

**CORCORAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
October 25, 2011  
5:50 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mary Wadsworth, President of the Board, called the special meeting of the Corcoran Unified School District Board of Trustees to order at 5:50 p.m. in the Board Room.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT/ABSENT**

Trustees present were Mary Wadsworth, Steve White, Karen Frey and Robert Alcorn. Trustee Mary Gonzales-Gomez was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Others present were Rich Merlo, Steve Brown, Marie Cates, Jon Isom, Jeanette Todd and Donnetta Murray.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Mary Wadsworth welcomed those present and led in the flag salute.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Board voted to approve the agenda for the Special Board Meeting of October 25, 2011.

*Motion: Steve White Second: Karen Frey Vote: 4-0*

**BOND WORKSHOP**

President Mary Wadsworth advised Superintendent Rich Merlo that the Trustees were prioritizing the facility needs on a one-to-four scale.

Jon Isom of Isom Advisors informed the Board that the April 18, 2011 Facility Master Plan stated that if the District took care of items in the top priority only (at that time), \$16.44 million would be needed to complete the projects. If the top two priorities (at that time) were to be completed, that number would raise to \$24.92 million. For all projects on the April 18th list to be completed, \$42.37 million would be needed. In February 2010, a voter opinion survey was conducted with 65% of those surveyed in support of a bond. There was a low turnout on election day in June 2010, but despite no campaign effort the District's Measure Q still achieved 51.2% support at the polls. Based on an estimated 2012 tax value of \$982 million, the District's gross bonding capacity would be \$24.5 million. Mr. Isom reviewed an updated District General Obligation (G.O.) bond analysis based on recent declines in assessed values (tax base). The District could generate from \$10,136,847 to \$20,273,695 with the updated tax base.

A district can be carved up in several ways for assessments to pertain to only certain areas of a school district. One of the options for districts pursuing a G.O. bond is a School Facilities Improvement District (SFID) that consists of a portion of the territory within a school district and authorizes the school facilities improvement district to issue G.O. Bonds for school facilities for construction purposes within that district. Another option would be a CFD, which would just include property within the community. Mr. Isom noted that since 1987, six school districts in Kings County have passed bond measures, while Corcoran USD has never had a G.O. bond on a ballot.

For a Prop 39 bond, the District would be required to take it to the voters in a regularly scheduled election. In 2012, it can be June or November (presidential primary and general election, respectively). After that, the District would have to wait until 2014 to place it on the ballot.

President Wadsworth questioned the cost of setting up a SFID (marking the boundaries). Mr. Isom said it would depend, but would probably cost \$1,000 to \$2,000. Mr. Merlo pointed out that a consequence of not using the whole district for the bond would be losing the District's indebtedness if the District were to build a new school. The District would need the hardship of being in debt (i.e. bond) in order to get financial help to build a new school.

Another option would be a flat fee for owners of large acreage (farmers). But the owners of the acreage would still need to vote on it.

President Wadsworth's feels the Board needs to work on its priorities a little more and perhaps have another survey as there have been significant changes in the community since the last survey. Mr. Isom added that would be the reason he thinks the tracking poll would be important. It would cost the District \$2,000 to \$3,000 for the phone calls, but he would not want the District to take any step without that exploratory step.

Trustee Robert Alcorn noted that there is no doubt there are needs in the schools and that the District's needs have to be communicated to the community. He added that there is a lot of work to do first. He would like the ground work done and an updated estimation of the amount of money needed prior to going to the community.

A workshop will be held on November 8 at 5 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT was at 6:47 p.m.**

*Motion: Steve White*

*Second: Robert Alcorn*

*Vote: 4-0*