. But that monster isn't going anywhere. It's just getting bigger and bigger."

Part of the problem hinged on the economy: San Diego Unified had planned on getting more money in taxes every year, expecting that housing values would rise annually. Instead they fell or stayed flat. Now, it has less money with which to issue bonds.

The school district also chose to put other things ahead of repairs. The board put a big chunk of the dwindling dollars into new technology. Kids got little laptops. Teachers have flashy digital whiteboards.

The idea was to revamp classrooms to be more interactive and engaging for kids.

"The question was, what school improvement would have the most direct effect on student achievement?" school board member John Lee Evans said.

Putting technology first also helped San Diego Unified nab nearly \$40 million in federal money that might not be available later. The school district jumped on new buildings to relieve overcrowding and to help teens prepare for careers like broadcasting or green construction. It wanted to cash in on state money that was available for those things. Because there was little money left to do much else, repairs were shoved back in the schedule.

That comes at a price. School repairs become more expensive when they are put off. School district officials estimated this summer that they would need to spend \$137 million more than the \$691 million it had originally planned to get schools into decent shape in the future.

Now money for school construction is lagging so much that San Diego Unified fears it will have to stop new work for a while. When the school district planned for the new bond, it knew it still had to pay the bills for an earlier bond that voters passed more than a decade ago.

The school board now wants to ask taxpayers to foot the bill for another bond. The new bond could pay for overdue repairs, allowing the school district to avoid dipping deeper into its ordinary funding to pay for repairs at the expense of popular programs and beloved teachers. It could also pay to replace the computers that the existing bond just paid for, which threaten to put a new burden on its day-to-day budget.

The Taxpayers Association has already balked at the idea. It dislikes the idea of using borrowed money to maintain schools or pay for computers that will only last a few years. Borrowing costs: San Diego Unified will ultimately pay somewhere between \$8 billion and \$19 billion to borrow the \$2.1 billion bond.

"It's like having a perpetual credit card," said Leonard Pinson, who sits on the watchdog committee and shares the concerns. "Where does it all come crashing down?"

Barnett, who once led the taxpayer group, agrees that paying for computers that will be useless in a few years with bonds that his children will have to pay off is "insane." But he argued that a new bond could actually provide money to keep replacing computers over and over for decades, making it sustainable.

Besides, he said, "there's no alternative."

Emily Alpert is the education reporter for voiceofsandiego.org. What should she write about next? Please contact her directly at emily.alpert@voiceofsandiego.org.

Housing Crash Now Threatens School Construction

Posted: Monday, November 21, 2011 4:05 pm



Photo by Sam Hodgson

In 2010, construction crews worked on a new classroom building at Point Loma High School funded by bond money. The district is halting similar projects because it wrongly assumed home values would keep climbing.

The San Diego Unified school district has reaped less and less from a \$2.1 billion school construction bond as the financial crisis hurt San Diego housing values. Now that crisis threatens to completely stall school construction.

When San Diego Unified drew up its plans for renovating and building schools with bond money three years ago, it assumed housing values would grow 5 percent every year. Under the bond, voters allowed San Diego Unified to collect a property tax of \$66.70 for every \$100,000 a house is worth. Higher housing values bring in money faster.

But after the housing market crashed, the school district realized its assumption was too optimistic. San Diego Unified redrew its plans and delayed projects because the money was coming in slower than expected. That same money goes toward paying off the debt from another, earlier bond that built schools.

But the housing market hasn't picked up. The shortfall in bond money has continued, getting so bad that school district administrators and a watchdog committee are urging San Diego Unified to halt construction. The district has already stopped awarding new work.

Lee Dulgeroff, who oversees the bond, says financial experts estimate that San Diego Unified will only reap enough money to pay off the debt from the last bond, leaving it no money to take on new projects.

The Union-Tribune reports the suspension will halt four major classroom construction projects until the district figures out how to finance them. The district is trying to refinance debt from the earlier bond to free up more money, but the U-T points out that could be harder now that San Diego Unified has gotten its credit rating downgraded by two different agencies.

Delaying the projects also means San Diego Unified will likely have to pay more for them, since prices go up with time. The ultimate fear is that the school district won't be able to build everything it promised.

The timing is bad for San Diego Unified. The district is now exploring a new bond measure to help with its budget woes. Though bond money can only be spent on school construction and renovation, San Diego Unified hopes it could free up money for classrooms by using the money for billions of dollars in overdue repairs that are now paid for from its day-to-day budget.

The idea of a new bond already faces opposition. If San Diego Unified puts construction and renovation for the existing bond on hold, it'll be much harder for boosters to make their case for new borrowing.

We'll keep following this story to see what happens to school repairs and construction. The school board is slated to consider a plan to refinance the bond debt in early December. Have burning questions that we haven't answered? Please email me or post them in the comments!

Emily Alpert is the education reporter for voiceofsandiego.org. What should she write about next? Please contact her directly at emily.alpert@voiceofsandiego.org.



Serra High earns a "W" on its new football field; Prop S funds field & new track!

It may still be called "The Hole," but Serra High School's stadium now has a new synthetic turf football field and all-weather track, thanks to Proposition S, the \$2.1 billion bond measure approved by voters in 2008.

The ceremonial ribbon-cutting was held prior to the school's first home game on September 23rd, a 27-13 non-league win over University City High.

Athletic Director Jonn Pisapia, joined by Board Trustee Kevin Beiser, Principal Michael Jimenez, and others, cut the ribbon as the football team anxiously awaited play on their new field (see photo above).

The \$2.4 million football field/track improvement project is one of several Prop. S funded projects totalling \$27.7 million planned at Serra High over the next five years. For more project information, visit the District's school facilities projects page at <http://fpcprojects.sandi.net>

In the coming years, the San Diego Unified School District will also be constructing a new \$6.3

million classroom building as well as doing nearly \$17 million in major site modernization improvements to the overall campus.

In addition, the District has installed interactive technology suites in 32 classrooms so far and plans to do installations in another 13 classrooms this year. In total, approximately 76 interactive suites will be installed at the school, valued at approximately \$2.2 million.

By law, Proposition S dollars cannot be used to purchase school supplies or to pay salaries for teachers and administrators.

Serra tennis courts closed for repairs

The tennis courts at Serra High School are closed between November 15th and December 2nd for repairs and rehabilitation. The project is funded 50/50 by the Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance District and the School District. The courts will also be repainted to be compatible with Serra's colors.





SD Unified urged to halt bond projects

Real estate slide results in tax revenues coming up short

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Written by
Maureen Magee /h5>

8:41 p.m., Nov. 17, 2011

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Campus building bids low

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Unified School District's \$2.1 billion bond construction program has fallen on tough times, with major projects facing suspension this year and the likelihood of issuing any new bonds in 2012 uncertain.

Due to the real estate collapse, the district's payments for the 2008 Proposition S and the 1998 Proposition MM bond measures are \$15 million to \$20 million above tax revenues that would be generated by maximum tax rates from property owners through 2020, according to an independent analysis commissioned by the district.

At the recommendation of the committee charged with overseeing the bonds, the district plans to call for a suspension of new projects today that would immediately halt new construction, project planning and design to curtail bond spending, Lee Dulgeroff, a district administrator who oversees Proposition S, said Thursday.

According to a draft letter from the administration to the school board, "...there is a good chance the district will be able to restructure its current debt service and issue Prop. S bonds in the first quarter of 2012. However, in the meantime, since there is some level of uncertainty, the most prudent approach is to carefully manage our commitments and expenditures until we are able to issue more bonds."

The Independent Citizens Oversight Committee also plans to send a letter to the school board to urge for the suspension.

If enforced, the suspension would halt four major classroom construction projects that were set to go out to bid in coming weeks at the Language Academy, and Encanto, Zamorano and Euclid elementary schools until financing is sorted out.

San Diego Unified had long planned to issue \$140 million in bonds

beginning in January to renovate schools and continue its classroom technology efforts. The district has scaled back those plans and now intends to issue \$60 to \$90 million in bonds in the spring, but even that could be a challenge.

The district has “no capacity to both service Prop MM debt and issue more debt in the form of Prop S bonds in the near term,” Chief Financial Officer Ron Little warned the school board in a letter issued Oct. 25. He went on to say that “without taking any action,” the district “would not have the capacity to issue Prop S bonds until 2020.”

The CFO is working with a finance team to find a way to issue bonds next year, likely through refinancing Proposition MM debt. He would not disclose any of the options the team is considering.

Little is expected to present a menu of choices to the school board Dec. 6. His October memo bluntly stated that, at that time, “all of the options we are reviewing possess inherent risks.”

After three years of declining-to-flat property values in San Diego, it’s not surprising that issuing bonds could be a challenge.

However, some say the district helped put itself in this predicament by frontloading its classroom technology program — dubbed i21 — in the first phase of Proposition S. That initiative has equipped 2,665 classrooms with interactive Promethium Boards, put more than 74,000 netbooks in the hands of children and rewired schools throughout the district.

The technology initiative, which was only vaguely mentioned in the 2008 ballot description of Proposition S, has used up \$161 million of the \$400 million in bonds issued under Proposition S so far. Future bonds will finance another \$183 million i21 work.

That means construction projects and long-needed campus repairs were pushed lower on the district’s massive to-do list. In addition, some believe the district waited too long to consider refinancing its bonds. Had officials sought refinancing last year — before the they announced the threat of insolvency and the district’s credit rating was downgraded by Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s Investor Service agencies — it would have been easier to restructure the debt, said John Gordon, a member of the oversight committee and chair of the Executive/Governance Subcommittee.

Some on the bond watchdog committee have urged the district to disclose the problems to the public.

“Let’s tell the public what the situation is. Let’s not overpromise and underdeliver,” said Gordon, a longtime financial analyst. “If it doesn’t look like the district is going to have any new bonding authority, let’s fess up.”

Even before the committee met Thursday and decided to issue its memo, Proposition S chief Lee Dulgeroff said he was already putting together a call to suspend major campus construction projects set to go out to bid

this month until the district finds a way to issuing new bonds.

“We are preparing to slow down the program and not award any new contracts until after we have a board-approved financial plan to issue more bonds,” Dulgeroff said. “That will mean a delay for a month or two.”

What’s more, Dulgeroff is working to “recalibrate” the overall Proposition S master schedule. That will likely mean delays, forcing the school board to decide which projects will be put off and which ones will get priority.

“I’m optimistic we will be able to sell bonds in the spring,” said Dulgeroff, who is working with Little for find financing options. “The program will slow down, I don’t think its going to come to a screeching halt.”

By freezing all new projects, the committee said the district could ensure those remaining funds are wisely spent. The some \$150 million in Proposition S projects that are under construction will continue as planned.

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History Revisited: Redevelopment of the Normal Street Education Center

by Carol Neidenberg

Established in the late 1880s boom, University Heights reached prominence as the future site for the College of Arts of the University of Southern California. “The future was thought to be secured as the college owned every lot on the tract and the money and revenue derived must be devoted to the erection and endowment of the building.”

With the collapse of the boom, USC abandoned its plans for San Diego. The 17-acre property became the State Normal School, a two-year teacher training college, and eventually consisting of an 1899 Beaux Arts main building, a 1910 Italian Renaissance teacher training building and several other smaller buildings. The main school building was designed by William Hebbard and Irving Gill based on the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair Fine Arts Palace.

The 1930s depression seemed to put an end to major growth in UH. The Normal School moved and became SDSU in 1931 and the old campus became the Horace Mann Junior High School until 1952. The main building was bulldozed in 1955 and today only the Teachers Annex remains.

Five decades later, the question again has been asked: what will happen to the San Diego Unified School District Normal Street property? Redevelopment will happen; however, this time it’s not only about education, but about developing new revenue from privatizing the building of high density residences and retail spaces.

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) has more than 200 school sites. Half of the buildings are more than 45 years old and are in serious need of improvements. Initial estimates pointed to approximately \$5.5 billion in unmet facility needs as a result of changes in technology, safety/security systems improvements, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades; ventilation/heating/cooling repairs and upgrades, and repair/replacement of deteriorated buildings. Proposition S, which was passed in 2008, will only provide \$2.1 billion. How will the SDUSD come up with the rest?

Last month, the Board approved going forward with a Request for Interest/Information (RFI) on the property, a process intended to solicit ideas and strategies for the creation of a multi-use strategy for the existing Education Center property (excluding Birney Elementary). This action allows staff to solicit ideas from the real estate developers and initiate conversations with the local residents. Community outreach was identified as the next step as SDUSD considers concepts for the property. The ideas submitted on the potential redevelopment of the Normal Street property is considered to be the precursor to developing a Request for Proposals (RFP).

According to Roy MacPhail, Director, Instructional Facilities Planning and Real Estate Department, Office of the Deputy Superintendent Business, SDUSD anticipates that developers, real estate consultants, and management groups will respond to the RFI in the “hope that their concepts would be selected and become the basis for a formal RFP as the second phase.”

The RFI submittals are to be reviewed by a committee to be composed as the Board directs, and that the most feasible options would then be presented to the Board for their direction and the subsequent creation of an RFP based on that direction. Multi-use such as retail, housing, and an educational center will be considered.

However, the district does not have the funds to pursue this work and Proposition S funds were earmarked for schools. Therefore, development funded revenue must be used to overcome these obstacles. It is also believed that a revenue stream for the district could be created from on-going utilization of the space. The existing historical building, Annex 1, would be utilized as is currently planned, for a library space. Meetings held with city officials and planners indicate that there is initial support for such an effort.

What do you want to see in the development of the Normal Street property? How will this redevelopment impact your quality of life, parking, crime, traffic, etc.? Become involved. Contact elected officials and the Board of Education trustees. Let your voice be heard. Now is the time to speak up!

PSA not needed for efficient construction that benefits local workers

By George Hawkins

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

The San Diego Unified School District recently announced that its board of trustees has unanimously approved applying the terms of its current project stabilization agreement to all work remaining in the Proposition S bond program. We are told this decision was made based on the results of a study that shows the projects being built with bond money are coming in on schedule, under or on budget and that goals for hiring local construction workers are being met. The study also apparently shows that small construction businesses are getting what supporters call a reasonable share of the work.

Construction labor representatives, who directly benefit from project stabilization agreements, have immediately claimed ownership of these announced successes. These boasts are based on the wishful thinking that nothing like this kind of success can be obtained without a PSA.

There are already reports that the study upon which this decision to expand the PSA rests was flawed. Those are easy charges to make and are of little import. Similar complaints were offered about a recent, separate study, the largest of its kind ever undertaken, that concluded PSAs raise the cost of construction by around 15 percent over costs for comparable construction absent a restrictive PSA.

The larger evaluation, sponsored in part by the Associated Builders and Contractors California Compliance Committee and conducted by the National University System Institute for Policy Research, was reviewed by USC's Keston Institute, which found it was procedurally sound. It doesn't appear any other professional research organization has reviewed and confirmed the SDUSD study's analytical approach.

That alone doesn't condemn this most recent report. Its authors have the same reputation to protect as do the authors of any such study.

The real question is whether the claimed values could have been obtained without the PSA. The answer to that is a resounding yes. There is clear evidence that the accomplishments this SDUSD study says were obtained on work that is under a PSA are present for construction projects absent PSAs. Construction work at the airport, on the San Diego Community College District campuses, on Poway schools and for the Grossmont Healthcare District is being done without the imposition of a project stabilization agreement.

Poway construction has gone well. By all accounts, the Community College District's work is exemplary. Grossmont construction had one early hiccup, but now projects are moving along efficiently. Airport officials say their new terminal is a quality project.

Each of these construction project owners uses numerous local, small construction companies. Each provides outstanding employment opportunities for local construction workers. Results like that are directly attributable to the work of the people running the facilities divisions for these various public owners. A PSA contributes nothing but additional cost and new dues for union officials to spend.

All of the bond-funded projects mentioned employ both union and non-union construction businesses. Only one, the PSA-covered SDUSD building program, requires non-union workers to pay a fee to work. There's the rub. PSA projects add income for the union with no added benefit to the community. It is a devious way to get something for nothing.

Public construction wage and benefit costs are union scale by state edict. Everyone in a specific skill classification is compensated under the same financial structure. Despite that, in many cases non-union construction workers employed on public construction projects have more take-home pay than their union counterparts. Because they aren't union members they don't have to pay dues to have a job, and they get immediate value from their benefits.

Non-union construction workers on public projects receive fringe benefits comparable to those enjoyed by union members but at lower cost. Any differences in cash value go to the employee or for the employee's benefit. There is no waiting period for health coverage eligibility, and the money that is paid into the non-union worker's retirement account is 100 percent vested as soon as it is contributed.

It's a travesty that PSA-covered work forces non-union construction workers to pay part of their wages to a union to work on a project their taxes helped fund. No study can give that validity.

Hawkins is retired after 35 years as a construction industry association manager. He was a broadcast reporter and news anchor in Denver. As a Navy officer, he saw action in Vietnam in the River Assault Squadrons and is the recipient of a Silver Star and Purple Heart. He can be reached at george.hawkins@sddt.com.

December 26, 2011

SOME LABOR SUCCESSSES DESPITE POOR ECONOMY

LORENA GONZALEZ

At the Labor Council, our mission is to advocate for more jobs, better jobs and better lives for all of San Diego's workers, union and nonunion. Fulfilling this mission proved to be quite challenging this past year. Low-wage and middle-class workers throughout the county faced daunting unemployment, wage stagnation, rising health-care costs, home foreclosures and more. Even among the stormy clouds of these tough economic times, there have been silver linings for our region's workforce.

Airport workers convinced the airport authority - made up of commissioners from both political parties - to institute a worker-retention policy as concession and parking contracts went out to bid. Now, as contractors at the airport change, all of the workers

We hope corporations will spend the cash they've been stockpiling to create jobs in this country. Next Christmas, I want every present I buy to be stamped "Made in America."

- some who have been working there for decades - will be able to keep their jobs.

Last year, the Labor Council and the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council launched a successful pre-apprenticeship program targeted at bringing high school dropouts into the construction trades. To date, we have helped 33 young people earn their high school diploma or GED and have prepared them with the skills necessary to gain entrance into a joint labor-management apprenticeship program. Thanks to the Project Stabilization Agreement at the San Diego Unified School District, some students have already worked on projects funded by the school bond. Strong local hire requirements in the labor agreement ensured that more than 40 percent of the workers on these school projects came from census tracts with high unemployment.

In September, nearly 10,000 local grocery workers ratified their contract and served as a sterling example of what can be achieved through collective bargaining. The "Fortune 500" grocery companies reversed their decision to ransack employee health care when workers voted to strike, and a fair contract was reached.

Taxi drivers, who are barred from joining a union by virtue of their "independent contractor" status, have successfully organized for a voice at

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their workplace. They have engaged labor and the community to help tackle issues concerning driver safety and livable wages.

Labor also joined forces in an unprecedented coalition with faith, student and neighborhood groups to ask, what would "A Better San Diego" look like? More than 40 organizations and hundreds of regular San Diegans came together in August for an economic summit and developed a general platform to address real problems facing our communities. We presented questions about that platform to San Diego mayoral candidates in October.

Most importantly, despite starting the year with some shocking sentiment from right-wing politicians across the country, worker-led protests in Wisconsin and the Occupy Wall Street movement forced the media to tackle the real long-term causes of our economic collapse. As a result, a broader discussion about income inequality, tax fairness and corporate accountability is finally developing.

My Christmas wish is that these discussions actually result in substantial policy changes.

We hope that corporations will spend the cash they have been stockpiling to create jobs in this country. By next Christmas, I want every present I purchase to be stamped "Made in America."

We will continue to call on state and federal policymakers to take on foreclosure abuses by the big banks. We also hope that our San Diego City Council will hold these banks accountable for the blight they have caused by neglecting foreclosed properties in neighborhoods throughout the city.

I anticipate we will extend the success of the San Diego Unified School District labor agreement to Southwestern College. Local South Bay workers also deserve local hire opportunities. I hope other large public projects in our region will only be approved if they have a written commitment to employ local construction workers and provide training opportunities for young people.

We also hope that San

Diego will have a vigorous discussion about jobs in our hotel and restaurant industries. For far too long, taxpayers have subsidized poverty-level jobs created by corporations who profit immensely from our waterfront property and beautiful weather. San Diego's tourism workers should at least have the same standards these hoteliers and companies provide in every other large California city.

Most of all, I pray for my children's generation – a generation facing swelling class sizes at school, fewer library and park hours, and the loss of an affordable path to college – and that it is saved by fairness and common sense. My wish is that those with the most – the billionaires and large corporations – stop interfering with sensible tax reform, so that everybody pays their fair share to help restore the American dream for our next generation.

Gonzalez is the secretary-treasurer of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, which includes 134 affiliated unions and 192,000 local union workers.

Building businesses while building better schools

By Tom Lemmon

Thursday, December 29, 2011

Growing up in San Diego, I always look forward to going to Saska's in Mission Beach for their baseball cut steak. Both my wife and I have been going there since we were kids and still enjoy going there to this day. Also, back in the day when I had a couple of extra bucks to upgrade my Baja Bug, I always went to the Off Road Warehouse. It's been a long time since they were located on Othello Avenue, and the move to Balboa Avenue only made the access easier.

These small businesses give San Diego its character. Their products and services are high-quality because the people who run them know San Diego like the back of their hand, and there's pride in serving people in the town where they live.

Small businesses are a major driver of our economy. Two-thirds of all new jobs are created by businesses with fewer than 20 employees. This makes sense if you think about it. Proportionally, small businesses create more jobs relative to their share of the economy. They also tend to have roots in a local area and therefore circulate their revenues within the local economy.

In the construction industry, public agencies are increasingly setting goals to encourage small-business participation in public works projects. It serves a double bottom line by investing to create both public and private benefits.

Some data is now coming back about the results of such projects. The California Construction Academy at the UCLA Labor Center recently released a report evaluating construction projects under Los Angeles Unified School District's project stabilization agreement from 2003 to 2011 and found that 48 percent of construction project dollars went to small and disadvantaged businesses.

This far surpassed LAUSD's goal to ensure that 25 percent of construction project dollars went to small business enterprises. Out of a total of \$8.68 billion that LAUSD spent on construction projects, \$4.15 billion went to small and disadvantaged businesses. Out of 496 total prime contractors, 219 prime contractors were small business enterprises. Out of 4,773 total subcontractors, 1,194 subcontractors were small business enterprises.

LAUSD's projects also created large numbers of local jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits. Construction projects under the LAUSD PSA employed a total of 96,000 workers who gained an aggregate of \$1.46 billion in wages. Forty-one percent of these workers live in target ZIP codes within LAUSD, and 68 percent of these workers live in Los Angeles County. These workers directly spend their wages into the local economy, thus spurring a ripple effect into food services, tourism, transportation and retail sectors.

These results show the value of a PSA for local and small businesses. They demonstrate that in addition to building better schools, an agency can leverage taxpayer dollars in construction for a high economic impact. Part of the reason for LAUSD's success was that the leadership embraced the goals of small-business development. They actively put processes into place to help small businesses bid and followed up with prime contractors to help them find small contractors to hire.

In San Diego, we are witnessing the business model generating great success. Whereas LAUSD required more than five years acquiring operational efficiencies, San Diego Unified School District is already making significant strides within two years of adoption of its PSA on Proposition S funds.

A recent SDUSD study, based on a survey of contractors by consultant Rea & Parker Research, found that local hire goals are on track, that there was no change in project cost or quality, and projects were completing faster under the PSA. The SDUSD PSA has an ambitious small-business participation goal, aiming for 40 percent small business enterprise participation. Within this broad target are special provisions for emerging small businesses and businesses owned by the disabled, veterans, women or minorities.

Earlier this month, the board of trustees of SDUSD voted unanimously to extend the PSA to all Proposition S bond and state funded projects. This creates certainty for contractors, administrators and taxpayers, allowing the PSA to stabilize costs and save time. It also allows scheduling and coordination between contractors and apprenticeship programs for multiyear trades curricula. Extending the PSA in the long term creates a level playing field for small businesses by making it cost-effective to invest in work force training and bidding requirements, so that they can increasingly be awarded school construction projects.

Small-business growth will be critical to the recovery of the construction industry in San Diego. It makes good business sense to use our scarce taxpayer dollars to build public facilities, while also building a sustainable base of quality contractors on public works projects in the region. I look forward to the small construction businesses playing a critical role in ushering a happier 2012.

Lemmon is the business manager of the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO.

People of San Diego will have their say on PLAs in June

By Eric Christen

Tuesday, December 27, 2011

During this special time of year, when the issue of temporal and transcendent morality is injected into the public square so significantly, there is an issue that has played out in San Diego more prominently than in any other city in the United States the past four years.

Ever since Big Labor special interests helped to chase away the \$1 billion Gaylord resort in Chula Vista -- and the thousands of construction jobs that would have gone with it -- San Diego and the surrounding region have been ground zero in the battle over project labor agreements.

A PLA is a union-friendly agreement that is written by and for Big Labor special interests that comprise less than 20 percent of the construction work force. It mandates that merit shop workers for all intents and purposes join a union as a condition of employment.

Since the Gaylord debacle, the San Diego Unified School District has placed a project stabilization agreement on its \$2.1 billion Proposition S construction bond, something never mentioned when this bond was being sold to the public in 2008. Despite the predictable cost increases (more than 20 percent, or \$16 million to date) that have occurred as a result of this exclusionary agreement, the SDUSD school board, a board that owes its elections to Big Labor money, just voted to extend the PSA to the life of the bond.

To counter such corruption and misuse of taxpayer monies, a broad coalition of taxpayer, business and community groups has brought the question of freedom and open competition to the people. In the cities of Chula Vista and Oceanside, voters easily passed measures banning PLAs despite Big Labor spending more than \$750,000 to oppose them. Last November, voters in San Diego County voted 76 percent to 24 percent for freedom and against government-mandated coercion. Seventy-six percent of the people couldn't agree on what the weather is like, but they did agree on this issue. This is because PLAs really aren't that controversial. The people get it, and once again the people in the city of San Diego will be able to have their say in June 2012, as the latest PLA ban has just qualified for the ballot.

What is rarely mentioned, however, in all of the public policy discussions, editorials, newspaper stories, radio ads, television interviews and debates on PLAs that have occurred here and elsewhere are the moral implications of using the government as an agent to prod contractors and their employees into union agreements.

Is it right for a government to require contractors to make employee fringe benefit payments to union-managed trust funds and obtain their workers from a union hiring hall? What kind of thinking leads a representative of the people to require workers to pay initiation fees and dues to a union as a condition of working on a public project paid for with workers' own tax dollars? What kind of community leader wants to build four taxpayer-funded schools for the cost of five to curry favor with a special interest group?

Project labor agreements are associated with fiscal irresponsibility and mismanagement, internal corruption, and lack of accountability to the people who pay taxes for the government to provide services. The areas you typically see PLAs are areas where citizens have abdicated their responsibilities to oversee their local governments. As a result, unions fill the resulting political vacuum and attract ambitious people who see unions as a vehicle to attain personal power and position.

Call it what you will -- corporatism, statism, crony capitalism or simply government picking life's winners and losers -- the results are the same: an inefficient allocation of precious taxpayer dollars and the reduction to second-class citizenship of any worker out of favor by those in power.

Arguments based on reason and common sense have no power in this kind of environment. Just listen to and read the intellectual and moral illiteracy that emanates from today's so called union "leadership" or any of SDUSD's Board of Trustees. That such people are allowed to hold power demonstrates the citizenry has, in these instances, failed in its constitutional and moral duties.

The good news is the citizens have a chance to correct that which is wrong. In June, San Diego voters can ban PLAs on any city-funded project, thereby restoring, in part, a more moral and just society in which each person is treated as an individual free to make decisions for themselves and free of government coercion.

Christen is executive director of the Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction.

SD Unified extends its labor agreement to all Prop S projects

By CARLOS RICO, The Daily Transcript
Friday, December 16, 2011

The San Diego Unified School District has extended its Proposition S labor agreement to now cover all of the \$2.1 billion in construction work still left to be completed.

The district's board of education voted unanimously to implement the Project Stabilization Agreement (PSA) to the entire Proposition S construction bond projects Tuesday night.

The board all said at its meeting the main reason behind its decision was because of an independent study that said the PSA was meeting local hiring goals. The new PSA rules will go into effect Jan. 1, 2012.

The board's actions will also call for a plan, which will need to be developed, to address the close out of current labor compliance projects before the impact to district staffing can be quantified for the current fiscal year. However, there will be no loss of district staff.

On Dec. 9, the San Diego Unified School District released an independent study conducted by Rea & Parker Research that indicated the PSA's hiring goals are on track; there was no change in project cost between PSA and non PSA projects; the number of bidders is lower on PSA projects versus non PSA projects; and on average PSA projects are completing faster than non PSA projects.

The study was done at the request of the school district's board of education. It is not known whether or not the board is considering additional studies to the PSA.

On July 28, 2009, the district's board of education approved the PSA. It is a legally binding contract between the district, the San Diego Building & Construction Trades Council and Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, which establishes hiring practices, wages and benefits in exchange for no work stoppages.

The PSA went into effect on Oct. 27, 2009 and had previously only accounted for Proposition S construction projects estimated at \$1 million and above.

In November 2008, San Diego voters approved Propositions S, which calls for repairs and renovations to district campuses.

The PSA has been under heavy scrutiny since it surfaced, by nonunion contractors and open shop associations.

The San Diego chapters of the Associated Builders and Contractors and the Associated General Contractors have been the most vocally opposed group of the PSA. They say this labor agreement forces nonunion contractors to pay into union dues and union health care pension.

NEWS TICKER

Hiring Local

SD Unified Prefers SD Builders

San Diego — **The San Diego Unified School District** agreed unanimously yesterday to extend its **Project Stabilization Agreement** to include all projects funded by state dollars and **Proposition S**, a \$2.1 billion bond measure passed in 2008 to repair and renovate district schools.

The goal of the agreement is to create jobs by hiring San Diegans to complete construction projects. An independent study commissioned by the district was released last week that shows the program's goals have been met or exceeded, without resulting in any added expense to the district.

Eighteen percent of all workers on projects included in the agreement come from ZIP codes specifically targeted for their low income status. Thirty percent in all live within the boundaries of the school district, and 94

percent of workers hail from somewhere in **San Diego County**.

By Dave Rice

Wednesday, December 14

Proposition S labor agreement good for taxpayers and local jobs

By Tom Lemmon

Monday, December 12, 2011

Today, the San Diego Unified School District board meets to discuss the extension of its project stabilization agreement. Looking at the positive outcomes so far, I'm hopeful that the San Diego Unified School District Board will renew this important policy that brings such important economic benefits to local taxpayers.

As I've written before in my columns, a project stabilization agreement, more commonly called a project labor agreement, is a contract between the owner or managing entity of a construction project or a collection of associated projects and a set of labor unions.

In many ways it acts like a "job-site constitution," establishing worksite conditions, project execution and protocol to resolve labor disputes without resorting to labor strikes and employer lockouts. Aside from just the economic and time savings benefits of this arrangement, most PLAs/PSAs include community work force goals that increase access to construction jobs for veterans, local residents, disadvantaged workers and small businesses.

SDUSD negotiated its PSA to modernize schools under Proposition S with several goals in mind. By setting worksite standards, it intended to help SDUSD stabilize construction costs and its work force supply. Beyond these economic goals, it also set out to give SDUSD control over what type of jobs to create on the project. The PSA includes targets to create good, local jobs, particularly in ZIP codes with high unemployment.

Now, the results from the past two years are in. According to an independent study that the San Diego Unified School District just released, so far the PSA has produced the benefits it promised without impacting the cost or quality of the construction. The study found:

- SDUSD set ambitious goals to hire local workers, and so far these goals are on track. Over the two years, an impressive 18 percent of all workers are from economically disadvantaged ZIP codes that SDUSD targeted, 30 percent of workers live within the district, and 94 percent of workers live in San Diego County. In 2011, workers from low-income SDUSD ZIP codes represented 41 percent of all workers, exceeding the aggressive PSA goal of 35 percent.
- There was no change in project cost between PSA and non-PSA projects. The mean winning bid on the PSA projects is the same as the mean winning bid on the comparable non-PSA projects — both are approximately \$4.3 million.
- The number of bidders is lower (an average of 6.2 bidders per project), but it is still a competitive number and has had no impact on cost or construction quality.
- PSA projects are on average completing faster than non-PSA projects. Under the PSA, SDUSD is saving on average 51 days per project.

These benefits are huge. This means the PSA is allowing SDUSD to deliver strong, long-lasting schools for our kids, and at the same time bring benefits to San Diego taxpayers. In tough financial times, I don't need to say that it's important to spend every public dollar wisely — everyone knows this. Projects like this give each public dollar a high return, bringing the double benefit of creating good, local jobs, with increased opportunities for veterans and small-business contractors.

This said, there are powerful lobby groups on the other side that would not like to see this passed. I think it's worthwhile to clear up some of the false information that they will most likely bring up:

- The opposition likes to claim that PSAs just benefit unions, but in reality the PSA is open to all contractors and brings benefits to all contractors. People may be surprised to learn that a majority of the work has been awarded to non-union general contractors who are Associated General Contractors members.
- The opposition also keeps pressing that PSAs cost more. They point to a number that shows that PSA projects come in at 97 percent of estimate and non-PSA projects are 77 percent of estimate (a 20 percent difference). However, this should not be confused with higher costs to project owners, because the SDUSD research shows this was not the case. This number most likely reflects a difference in project cost estimation. One reason may be different cost estimating procedures in PSA versus non-PSA bidding processes. PSA projects have cost estimates that are 21 percent lower than non-PSAs, averaging \$4.5 million in contrast to \$5.7 million for non-PSAs.

- The opposition also likes to say that PSAs reduce competition, yet the data does not back this up. As mentioned earlier, the number of bids on projects under the SDUSD PSA was competitive enough to keep the mean winning bid for PSA and non-PSA projects the same. And again, a majority of the PSA work has been awarded to non-union general contractors.

This is not to say that there is no room for improvement in the SDUSD PSA. There is definitely room to grow. However, the results so far show that the PSA has produced the benefits it promised without impacting the cost or quality of the construction.

The Los Angeles Unified School District PLA took five years to stabilize. In just two years, the San Diego Unified School District project stabilization agreement is already working well. Renewing the PSA is a great step to help the SDUSD control the outcomes of its construction projects, while creating benefits for local taxpayers at the same time.

Lemmon is the business manager of the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO

December 10, 2011

REPORT FINDS DISTRICT GAINS FROM LABOR PACT

Critics disagree, contend policy
is costing schools, taxpayers millions

KAREN KUCHER • U-T

SAN DIEGO

A consulting firm hired by the San Diego Unified School District has found a labor pact that set union-worker hiring goals for school construction projects has not cost the district any additional money and is resulting in projects being completed faster.

Critics, however, say the agreement is costing taxpayers millions of dollars by attracting bids higher than those submitted for projects not covered by the pact and is discouraging nonunion contractors from seeking school district work.

The district entered into the Project Stabilization Agreement with the San Diego Building & Construction Trades Council and the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters in 2009. The pact initially mandated local hiring provisions but was softened before it was adopted to instead include employment goals.

It applies to projects over \$1 million under the district's \$2.1 billion Proposition S construction program.

The labor-friendly pact sought to ensure people
SEE LABOR PACT • B4

FROM B1

working on district construction projects would have "the same protections, the same basic rights and benefits" as teachers, bus drivers and other district

employees and also ensure jobs would go to local workers, said school board president Richard Barrera,

The study, done by Rea & Parker Research, found that construction bids are com-

ing in under project budgets and that project delays are shorter under labor pact projects.

But the local branch of the Association of General Contractors said it found

that project bids submitted under the labor agreement were 9.7 percent less than project budgets, while projects bid in 2009 when the labor pacts were not in place were 31.6 percent below budget.

That nearly 22 percent "premium" has cost the district about \$16 million in additional construction costs and could end up costing taxpayers millions in future unnecessary costs, said Jim Ryan, executive vice president of the Associated General Contractors of America's San Diego chapter.

A district response to the construction industry analysis says it doesn't take into account changes in market conditions since 2009. "Under their approach, the AGC

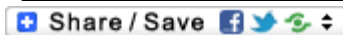


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SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT EXTENDS LABOR AGREEMENT

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Building Trades applauds taxpayer protections in school construction

December 15, 2011 (San Diego) – San Diego Unified School District voted unanimously yesterday to extend the Project Stabilization Agreement (PSA) to all projects funded by Proposition S and state funds. This extension ensures that local jobs goals for residents of the county, as well as those from the district, and from targeted disadvantaged communities, will continue to be pursued for most of the school construction projects.

In addition, the agreement also includes taxpayer protection provisions, under Senate Bill 922 that will go into effect on January 1, 2012. At the same time, the school district is expected to realize significant savings under Assembly Bill 436 with the labor agreement's compliance program.

According to an independent study that the San Diego Unified School District released last week, the PSA has produced the benefits it promised without impacting the cost or quality of the construction. The study found:

- SDUSD set ambitious goals to hire local workers, and so far these goals are on track. Over the two years, an impressive 18 percent of all workers are from economically disadvantaged ZIP codes that SDUSD targeted, 30 percent of workers live within the district, and 94 percent of workers live in San Diego County. In 2011, workers from low-income SDUSD ZIP codes represented 41 percent of all workers, exceeding the aggressive PSA goal of 35 percent.
- There was no change in project cost between PSA and non-PSA projects. The mean winning bid on the PSA projects is the same as the mean winning bid on the comparable non-PSA projects — both are approximately \$4.3 million.
- The number of bidders is lower (an average of 6.2 bidders per project), but it is still a competitive number and has had no impact on cost or construction quality.
- PSA projects are on average completing faster than non-PSA projects. Under the PSA, SDUSD is saving on average 51 days per project.

The extension of the PSA allows the school district residents to realize the taxpayer benefits, and put local people to work in much-needed construction careers.

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NEWS | SAN DIEGO

Construction careers for San Diego's work force

By Tom Lemmon

Monday, November 14, 2011

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For three out of four unemployed looking for work, there simply are no jobs. The unemployment rate for veterans is much higher than the already unacceptable national average. Some of those who are currently unemployed find it harder than the average person to find work, like our young veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. In the American spirit, if you work hard enough, you can do or be anything. However, veterans, women and minorities often do not get the opportunity. More often than not, for them, there are no second chances, or sometimes even first chances.

One of the reasons I believe in the construction industry is that it provides pathways to middle-class careers for everyone, no matter what your background. One tool the construction industry often uses to do this is called a community workforce agreement. CWAs are project labor agreements, or agreements between a construction client and a consortium of unions, which contain goals to put local residents, veterans, women and minorities to work on taxpayer-funded projects.

This month, Cornell University's Institute for Labor Relations released an important study that shows that unions and community organizations have a track record of bringing disadvantaged individuals into construction careers. Cornell researchers examined more than 185 PLAs nationally. Their research found that PLAs and CWAs serve as important tools to promote career opportunities for groups. Without these agreements, these groups often face dangerous worksite conditions, wage and benefits violations, and unstable work opportunities.

Cornell found that:

- 100 out of the 185 PLAs have incorporated various types of community work force goals. These range from hiring local workers to increasing opportunities for veterans, people of color and women.
- 139 PLAs included "Hardhats to Helmets" requirements to promote the entry of veterans into the construction industry.
- 103 PLAs contained goals to hire women and minorities.
- 45 PLAs included provisions for employment and career opportunities for economically disadvantaged populations.
- Such goals have increased in recent years. Agreements after 2004 tended to have more community work force provisions than those prior to this date.

Cornell also examined three case studies throughout the country.

In Cleveland, the CWA/PLA was a large private-sector project to expand the Cleveland University Hospital. At more than \$500 million in value, this project created 5,200 jobs. It made sure these jobs reached all residents, particularly those most in need, by creating an innovative partnership with a local vocational high school to prepare young graduates to enter the trades. Labor leaders, hospital management and city representatives also held monthly meetings to make sure that they met community goals.

New York City's PLA covers \$6 billion of public construction projects across city agencies, creating approximately 30,000 jobs. This citywide PLA covers everything from schools to police stations to libraries. To ensure minorities and women participated in this project, the PLA linked to pre-apprenticeship programs, which provide disadvantaged individuals with skills to access unionized apprenticeship programs.

The Cornell study is groundbreaking in showing elected leaders how working together across sectors in business, community and labor can make sure that the construction industry continues to provide good career opportunities for all people, regardless of where they come from. It shows that when done right, construction projects can create strong, long-lasting structures, and also stable middle-class careers.

Right here in San Diego, this national data backs up the results we're seeing. Community work force provisions in the San Diego Unified School District PLA have created good local jobs for many San Diegans. Our latest progress report shows that more than a third of workers on all PLA sites (34 percent) come from targeted ZIP codes, and 42 percent come from SDUSD ZIP codes. Ninety-nine percent of all workers come from San Diego County.

In these tough economic times, I believe that if we're spending public dollars, it's important to bring the most benefit back to the public. Why not use these dollars to create hardhats jobs for local residents and give veterans, minorities and women more chances to have middle-class careers?

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Download the full Cornell report at: http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/news/upload/PLA-REPORT-10-6-2011_FINAL.pdf

Lemmon is the business manager of the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO.

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Project Labor Agreements: Politically Speaking

Project Labor Agreements are a way to bargain with labor unions before workers are hired. Lorena Gonzales, CEO for the San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council and Eric Christen, executive director of the Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction, debate whether should

Mar 4, 2012

KNSD-SD (NBC) - San Diego, CA Politically Speaking

KNSD 3/4/2012 9:23:05 AM: ...Project labor agreements are bad. when **San Diego Unified** district did it they had 40% reduction. so 40% increase in the cost of the first project. 20% increase in the cost of the project since. this is a waste of taxpayer dollars. we decided to bring it to the people and let them have a chance. not big labor bosses here or in Sacramento, to let them have a chance to cot fi into the city institution the ability to correct worker's rights, taxpayers dollars, and we're confident like it has everywhere it's been tried. >> why do you disagree? >> absolutely. well, eric is coming up with his own task obviously. but the city of **San Diego** right now, you know, could pass a project labor agreement. the school district did. let me tell you what happened. every one of those bids have come in under the estimate. under the engineer's estimate. so they're building things cheaper than they ever thought possible. at the same time because of a local hire agreement they're building it with people from San Diego. 40% of people building our city schools are coming from disadvantaged neighborhoods here in **San Diego**. i think that's a positive thing. when we're using taxpayer money, they should work on the projects first. so long with that, the fact that we're putting ourselves in jeopardy for state funding, hundreds of millions of dollars could be just sent to Los Angeles and **San Francisco** as a result of passing this so-called ban. >> that's the last word. still ahead in the homestretch, politically speaking, the soundingboard. what nbc 7 social media followers ...



Academia de tecnología verde

HOOPER HIGH
GREEN CONSTRUCTION
TECHNOLOGY
DEDICATION

KBNT News
February 29, 2012. 07:24 PM

San Diego - Se inaugura un centro de alta tecnología en pro del medio ambiente que promete forjar a jóvenes de bajos recursos en los ingenieros del futuro.

Aunque hoy se divierten construyendo un simple carro de madera, estos jóvenes estudiantes de la preparatoria Hoover en City Heights ya cuentan con las herramientas necesarias para ser los próximos arquitectos, ingenieros y constructores del mañana.

Todo gracias a un taller con lo último en tecnología renovable.

MÁS NOTICIAS

- :: La policía busca a sospechoso de intento de asalto
- :: Violencia en Oceanside
- :: 1 Minuto Contigo

ETIQUETAS

Noticias Locales

NOTICIAS MÁS LEÍDAS



1 Minuto Contigo



Buscan a sospechoso de agresión sexual



Trágico fin



Residente de San Diego se declara culpable por golpear a...

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COMENTARIOS



1. New cooking class at San Diego High School

San Diego High School is offering a new culinary arts cooking class! KUSI's Brad Perry was in the kitchen with a sneak peak and all the details.

Last Modified: Feb 07, 2012 12:02 PM PST



2. Media & entertainment classes at S.D. High School

KUSI's Brad Perry was checking out the media and entertainment class that's offered at San Diego High School. The school has a full production studio that helps students become college and career ready.

Last Modified: Feb 07, 2012 3:14 PM PST

Fox 5 TV

James Madison High School Journalism Facility



By James Koh FOX 5 San Diego Reporter

8:57 a.m. PST, December 9, 2011

SAN DIEGO – A Clairemont-area high school opened the doors to a state-of-the-art, multimillion dollar broadcast journalism facility.

The 3,250 square foot studio which opened Thursday cost approximately \$2.6 million to build, according to San Diego Unified School District officials.

"It's pretty much an entire local news station as you would have at your own local news station," said Mike Reynolds, the journalism instructor at James Madison High School. "It's important because we prepare students for being career and college ready."

The money for the facility comes from a bond measure that was overwhelmingly passed by San Diego voters back in 2008.

The money was earmarked to not only improve school infrastructure but specifically to help create programs like this that give students college and career training.

Reynolds said journalism can teach writing and communication skills in addition to getting familiar with advanced computer software and professional studio equipment. All skills that will help students get into college and pursue careers.

"The students realize the technology and the access they have," Reynolds said. "They understand this is a real opportunity to learn and grown."

A spokesman with the district said of the \$2.1 billion that was approved by voters through Proposition S, \$88.7 million was earmarked specifically for construction related to the 22 College, Career and Technical education projects in the district.

Proposition S was approved in 2008 with nearly 69 percent of voters approving the general bond measure. In addition to building facilities related specifically to this program, the bulk of the money is being spent on repairing and renovating the more than 200 schools in the district.

KGTV-Channel 10

State Partnership Academies Face Budget Cuts

17 Partnership Academies Currently In San Diego County High Schools

POSTED: 6:47 pm PST December 8, 2011
UPDATED: 7:32 pm PST December 8, 2011

SAN DIEGO -- Unique programs aimed at helping state high school students succeed have become a target for potential budget cuts.

"It's amazing. It gives us deadlines so we know we have to get something done, and it just shows us responsibility," said Madison High School senior Caitlyn Landi-Bishop.

Students prepare for their newscasts and research all of their stories -- both locally and nationally -- in a classroom setting. They then take those stories to the studio, where they produce a newscast. Students say the experience has proven to be very valuable in their high school career.

"This class allows students from different academic levels to work together and come together for a goal," said Madison High School senior Cheyenne Overall.

Madison High houses one of the 500 Partnership Academies in California. According to the San Diego Unified School District, Partnership Academies feature "three-year program (grades 10-12) structured as a school-within-a-school. Academies incorporate integrated academic and career technical education, business partnerships, mentoring and internships."

According to the state's Department of Education, 200 of the academies are at risk of losing funding, including 17 in San Diego County. However, local administrators said the show will go on.

"The cut has been initiated, it was required, and we are going to keep our teachers in our classrooms," said Shawn Loescher of the SD Unified School District.

Loescher added it is programs like the Design and Technology Academy at Madison High that keep students in the classrooms.

"We have evidence that they are more likely to go to college and are more likely to stay in college at a higher level," he said.

A recent University of California, Berkeley report found 95 percent of high school seniors enrolled in Partnership Academies graduate, compared to 85 percent of students statewide. The report showed 57 percent fulfilled coursework for admission to the UC or California State University systems, compared with 36 percent statewide.

"Here is where we learn how to be professionals, here is where we learn how to be adults when we graduate," said Overall.

Landi-Bishop added, "This will definitely set me up for the future, knowing I can put my mind to something and I can work with people around me and get everything I need to get done."

The nearly \$3 million program at Madison High was funded by a statewide proposition passed by voters in 2008, plus local dollars from Prop. S

Hoover's Green Construction Technology Facility

Posted by Cynthia Reed-Porter at 3/6/2012 6:10:00 PM

Students in Hoover High School's Sustainable Academy of Building and Engineering (SABE) helped dedicate the high school's new Green Construction Technology facility. The cutting-edge project at Hoover is a true model of green construction that serves as an educational lab for teaching students about renewable technologies in construction, including photovoltaic solar systems, renewable and recycled building products and energy efficiency. The 5,700-square-foot College, Career & Technical Education (CCTE) facility features a modern commercial wood shop set in an industrial arts classroom. Immediately following the Feb. 29 dedication ceremony, SABE students participated a team building event during which they built derby cars. They also learned about alternative energy and fuel efficiency vehicles. SABE focuses on sustainable building techniques and career opportunities in the energy and construction fields.



The Green Construction Technology building recently earned the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification by the Green Building Certification Institute. According to the U.S. Green Building Council, the Hoover facility is the only LEED Silver Certification building in the nation. That prestigious certification shows that the facility's design met the most respected standards in the district, state and nation for sustainable design and green building strategies. These standards are established in the High-Performing School Program, LEED Green Building Rating System and the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS). The nearly \$3.9 million Green Construction Technology Facility was funded by San Diego Unified School District's Proposition S and California Proposition 1D matching-funds grant, which can only be used for capital facility improvements. The project partners for the new facility were Group Cristilli Architects and Soltek-Pacific Construction. For more details on Prop. S or CCTE, visit www.sandi.net/PropS or <http://www.sdcte.org>. You may also call (619) 725-7252 for additional information.

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Clairemont High Rededicates Ernie Beck Field

Posted by Cynthia Reed-Porter at 2/28/2012 4:30:00 PM

Saturday was no ordinary kick-off for Clairemont High School's baseball season. Alumni from across the country joined Principal Lenora Smith, Athletic Director Gerry Knuppel, Head Baseball Coach Pat Hornbrook, current players, coaches, students and community members as they honored the Chieftains' first baseball coach, Ernie Beck.



Beck and his son were on hand to rededicate the baseball field that bears his name. During the past year, the baseball facilities were completely renovated thanks to Proposition S. The improvements included a new natural turf field with new accessible bleachers that seat 200, accessible dugouts, a scorer's booth, a scoreboard and improvements to make the area more accessible for people with disabilities. In addition to the rededication ceremony, the festivities also included a pancake breakfast, a homerun hitting contest and an alumni game. For more details on Beck Field, call the school at (858) 273-0201. For additional information on this and other Prop. S projects, visit <https://fpcprojects.sandi.net> or www.sandi.net/PropS. You may also call (858) 637-3604 or e-mail PropSinfo@sandi.net. For media inquiries, contact Cynthia Reed-Porter at (619) 546-3378.

Language Academy Dedicates New Joint-use Field

Posted by Cynthia Reed-Porter at 2/23/2012 11:50:00 AM

Board of Education Trustee Kevin Beiser and City Councilmember Marti Emerald were joined by Principal Veronika Lopez-Mendez, students, parents, staff and community members as they officially dedicated the new multipurpose joint-use field at the school district's Language Academy on Tuesday afternoon. The City of San Diego developed the new field that will be used by the students during the school day and the community when school isn't in session.



The event included an Olympic-style opening ceremony with nearly a thousand of the academy's students parading around the perimeter of the field with flags representing various countries. The event culminated with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting to mark the official dedication of the multipurpose field that is scheduled to be open to the public next month.

The field is approximately 1.4 acres of school district property that was formerly a decomposed granite playfield. Utilizing nearly \$1.3 million in Community Development Block Grant funds and Developer Impact Fees, the city developed the field with project partners Estrada Land Planning and Hellas Construction. The improvements include a new multi-sport field using synthetic turf, field track, parking and accessibility for people with physical disabilities. For more information on the project, call (619) 725-5579 or e-mail FacilitiesInfo@sandi.net.

Marshall ES drop-off/pick-up safer for students

Posted by Cynthia Reed-Porter at 2/9/2012

Improvements to the student drop-off and pick-up area at Marshall Elementary School are complete. This project involved designing a student drop-off and pick-up zone on the portion of Altadena Avenue that fronts the school. The work included a new 20-foot lane to allow cars to continue out of the lane after dropping off or picking up students; a new 10-foot retaining wall to allow for the 20-foot lane; extension of the existing American's with Disabilities Act path of travel from the street into the school site to allow students with disabilities to also utilize the drop-off/pick-up area; a new 10-foot-wide sidewalk that allows students coming from district buses to exit the bus and enter the site; new landscaping, and modifications to the existing irrigation system. For additional information, visit <https://fpcprojects.sandi.net> or www.sandi.net/PropS. You may also call (858) 637-3604. For media inquiries, call Cynthia Reed-Porter at (619) 546-3378.



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Prop. S Update: Hoover HS Athletic Facilities pass half-way mark

Posted by Cynthia Reed-Porter at 2/2/2012 11:20:00 AM

Hoover High School's sports facilities are getting a major makeover, and the work is more than 50 percent complete. In addition to a new synthetic turf field and all-weather track, the Hoover Cardinals are getting new goal posts, scoreboard, lights, bleachers, concessions stands, restrooms, and a press box. New dugouts and bleachers are being installed at the baseball field, and will



feature a new Ted Williams memorial wall. In addition, the district is also installing a new girls' softball field, creating a main pedestrian access route from El Cajon Blvd. to the athletic facilities (El Paseo); as well as, building a new parking lot and upgrading landscape irrigation systems. The completion on the sports facilities is anticipated by the end of summer. Project partners include architects Mesquita & Associates and Byrom Davey (track and field). Approximately \$11.3 million of Prop. S funds are being used for these projects. For additional project information, visit fpcprojects.sandi.net or for Prop. S information, e-mail propsinfo@sandi.net, visit www.sandi.net/props or call (619) 725-5579.

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Budding Journalists Hone Their Skills in New Facility

Posted by Jennifer Cornelius at 1/13/2012 9:00:00 AM

San Diego Unified School District's [Madison High School](#) recently dedicated its new state-of-the-art broadcast journalism and multimedia production facility. The 3,250-square-foot, high-definition television broadcast studio will house the [College, Career and Technical Education's](#) broadcast journalism program within Madison's School of the Arts. The program prepares students for careers in the arts, media and entertainment industries upon graduation.



Board of Education President John Lee Evans, Principal Richard Nash, Michael Reynolds, teacher, and his students in the broadcast journalism program, joined community members and district staff in a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the new facility just before winter break. To mark the occasion, the students produced a mock news broadcast for their guests who were very impressed with them and the facility.

The \$2.6 million CCTE project was funded by a California Proposition 1D grant and Proposition S. The new building includes a two-set broadcast studio with an adjacent eight-workstation control room, one classroom, three editing rooms, and a machine room with computerized processing and distribution equipment. Project partners include architects Westberg + White and Suffolk ROEL Construction.

For additional information, visit fpcprojects.sandi.net, www.sandi.net/PropS or www.sandi.net/ccte (College Career & Technical Education program info). You may also call (619) 725-7252.

Sustainable Technologies Facility construction progressing

Posted by Jennifer Cornelius at 12/8/2011

[Scripps Ranch High School's](#)

Sustainable Technologies facility is nearing the half-way mark. At 40 percent complete, the nearly \$6.4 million facility is a College, Career & Technical Education (CCTE) project funded by California Proposition 1D and local Proposition S bond funds. It will house an innovative program that CCTE and Scripps Ranch High



School are developing to focus on renewable technologies. The unique CCTE program will encompass four emerging, high-growth industry sectors including building trades and construction, engineering and design, transportation, and power and utilities. Instruction will focus on areas such as green construction, renewable energy and utilities, alternative fuels, clean transportation, and innovative engineering and design. For additional information, visit fpcprojects.sandi.net, www.sandi.net/PropS or www.sandi.net/ccte (College Career & Technical Education program info). You may also call (858) 637-3604.

Morse HS CDC Project Reaches Construction Milestone

Posted by Jennifer Cornelius at 12/2/2011 11:15:00 AM

Morse High School's Child Development Center is more than 50 percent complete. The \$2.8 million project is funded by Proposition S and a \$1.8 million Career Technical Education/Prop 1D grant received last year. The new 4,005-square-foot facility allows the Child Development Career Technical Education Program to increase its capacity and capabilities. The four-year



program currently has approximately 360 students, and enables students to receive an industry-validated Regional Occupation Program (ROP) certificate and a Child Development Assistant permit from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Features of the new facility will include an ROP classroom, child development center laboratory, observation room, infant room, instructor's office, restrooms, kitchen, and laundry room. For additional information, visit fpcprojects.sandi.net, www.sandi.net/PropS or www.sandi.net/ccte (College Career & Technical Education program info). You may also call (858) 725-7252.

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San Diego High Students Settle Into New Classrooms

Posted by Jennifer Cornelius at 11/18/2011 8:45:00 AM

Although it may seem like just yesterday that school started, students at [San Diego High](#) have been enjoying their new two-story classroom building now for nearly three months. Completed over the summer, the 25,868-square-foot, 16-classroom building replaced 16 existing portable



classrooms on the southeast corner of campus. Funded by [Proposition S](#) and an Overcrowded Relief Grant (ORG) from the state, the \$5.4 million facility is providing students a safe and supportive learning environment. Designed with sustainability and efficiency in mind, the building's operable windows, and energy-efficient lighting and heating/cooling systems ensure optimal conditions for instruction. Each classroom is also equipped with 21st century technology and wireless network. Other features include student and staff restrooms, elevator and stairs, and mechanical and electrical rooms. Project partners included architects gkkworks and Soltek Pacific Construction. For more information, please contact Cynthia Reed-Porter at creed-porter@sandi.net or call (619) 546-3378. Additional project information can be found on San Diego High School's projects page at fpcprojects.sandi.net.

Ask ourselves, "am I selfish?"

By Brian Pollard

Today is Veterans Day and I want to give my personal thanks and appreciation to all of the Veterans that have served for our country.

They have sacrificed much and with that in mind I am always wondering what is our "sacrifice" we offer to make our community better? "Sacrifice" generally refers to putting something that is greater than ourselves ahead of our needs and self interests. We can in no way match the sacrifices our Veterans have offered, but we can do our part. We can Volunteer at least 2 hours per month to your neighborhood, favorite Non-Profit, Church, school, or even helping out your neighbor.



Volunteering is a vital part of our existence in today's environment. If we are to truly "step up" and change our circumstances and improve our quality of life, we can no longer sit back and watch things happen, in essence play "victim" any longer.

Look I understand we all have busy lives and juggling households are difficult, however 2 hours a month of volunteer work is not much, and it is a start. There are numerous Town Councils in our neighborhoods that need our help, the Holiday season is approaching and there will be opportunities to volunteer, with feeding the homeless, donating old clothes, providing toys to the less fortunate children,

and heaven knows our own community has a lot of work in front of us. Our community is a "target rich environment" for volunteering.

Volunteering can teach our children and grandchildren the importance of "giving back", and perhaps show them a way to help their community. It does not require giving money, but more importantly giving of ourselves.

I often participate in numerous events, projects and programs and I have seen the same 3-5% of the same people at all of these events, so I guess I am talking to the 90+% of us that do not 'show up'.

Opportunities to volunteer show up everywhere, and we just have to have that Christian value not only touch us, but inspire us to act! The Bible has numerous examples of people volunteering, putting others ahead of ourselves. I believe this is what Christ wants us to do. Not for the recognition but for the mere fact that it is the "right thing to do".

In summary, make a commitment to volunteer 2 hours each month. Again, it does not matter how you volunteer, just do it. I am sure you will feel better and will serve as a positive role model for your children and grandchildren. Give it a shot. You will appreciate it, the community will benefit and your spirit will be lifted. Helping others takes us out of ourselves. Let's all give it a try folks.



SDUSD Offers Free Classes for Contactors

The San Diego Unified School District Facilities Planning and Construction (FPC) department has a business outreach program designed to engage with Emerging Business Enterprises and increase participation on its construction projects. "EBE" is an umbrella term that includes woman-, minority-, disabled veteran-owned and small business enterprises. Forty percent EBE participation on each construction project is encouraged, and at present, exceeded!

To help local contractors bid effectively, SDUSD staff puts on training classes throughout the year. Monthly Labor Compliance Program workshops are held to ensure that contractors understand the process for being fully compliant with state and federal prevailing wage laws and regulations, and to meet SDUSD expectations.

Licensed contractors are encouraged to attend. Register by emailing Graham Champion at gchampion@sandi.net. The next classes will be held November 4 and December 2, 2011, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Physical Plant Operations Center in Training Room A/B (4860 Ruffin Street, San Diego, 92111).

SDUSD also holds quarterly Project Stabilization Agreement training workshops to ensure contractors understand the scope of the "PSA"; contractor, union and SDUSD roles and responsibilities; and grievance procedures/jurisdictional disputes. A one-hour candid conversation with union representatives to answer specific trade questions is included. Register by contacting Ivory Anderson at 858.637.6262 or ianderson1@sandi.net. The last class of the year will be held January 17, 2012, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Harold J. Ballard Parent Center located at 2375 Congress Street, San Diego, 92110.


"The classes offer a solid foundation for understanding the ins and outs of doing 'public works' contracting—specifically on SDUSD projects," explains Karen Linehan, SDUSD's Outreach Program Manager. "Graham and George patiently explain what can be tedious administrative paperwork and documentation. This is especially helpful for new business owners who wear many hats" she said.

If you own a small, local and/or emerging construction company and are interested in scheduling a workshop between quarters, or would like a tailored PSA presentation delivered to your staff, partners and/or subcontractors, contact Alma Bañuelos at (858) 573-5852 or abamuelos@sandi.net to plan such an event.

If you would like to get on SDUSD's business outreach database, contact Alma for an application. For real-time bid information, follow her on Twitter at [@sdusd_bizoutreach](https://twitter.com/sdusd_bizoutreach). Be sure to visit the SDUSD Outreach webpage at <http://www.sandi.net/page/934>.

To send community notices & event information
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Signed Barnes Bar-B-Que

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