

Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report 1208 School Bond Oversight Committees

Raising the Bar

Report by the 2011-2012 CCC Grand Jury, May 10, 2012

The report is to the Governing Boards of: **Acalanes Union School, Antioch Unified School District, Byron Union School District, Contra Costa Community College District, John Swett Unified School District, Martinez Unified School District, Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Pittsburg Unified School District, West Contra Costa Unified School District.**

EXCERPT: FINDINGS (partial list of 16 Findings)

8. Although all oversight committees have bylaws, they do not appear to include or take into account "best practices" recommended by independent groups.
9. The public websites required to be maintained by districts for their bond oversight committees are not always easily located or navigable.
10. The websites required to be maintained by districts for their bond oversight committees are not always timely or complete in posting agenda materials, minutes, reports and other required items.
11. Financial reports furnished to oversight committees by the districts are not always complete and comprehensive enough to allow meaningful and effective review and oversight.
12. Financial data and reports are not always furnished to oversight committees early enough to allow time for thorough review prior to meetings.
13. Districts do not typically afford their oversight committees an opportunity to provide input into defining the scope and content of the district's required annual performance audit.
14. The performance audits provided by some districts to their oversight committees are so limited in scope and conclusory as to prevent meaningful and effective oversight.

PDF of 13 page CCC Grand Jury Report (1.5MB): [CCCG1208.pdf](#)

School bond measures receive donations from contractors

| June 4, 2012 | Will Evans |

[CaliforniaWatch.org](#)

EXCERPT: As voters around the state decide on more than two dozen local school bond measures tomorrow, the campaigns promoting many of them are funded largely by businesses that stand to benefit financially. ... Bond campaigns draw small contributions from community members and school officials, but the larger donations often come from companies that work for the school districts: architects, construction companies, and the financial and law firms hired to work on selling the bonds. By law, school districts can't spend public money to support bond measures, leaving the campaign committees reliant on donations from contractors.

A California Watch investigation found that in the last five years, almost every time an underwriting company gave money to a successful school bond campaign, that firm was hired to sell the bonds to investors for a profit. Critics, including some county treasurers, call the practice "pay to play," arguing that the contributions affect the school districts' business decisions. But school officials and underwriters counter that the money has no influence, pointing out that the companies usually are hired before they donate. ... To see complete article visit: [CaliforniaWatch.org](#)

The Nine Districts mentioned in the Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report #1208 have 90 days to respond to the Findings and Recommendations. We misstated that they had 60 days to respond in Issue 9. California Penal Code Section 933.05: [code933.05.pdf](#)

Contra Costa County CalBOC Chapter

First Meeting
June 23, 2012

10 AM - 12 PM

La Tapatia Restaurant

536 Main Street

Martinez, CA 94553

[REGISTER HERE](#)

TOPICS:

Organization of CCC
CalBOC Chapter

The Contra Costa County
Grand Jury Report

The Next CalBOC
Board Meeting is
November 9, 2012

10 am - 3 pm

Sacramento

Conference call service will
be available.

Mission Statement

What is Our Mission

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.

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