



CITIZENS' BOND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (CBOC)

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

Tour: 5:30 p.m.

Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Mt. Pleasant High School (Room 215)

1750 S. White Road

San Jose, CA 95127

The following were in attendance:

CBOC

Joglekar, Kaushik (Zoom)

Knittle, James (Jim)

Nair, Rajani

Owen, Joanne (Alt #1)

Pham, Paul (Khoa)

Roberts, Christopher

Schimmel, Barry

Traynor, Patrick

Vijendiran, Sangeetha (Alt #2)

ESUHSD

Gutierrez, Omar

Huynh, Tom

Kwong, Kelly

Lucas, Julio

Nguyen, Cathy

Nguyen, Nhu

Nguyen, Sandy

Phelps, Randy

Soto, Moises

Tran, Shelby

Board of Trustees

Le, Van

Guest(s)/Community Member(s)

CBOC Member(s) Not Present

Pefley, Carol

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1.01 Call to Order/Roll Call

Roll call was taken at 6:05 p.m. by Chair Christopher Roberts.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

2.01 Public Comment

There were no public comments submitted in person or online.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.01 Action to Approve the Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2025 Meeting



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The minutes were reviewed and approved with one correction: the guest speaker's name should be corrected from "Ashley" to "Ashlie".

Motion to approve the April 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes with the correction was made by Paul Pham and seconded by Patrick Traynor. Motion was carried (7–0). Aye.

4. UPDATED ITEM(S) FROM CBOC CHAIR

4.01 Introduce New CBOC Members for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Chair Christopher Robert shared comments from the Board of Trustees regarding the CBOC and its importance. He then welcomed the newly appointed members and asked them to introduce themselves.

- Jim Knittle: Parent of an incoming sophomore at Andrew Hill High School; active in the School Site Council (SSC), focused on underserved students.
- Joanne Owen: Parent of a soon-to-be sophomore at Piedmont Hills High School; Parent Teacher Association (PTA) board member and SSC participant.
- Sangeetha Vijendiran: Parent of a UC San Diego graduate and a student of Evergreen School District; active in PTA and a Junior Achievement volunteer.
- Kaushik Joglekar: Trustee in the Oak Grove School District, former PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) president of one of the elementary schools in Oak Grove School District, parent of a Santa Teresa High School incoming senior.

4.02 Propose Reassignment of CBOC Members to Ensure Category Representation

Discussion and action to reassign current CBOC members to different representation categories as needed, in accordance with Education Code requirements and District guidelines, to ensure all membership categories are properly filled. Paul Pham was reassigned from Parent of ESUHSD Student to the Bonafide Taxpayer Association. Patrick Traynor was reassigned from the Bonafide Taxpayer Association to the Senior Citizen Organization. Both members agreed to the reassignment.

4.03 Propose Change to Previously Approved Meeting Calendar

The January 21, 2026 meeting will be rescheduled to January 28, 2026 to allow the auditors to present their report at the January meeting instead of the usual April meeting. The committee agreed to the new date.

4.04 Solicit Volunteers for the 2025 Annual Report Editorial Subcommittee



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Chair Christopher Roberts introduced the purpose of the CBOC Annual Report, emphasizing its importance in showcasing bond-funded projects and fiscal transparency to the community and state. With new members present, the Chair described the report as a valuable public-facing document highlighting completed projects and how bond funds have been used.

Former subcommittee member Rajani Nair shared her experiences working on the editorial subcommittee last year, noting that working on the report helped her understand the full scope of the committee's work. She praised the report's engaging layout, including visuals and itemized breakdowns of bond expenditures, and noted that no prior technical experience was necessary thanks to staff support.

Barry Schimmel reassured members that the report process is manageable, noting that it does not begin with a blank page, but rather builds on the previous year's report with necessary updates. He stressed the report's role in demonstrating to the community what has been achieved with voter-approved bond funds, particularly through project photos and student testimonials.

Proposed Timeline:

- By August 15, 2025: Nhu Nguyen will provide a draft to the subcommittee.
- By September 19, 2025: Subcommittee will provide edits and write-ups.
- October 15, 2025: Finalized report format reviewed by the full committee.
- January 28, 2026: Report updated following the audit presentation.
- March 5, 2026: Chair will present the 2024-2025 Annual Report to the Board.

Editorial Subcommittee Volunteers:

- Rajani Nair (lead)
- Kaushik Joglekar
- Sangeetha Vijendiran (offered support; not an official member due to alternate status)

Nhu Nguyen confirmed that a copy of the previous report would be shared with new members for reference.

5. REPORTS

5.01 Presentation on the Information Technology Updates – Randy Phelps, Chief Technology Officer

Randy Phelps provided an in-depth report on the district's major IT advancements and strategic initiatives, highlighting both infrastructure improvements and student/community impact. The department experienced a highly productive year, marked by system upgrades, innovation, and enhanced service delivery.



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Community Wireless

Randy Phelps shared that ESUHSD has been a leader in digital equity by deploying WiFi 6 across all campuses and piloting WiFi 7 in underserved neighborhoods. The district's Community WiFi program continues to provide free internet access to families, with secure, unrestricted connections for ESUHSD users.

Each freshman receives a high-quality Chromebook, empowering students to succeed in both school and future careers.

Kaushik Joglekar asked whether the district uses throttling to manage internet traffic for the public.

Randy Phelps clarified that the ESUHSD network is unthrottled thanks to a 100 Gbps backbone, while the city-managed SSID is throttled. Kaushik Joglekar also asked about redundancy during power or network outages. Randy Phelps explained that the district has partial redundancy through fiber rings, backup power at the central network hub, and planned solar-powered backup at school sites.

Safety

The district completed a full overhaul of its security camera system, including the installation of 10 additional cameras per campus, new mobile-friendly software, and export-ready footage compliant with legal standards. A new tool will automate blurring for privacy protection.

Randy Phelps also shared updates on modernized bell and paging systems, now programmable and site-customizable, and a pilot visitor management system designed for secure, efficient campus access.

Multi-factor authentication is now required for all users, part of a broader cybersecurity strategy that protects against over 1 million cyberattacks per week.

Chair Christopher Roberts and member Barry Schimmel praised the IT team for quietly but powerfully enhancing safety without disrupting learning environments.

Network

The district now runs on a self-healing, modernized network that allows smart switches to auto-configure and restore service within minutes. New fiber runs are extending access to athletic fields and outdoor areas. The bell system and alarm controls are now fully network-based, streamlining maintenance.

Randy Phelps highlighted that ESUHSD's network reliability has dramatically improved, with minimal disruptions and fast restoration during emergencies.



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Success

Randy Phelps credited the district's IT bond, passed with broad support, for enabling these innovations. He emphasized that the vision was always to serve both students and their families, making community-wide internet access a reality.

The IT department was honored with the Porter and Glenn Hoffmann Awards by the Santa Clara County Office of Education and is scheduled to be featured in Education Week. ESUHSD's model has now inspired 87 school districts.

Looking forward, the district is launching:

- An AI-based helpdesk to reduce tech support response times
- An AI-driven truancy intervention tool expected to improve attendance by 20%

Chair Christopher Roberts commended Randy Phelps and his team for their vision, leadership, and cost-effectiveness innovation, especially their preparedness for COVID and their long-term infrastructure planning.

Chair Christopher Roberts also asked Randy Phelps to reflect on how the district was so ready for the pandemic, to which Randy credited the early investment, the bond, and the empowering staff to lead with purpose and flexibility. Pre-planned infrastructure enabled the district to pivot to distance learning within 24-48 hours, distributing meals and devices simultaneously using a QR-code system.

During the discussion, Jim Knittle asked whether distance learning would be incorporated into future district plans. In response, Randy Phelps affirmed that distance learning is part of the district's vision, but clarified that full implementation depends on teacher readiness and changes in the state policy. He noted that past efforts, like one-to-one devices and digital textbooks, succeeded only when staff were prepared. Currently, distance learning is financially impractical due to state funding models that significantly reduce per-student revenue when students are not physically present.

5.02 Presentation on the Capital Construction Project Updates – Julio Lucas, Senior Manager of the Bond Program

- **Foothill - Modernization of Building G**

Schedule: **Spring 2025** (Originally Fall 2024) – Total Budget: \$4,935,054 (Contractor Cost: \$3,610,357)

Area: 6,690 square feet – Construction Team: Gilbane (CM), Studio Lin (Architect), Beals Martin (Contractor)

Funding Sources: Measures E, I, and Z



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The new dining facility, previously scheduled to open in Fall 2024, is now set to open in Spring 2025. The delay was caused by international shipping and tariff issues related to food service equipment. Health department approval has been received. The site will be ready by school start.

- **Mt. Pleasant - Modernization of Building 500**

Schedule: **Summer 2025** (originally Spring 2025) – Total Budget: \$18,444,202 (Contractor Cost: \$14,731,439)

Area: 11,550 square feet – Construction Team: VPCS (CM), Rodan Builders/SVA Architects (DBE)
Funding Sources: Measures E and Z

The project is on track. Though construction completion is slated for June, the facility is scheduled for use at the start of school.

- **Oak Grove - Modernization of Building K**

Schedule: **Summer 2025** (Originally Spring 2025) – Total Budget: \$19,356,870 (Contractor Cost: \$14,295,191)

Area: Approximately 12,000 square feet – Construction Team: VPCS (CM), Alten Construction/SVA Architects (DBE)

Funding Sources: Measures E, I, and Z

Originally aligned with Mt. Pleasant's timeline, Oak Grove is delayed slightly and will miss the school start date, but is still scheduled to open in August/September. Julio Lucas emphasized that we are never in a rush to get things wrong; we would rather do them right for the long term.

- **Yerba Buena - Performing/Fine Arts Classrooms and Theater Building**

Schedule: **Summer 2025** (Originally Spring 2025) – Total Budget: \$25,039,127 (Contractor Cost: \$19,617,387)

Area: 21,668 square feet – Construction Team: Gilbane (CM), BHM Construction, Inc./HED (DBE)
Funding Sources: Measures G, E, and Z

Construction will be completed in August 2025, but the school has opted to move in in October. The facility includes retractable seating, a removable stage, and seven performing arts classrooms.

- **Evergreen Valley, W.C. Overfelt, Independence, Mt. Pleasant, Silver Creek - Synthetic Turf Fields (EV, WCO, IH, MP, SC)**

Schedule: **Fall 2025** – Total Budget: \$15,900,000 (Contractor Cost: NTE \$11,717,989)



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Area: 5 fields – Construction Team: Gilbane (CM), Lloyd Sports Engineering/Bothman Construction (DBE)

Funding Sources: Measure Z

We began with Independence and Silver Creek High Schools and have already completed the punch list for both fields. Due to construction, Independence had to use the facilities at San Jose State University for its graduation ceremony.

- **Andrew Hill, Evergreen Valley, Oak Grove - Swimming Pool Modernization (AH, EV, OG)**

Schedule: **Summer 2028** – Total Budget: \$24,200,000 (Contractor Cost: TBD)

Area: 3 pools – Construction Team: TBD (CM), TBD (DBE)

Funding Sources: Measure Z

The project is currently in the early planning stages and includes several key considerations. Jim Knittle asked whether the new pools would use saltwater instead of traditional chlorine. Julio Lucas replied that while the seven pools renovated in 2016 used chlorine, the team is open to exploring saltwater systems, especially since they can be more cost-efficient in the long run.

Rajani Nair asked whether the project involved expanding the pools or just renovating them. Julio Lucas clarified that the project will be a full renovation rather than an expansion to the scale of Independence High School's Olympic-sized facility. He explained that, for efficiency, some campuses may join two pools into a single body of water using a water bridge, which reduces operational costs by requiring only one pump house. The goal is to reduce six existing pools down to three larger, functional ones. Julio Lucas added that seating upgrades, like those at Silver Creek High School, and improved lighting are being considered. The team plans to visit other high schools and community colleges, including Saratoga High, for benchmarking and design inspiration.

- **Districtwide Fencing**

Schedule: **Summer 2026** (progressive completion) – Total Budget: \$17,500,000 (Contractor Cost: TBD)

Area: As needed – Construction Team: TBD (CM), TBD (Architect), TBD (Architect)

Funding Sources: Measures E, I, Z

All 11 comprehensive high schools in the district will receive fencing upgrades designed to support a secure single-point-of-entry system. The project is currently in the early planning stages, with site administrators already providing valuable input regarding existing access vulnerabilities.

Independence High School was highlighted as a particularly complex example due to its expansive and varied perimeter. Julio Lucas noted that the fencing model will be based on the one



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implemented at James Lick High School, which uses a durable, steel picket design. However, not all fencing will be replaced; the existing structure will be retained where possible, with new fencing used to close gaps. A budget allocated for this initiative will be distributed across all campuses.

Rajani Nair asked whether the fences would be decorative or strictly functional. Julio Lucas clarified that while the design is secure, it also has a visually consistent and structured aesthetic, referencing the Ameristar picket model.

Jim Knittle raised concerns about a recent copper theft incident at Andrew Hill High School and suggested using aluminum instead, which is less attractive to thieves. Julio Lucas acknowledged the suggestion and, along with Randy Phelps, explained that the incident at Andrew Hill appeared to be an act of intentional vandalism rather than typical material theft, noting the significant damage and deliberate nature of the attack.

5.03 Information on the Capital Program Budget Adjustment Report – Sandy Nguyen, Construction Bond Program Controls Manager

Sandy Nguyen provided the Board-approved Capital Program Budget Adjustment Report for the period of March 2025 through May 2025. These reports show the board-approved changes to a project budget within the last three months. We have two reports for this period: April and May.

5.04 Presentation and Action to Receive and Approve the Budgets and Expenditures Report – Cathy Nguyen, Capital Budget Manager

Cathy Nguyen presented and provided an update of the Board-Approved Budgets and Expenditures on all bond measures (Measure G, E, I, I-Technology, Z, and N) through May 31, 2025. A summary of the overall budget was presented, including the total current encumbrance balance, total expenditures/disbursements, and total remaining budget balance.

Committee members acknowledged that the pie and bar charts were very clear and helpful for visualizing spending and allocations.

Sangeetha Vijendiran asked if the district ever goes over budget. Julio Lucas responded that while the district avoids overspending, East Side has a policy where funds allocated to a school stay with that school. If money is left over, it is saved for future projects at the same site rather than moved to other schools. Julio Lucas added that this is different from other districts, where leftover funds are often reallocated. East Side's approach supports long-term planning and gives each school more control over its budget.



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Barry Schimmel reflected on the shift in public education funding from the state to communities. Communities now bear the responsibility for investing in their schools to remain competitive. He emphasized the significance of the district managing \$1 billion in bond-funded projects, which are essential to keeping pace with neighboring districts such as Campbell or Fremont Union High School Districts, or private schools such as Harker or Stratford schools. These improvements, creating modern facilities for specialized learning opportunities, are critical to providing students with the tools they need to succeed.

Barry Schimmel also stressed the importance of sustaining long-term investment, especially as education evolves with technologies like artificial intelligence, which will bring even greater costs. Barry Schimmel praised the district's growing visibility and success, such as public displays highlighting student achievements and future plans, which help build pride and community trust. He encouraged the committee to continue driving progress so East Side students have equal access to quality education and future opportunities.

Motion to receive and approve the Budget and Expenditures Report was made by Rajani Nair and seconded by Patrick Traynor. Motion was carried (8-0). Aye.

6. COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS / COMMENTS

6.01 Opportunity for Committee Members to Share Additional Comments

Barry Schimmel shared context regarding school districts transitioning from at-large elections to trustee-area elections, driven by legal pressure and statewide trends. Under the current system, board members are elected by all voters districtwide, regardless of where they live. The new model would divide the district into five geographic areas, where only voters within each area could elect a trustee who resides there. Barry Schimmel cautioned that this shift could reduce districtwide accountability, as trustees may prioritize their local constituents over broader district needs. He urged committee members to review the district's redistricting materials online and provide input, emphasizing the long-term implications for representation and equity.

Board Member Van Le echoed Barry Schimmel's concerns, noting that this change is being imposed due to legal action, not initiated by district leadership. She encouraged everyone to review the draft maps, attend the remaining public hearings, and engage in the process before the October 5 deadline. She also stressed that while the board is currently diverse, this new model may create new challenges for equitable decision-making across East Side's large and diverse area.

7. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING LOCATION



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7.01 Confirmation of Meeting Location for Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. (TBD)

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at Yerba Buena High School at 6:00 p.m. The tour of the site starts at 5:30 p.m.

8. ADJOURNMENT

8.01 Adjournment

Chair Christopher Roberts adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Minutes approved by: paul pham

Print Name


paul pham (10/16/2025 11:50:11 PDT)

Signature

10/16/2025

Date

2025 0716 CBOC Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2025-10-16

Created: 2025-10-16 (Pacific Daylight Time)
By: Nhu Nguyen (nguyennq@esuhsd.org)
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