

**SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT  
GOVERNING BOARD**

**UNADOPTED MINUTES**

February 6, 2013

**APPENDIX A**

**5. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Board President Chapman recognized Professor Jim DeKloe, Bio Science/Biotechnology, who requested to comments on the Facilities Master Plan.

Professor DeKloe stated that at the last meeting plans for demolition of both the Math/Science building were identified in the Facilities Master Plan. In taking this information back to the School, the Math/Science faculty became “rather spirited and emotional.” Professor DeKloe complimented President Laguerre for informing faculty that the District will take all the time that is necessary to make sure all have had input into the future facilities in this area. “Based on President Laguerre’s calmness, we are calm,” he said. Professor DeKloe thanked Dr. Laguerre for intervening on their behalf and engaging the architects to talk more about the concerns of faculty in Math/Science.

Board President Chapman recognized Interim Dean Genele Rhoads, School of Math, who requested to comment on the Facilities Master Plan.

Interim Dean Rhoads began by saying, “Since the last Board meeting and the campus forums, there has been some discussion among members of the Math Department about the Facilities Master Plan. We are concerned with the current plan because the Math Department would be losing space. A decrease in space allotted for Math Department offerings is absolutely unacceptable. Alternatives that have been suggested are to expand the current 1500 building (which was remodeled in 2005 – 2006 with Measure G money) or construct a new building, but on or near the current site. There has also been some concern about problems that could occur by combining the Math and Science areas into one building.

Current needs of the Math Department include more SMART classrooms to be able to offer the full range of Math classes that students need at the times they are most likely to enroll. Housing all the full-time instructors in the building where the Math classes are held would be desirable and more convenient for students; this would require five more offices. Adjunct faculty work and meet with students in a small office that also serves as the mail room and the place where the printer shared by the whole building is housed, so more offices or a larger shared space for adjunct faculty is required. The Math Activities Center (MAC) needs to be expanded as it is often filled to capacity, and a computer classroom extension to the MAC is needed for Math faculty to hold online and hybrid orientations, work with students on MyMath Lab or other online resources, or present lessons using department software like Maple, Minitab, or Geometer’s Sketchpad. More small-group study rooms would be utilized and could possibly provide a secure area for early or make-up tests and quizzes. A room with a conference table and storage space meets many department needs such as a place for small groups to meet and individuals to spread out some work or eat their lunch, but a room like this was recently lost as it

became the office for the Interim Dean. Improved and expanded bathroom facilities for both students and faculty are needed, taking into consideration the number of people in the building and the fact that many attempt to use the facilities at similar times. While the 'rock circle' outside has provided some student gathering area, there is still need for more tables and chairs for students who hang out between classes and currently sit on the floor of the narrow hallway.

This outlines the important necessities for the Math building and the need to increase space in order to serve students well, but I want to emphasize that I have only mentioned the current needs of the department not even accounting for potential growth.”

Board President Chapman recognized Professor Maria Santiago, Chemistry, who requested to comment on the Facilities Master Plan.

Professor Santiago stated that these are exciting times for both the county and Solano Community College and thrilling that the voters voted for Measure Q; therefore, now is the time to speak on behalf of the sciences. This is the second time the voters have voted on behalf of the sciences. Ms. Santiago identified specific needs in the department, especially as it relates to organic chemistry. The program has tripled and noted successes are known throughout the state. Mixing programs is not what the Science Department wants. It is the desire of faculty that the architects visit the department and not proceed with the current plan in place without more dialogue.

Board President Chapman recognized Professor Melanie Lutz, Physics and Engineering, who requested to comment on the Facilities Master Plan.

Dr. Lutz began by stating, “Having been a full-time faculty member in the departments of Physics and Engineering since 2000, I am speaking today because I am very concerned about the architectural plans that are being proposed for the Measure Q funds. These plans call for the construction of a combined Math and Science building on the site of the current 800 building, and the demolition and/or gutting of the current 300 Science building and 1500 Math building. This plan would most likely result in less Math and Science classrooms and labs than we currently have on the main campus. Furthermore, demolishing or gutting Building 300, which recently underwent a \$5M renovation funded by Measure G, would be a huge waste of taxpayers' money. It is financially irresponsible to gut or demolish buildings that were just renovated by money from the 2002 Bond measure and expect the taxpayers of Solano County to continue paying off those bonds for another twenty years.

The physical sciences departments, i.e., Physics, Engineering, Geology, and Geography, already have excellent teaching and lab space in Building 300. On the other hand, new space, with proper ventilation, is clearly needed for the Biology and Chemistry labs. Furthermore, it makes sense for closely related departments, such as Biology, Chemistry, and Nursing to be housed in the same building. An obvious and simple solution would be to leave Building 300 as a 'Physical Sciences' building. The space vacated by Biology and Chemistry could be used for the ever-growing Astronomy Department and to provide new classroom space for programs such as Wastewater and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

A new 'Life Sciences' building could be constructed on the current Building 800 site to house the Biology, Chemistry, and Nursing Departments—programs that will provide our students with the necessary training to obtain high paying jobs in the healthcare and biotech

industries. This will allow us to no longer have toxic chemicals stored in the vicinity of the daycare center. A second new building would contain classrooms available for all disciplines. At least four of these classrooms could be reserved and designed for Math classes, but the bulk of the Math Department would remain in the current 1500 Building.

The Library needs to be in a central location. It, therefore, makes sense to rebuild the Library in a seismically safe manner at its current site, rather than on the site currently occupied by Building 1500.

The plan I have outlined above would be less expensive than the current proposal, and would benefit out students by significantly increasing the space available to offer additional Math and Science courses on the main campus.

I, therefore, ask the Board to reject the current architectural plan that has been proposed by the Measure Q funds and consider the proposal I have outlined, which would satisfy all of the Math and Science Department needs for additional space, without wasting money from the 2002 Measure G that was only recently spent on renovations. We need to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money.”

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Sebastian Bloem, a Solano Community College student, who requested to comment on the Facilities Master Plan.

Mr. Bloem is a third-year student studying Computer Science. Mr. Bloem stated that he supports Dr. Lutz and other Math/Science faculty members, stating the most valuable asset in education is the instructor. A functioning building is all an instructor needs. In deciding the future building needs, it is critical that we take into consideration how jobs line up with technology and the increased demand for students coming out of the K-12 system. To propose a building that is not equal in square footage to have exists is not forward thinking.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Andrew Cloud, a Solano Community College student, who requested to comment on the Facilities Master Plan.

Mr. Cloud commented that he shares the same perspective towards the FMP as Mr. Bloem. Money invested in Building 300 from Measure G funds would be wasted if the building is demolished to build another. Dr. Lutz's plan is a much better use of money. From the students' perspective, and having been on campus during the previous construction, it is disruptive; therefore, further review of Dr. Lutz's plan is a much better allocation of money and plan.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Dan Broadwater, Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW, Local 180, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements.

Mr. Broadwater stated that he represents electricians in Napa and Solano County, and is a resident of Vacaville, California. He commented how happy he was to learn that the voters approved Measure Q. He stated that when it comes time for the District to consider a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) that the Board will react favorably. Having worked on multiple projects in Solano County under PLAs over the years, Mr. Broadwater remarked that they have been good for the citizens. PLAs are a fair arrangement for both union and non-union to bid on jobs. Workers, contractors, the unions and non-union; apprenticeships, and owners all benefit. Workers are local, and money stays within the community and contributes to its prosperity.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. John Takeuchi, Central Solano Citizen/Taxpayer Group, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements.

Mr. Takeuchi is a resident of Fairfield and opposed passage of Measure Q. Mr. Takeuchi stated he did not come to argue the pros and cons of PLAs, but believes the facts for PLAs are not accurate. Having served on the Bond Oversight Committee for Measure C that benefitted the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District, Mr. Takeuchi suggested that the District may want to pay particular attention to the numbers given to the public. His main argument against PLAs is that it is a serious disincentive for non-union contractors to bid projects, stating further there is no point in bidding if the non-union shop must comply with union shop rules. The original Measure G had a provision that was a pilot project, "which was a joke." Mr. Takeuchi suggested when the Measure Q Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee is established to be sure to get the right people on it to do the work.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. George Guynn, Jr., President of the Central Solano Citizen/Taxpayer Group, who requested to comment on Project Labor Agreements.

Mr. Guynn stated that he felt the District would be advised to reject PLAs. Non-union bidders are at a distinct disadvantage. Mr. Guynn asked the Board to check out all the details and look at all the negatives against PLAs before they make a final decision.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Eric Christen, Executive Director of the Coalition for Fair Employment in Construction, who requested to comment on PLAs.

Mr. Christen commented how PLAs are highly discriminatory against non-union bidders and have been banned in many large cities, mostly in the San Diego area. Mr. Christen cited his recollection of history with PLAs within the District over Measure G, which was negative from his point of view. Mr. Christen asked the District to do the research and do what is right for all taxpayers and workers.

Board President Chapman recognized Ms. Nicole Goehring, Government Affairs Director of Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., who requested to comment on PLAs.

Ms. Goehring stated the ABC is a national construction trade association of 23,000 members with more than 2M employees. Many of the workers she represents live in Solano County. ABC is opposed to PLAs and supports fair and open competition and freedom of choice for workers concerning union membership and training programs. With 83% of the California construction workforce not belonging to a construction union, and with unemployment at 9.3% in Solano County, it is critical that the taxpayers get the best quality work at the best price for the best value. Ms. Goehring stated she will be contacting each Board member individually and hopes to sit down with each one to enlighten them and answer their questions.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Richard Markuson, Western Electrical Contractors Association (WECA) and Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors (PHCC), who requested to comment on PLAs.

Mr. Markuson stated he has never seen a PLA where apprentices can work, i.e., only joint apprenticeship programs operated by unions can dispatch apprentices to PLA jobs. There have been egregious problems with PLAs in the past, with many drawbacks, and encouraged the Board to seriously consider the objectives for the District to adopt a PLA.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Greg Armstrong, National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) for Solano County, who requested to comment on PLAs.

Mr. Armstrong commented that many electricians have worked on projects under PLAs, which has done a lot to benefit the local community. Mr. Armstrong, a member of the College Green Council, sitting on the Council representing apprentices, continues to look for ways to bring students into the electrical industry. We need workers and estimators and project managers to work within the industry. Mr. Armstrong stated he has never seen a PLA project go over budget or create litigation. Risks are reduced with Bond money where PLAs are in place. Mr. Armstrong thanked the Board for considering this contract delivery method.

Board President Chapman recognized Mr. Frank Crim, Carpenters Union, Local 180, Solano County, who requested to comment on PLAs.

Mr. Crim stated what makes a community is family, friends, neighbors, good jobs, and decent pay—all benefits essential to a strong, healthy community. The goals of PLAs are where local leaders are able to use apprenticeships and establish long-term careers. A Bond of this measure enables students from high schools to get a good career. Many PLAs are used in the area with no evidence that they eliminate bidders, which is a misrepresentation—it simply is not true. PLAs don't restrict the opportunity of bidding for non-union contractors.

Board President Chapman thanked each member from the public for their comments.