

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FROM: SUPERINTENDENT  
DATE: JUNE 3, 2014 (INFORMATION)  
JUNE 17, 2014 (ACTION)

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION #13/14-19 – RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT ORDERING AN ELECTION AND ESTABLISHING SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION ORDER**

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**ISSUE:**

Should the Board of Education adopt Resolution #13/14-19 – Resolution of the Board of Education of Conejo Valley Unified School District Ordering an Election and Establishing Specifications of the Election Order, as submitted?

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1998, the voters of the Conejo Valley overwhelmingly approved Measure R, an \$88 million general obligation bond to support school renovation and modernization projects in Conejo Valley Unified School District. District staff was successful in obtaining an additional \$66 million in State Modernization and Joint-Use Grants and \$5 million in grants from the City of Thousand Oaks to leverage the impact of local bond funds. For the past 15 years, the District has carefully spent these funds to significantly improve the infrastructure, safety and utility of District schools. The District currently operates 32 school sites with total buildings in excess of 2 million square feet. The average school site in CVUSD is over forty years old. District schools need additional renovation and modernization, improvements in safety, and significant investments in technology infrastructure and support in order to provide students with an education that will prepare them for success in the new century.

On April 16, 2013, the Board of Education approved a consulting agreement with TBWB Strategies to perform the first phase of a bond feasibility study involving a public opinion research survey. TBWB Strategies subcontracted with the public opinion research firm, Godbe Research to perform the survey. On August 20, 2013, representatives from TBWB Strategies and Godbe Research presented a report to the Board on the findings from the study. The study indicated voters gave the District extremely high marks for quality of education and the management of public funds. A majority of voters indicated they would support a November 2014 bond measure. However, they also indicated they would like more information and input before a measure was finalized. In response, on October 15, 2013, the Board approved an agreement with TBWB Strategies to conduct the second phase of a bond feasibility study for CVUSD involving public outreach and engagement. The proposal included professional assistance and support to the District over a nine month period ending in June 2014, the deadline for the Board of Education to make a decision to place an initiative on the November 2014 ballot.

Over a six month period, District representatives met with community leaders and small groups to share information about a potential November 2014 bond initiative. The meetings focused on information about potential bond project priorities, as well as the possible size and potential tax rates associated with the bond. The feedback from individuals and groups proved to be very valuable. On April 22, 2014, District Superintendent Jeff Baarstad and Jared Boigon of TBWB Strategies presented information from the outreach and engagement process. They reported significant community support around four identified project priorities. A potential bond of \$197 million was identified that could be supported without increasing the current property tax rate associated with the Measure R Bond passed in 1998. Following the report, TBWB Strategies recommended the District commission a follow-up public opinion research survey to determine the response of likely registered voters to the updated bond proposal. The Board of Education approved a proposal from Godbe Research to perform the follow-up survey.

At the Board meeting held on May 6, 2014 the Board of Education received a report on the public opinion research survey conducted to determine support for the proposed bond initiative. That survey documented 66% support for the initiative from likely November voters. In response, the Board of Education directed staff to prepare a resolution and supporting documents to place the initiative on the November ballot for Board consideration. On May 20, 2014, the Board of Education approved a Bond Counsel Agreement with Stradling, Yocca, Carlson and Rauth, and a Bond Program Management and Financial Advisory Services agreement with Piper Jaffray and Company, both agreements necessary precursors for the development of the resolution and supporting documents.



ALTERNATIVES:

1. Adopt Resolution #13/14-19, as submitted.
2. Do not adopt Resolution #13/14-19, as submitted.

RECOMMENDATION:

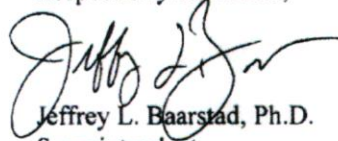
Approve alternative #1.

RATIONALE:

District Bond Counsel David Casnocha of Stradling, Yocca, Carlson and Rauth has prepared the language of Resolution #13/14-19, and it contains the legal information, findings and notices necessary to place a \$197 million general obligation bond before the voters of Conejo Valley Unified School District on the November 4, 2014 General Election ballot. The resolution before the Board calls an election within the District for the purpose of approving school bonds, to request the Ventura County Registrar of Voters to conduct the elections on behalf of the District, and to authorize the preparation of election materials including ballot arguments and tax rate statement, to be included in the ballot pamphlet. State law requires the Board of Education to order school district elections. The Ventura County Registrar of Voters will conduct the elections on behalf of the District, including publishing all required notices. This resolution meets the statutory requirements for describing the projects to be funded with the proceeds of the bonds, which is included as Exhibit B to the resolution. A 75-word summary of the measure, as it will appear on the ballot, is also included in the resolution as Exhibit A. The resolution also authorizes the preparation and filing of a tax rate statement, which must be included in the ballot pamphlet, describing the anticipated rates of tax throughout the life of the bond issue. The resolution also authorizes, but does not commit, the Board and/or individual members of the Board to prepare and sponsor a ballot argument in support of the bond measure. No more than five (5) persons may sign the ballot argument.

This election will be called under constitutional and statutory provisions that require fifty-five percent (55%) voter approval, and certain accountability requirements, including annual independent financial and performance audits of how funds are spent, and the formation of a Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee. Following adoption, the resolution (including the signed tax rate statement) must be delivered to the Registrar of Voters and the Board of Supervisors. State law requires that 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of a school board support the resolution calling an election requiring 55% voter approval. At least four (4) Board members must be present and vote "Yes" in order to call the election. A copy of the proposed resolution follows.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey L. Baarstad, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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