

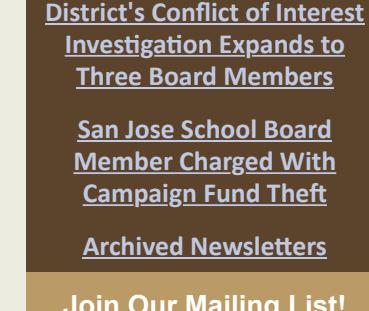
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January 2, 2018

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SAVE THE DATE

April 24, 2018

7th Annual CaLBOC Conference

SACRAMENTO

Mission Statement

To promote school district accountability by improving the training and resources available to California's Proposition 39 School Bond Oversight Committees and educating the state legislature, local school boards and the public about the oversight and reporting powers these Citizens' Bond Oversight Committees (CBOCs) have, and to advocate on a state level, where appropriate, on issues of common concern to all CBOCs.

2017 6th Annual CaLBOC Conference
Bond Oversight Basics Handouts:

www.calboc.com/2017-conference.html

Archived Newsletters

To view all with topics visit:
calboc.com/newsletters-1.html

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Santa Monica School District's Conflict of Interest Investigation Expands to Three Board Members

Dec 23, 2017 | By Adam Elmahrek & Benjamin Oreskes

EXCERPT: Santa Monica school district's conflict of interest investigation has grown to include three of the board's seven members, a school district official confirmed Friday. ...

Santa Monica-Malibu launched its probe after *The Times* revealed last month that Leon-Vazquez cast a series of votes spanning several years that included hundreds of thousands of dollars in contract approvals with her husband's clients, the financial advisory firm Keygent, LLC and TELACU Construction Management. ...

Prosecutors with the public integrity unit of the Los Angeles County district attorney's office have also [opened](#) a review.

Leon-Vazquez's husband Tony Vazquez - who is also a Santa Monica councilman and a candidate for a state Board of Equalization seat - was paid to open doors at school districts by using his political access to arrange meetings with high-level district executives, he testified in a sworn deposition obtained by *The Times*.

This included a meeting he set up three years ago between a TELACU executive and then-Santa Monica-Malibu Superintendent Sandra Lyon, according to the deposition. He also said that his income from TELACU started at \$1,000 per month but peaked at \$8,000 a month around the same time he was asked to arrange the meeting between TELACU and Lyon, according to the deposition.

Since the *Times* article was published, the school district's retired head of business Jan Maez acknowledged she also had a meeting with Vazquez in 2012 about financial advising and construction management involving "several other people" whose affiliations she could not recall, according to Pinsker. ...

The school district's review of potential conflicts of interest involving Mechur and Vazquez began after *The Times* asked the district about the business relationship. ...

To read complete article, please visit:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-1n-santa-monica-schools-outside-agency-20171222-story.html>

San Jose School Board Member Charged With Campaign Fund Theft

Dec 15, 2017 | By Sharon Noguchi | [mercurynews.com](#)

EXCERPT: ... In a case described as "textbook corruption," longtime Franklin-McKinley School District schools trustee John Lindner has been charged with stealing nearly \$30,000 in bond campaign funds that prosecutors say he spent on travel and personal expenses.

Lindner, 55, turned himself in to authorities Thursday on felony charges of grand theft and perjury, and misdemeanor violations of the Political Reform Act. He was freed after posting \$35,000 bail. ...

The criminal charges piggyback on an investigation earlier this year by the state's Fair Political Practices Commission probing Lindner's management of funds for the "Franklin-McKinley for Our Kids - Yes on Measure J 2010" campaign. In October, he agreed with the commission to pay a \$18,500 fine to the state.

The FPPC report found that Lindner, while serving as the campaign's treasurer, used unspent funds to "make personal purchases of lumber and travel" and "withdrew cash and transferred money to his personal bank account," prosecutors said. ...

The five felony and five misdemeanor counts are fairly serious, Chase said. "It's stealing money that people expected to be used to get public support for a school bond measure."

Chase called the case "textbook corruption" and pointed out that Lindner was not just an ordinary community volunteer. Chase noted that Lindner was in a place of public trust with decision-making power over how contracts would be awarded. Most of the funds for the bond campaign came from contractors and others hoping to do business with the district. Voters ultimately approved the \$50 million bond measure in November 2010.

According to prosecutors, Lindner "had bled the account almost dry," but "continued to file periodic disclosure forms reporting that the fund had \$13,000."

Lindner had declared in a filing that he was terminating the bond campaign committee. He also claimed he distributed remaining funds in amounts less than \$100 to "unnamed civic donation recipients," according to the FPPC.

An alert employee in the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voter's office notified the FPPC of that unusual claim. ...

The FPPC reported that Lindner told its investigator that he had placed cash in envelopes and anonymously donated to about 140 schools and nonprofit groups, but he could not name any of the groups. ...

He is scheduled to be arraigned in Santa Clara County Superior Court on Jan. 19. The crimes he's accused of committing are punishable by jail time and fines in excess of \$250,000, according to the District Attorney's Office....

To read complete article, please visit:

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/12/15/school-board-member-charged-with-stealing-bond-measure-campaign-funds/>