

GSF Meeting – March 6, 2013

- Location: Glenwood School Multi-Purpose Room
- In attendance: Julia A. Wong, Bob Marcucci, Becky Spence, Jo Pocock, Mike Pocock, Nicole Klock, David Hafner, Lisa Bordley, Sean Malone, Michael Mink, Kristy Treewater, Brad A. Wong, Holly Kuhlman, Debbie Freed, Jackie Garcia, Mike Dougherty, Gary Rossillo, Lisa Salomon, Brian Lahart, Eric Schnurpfeil, Denise Louie, Amy Allen, Koorosh Khashayar, Michelle Franchetti, Cari Gerlach, Lorna Ackley
Guests: Andrew McCullough, SR City Councilmember
Chris Thomas, SR School Board Chief Business Officer
Paul Cohen, SR School Board President
Carol Farrer, VP HeadsUp
Judy Tuatagaloa, Davidson PTA President
- Meeting to specifically address the upcoming parcel tax Measures A & B
 - Measures A & B, if passed, would continue the existing parcel taxes which help fund San Rafael Elementary and High School districts.
 - Approximately \$2.5 million annually raised from each of these measures (\$5 million in total) goes directly to San Rafael schools.
 - Looking for 8 year extension of parcel tax.
 - Currently costs homeowners \$194/annually for Measure A and \$132.50/annually for Measure B.
 - Includes a 5% annual cost of living increase.
 - State has cut \$17mm since 2009.
 - Recently passed Proposition 30 does not restore lost funding, but prevents further cuts.
 - SR has ~\$40mm annual school budget.
 - ~\$6mm annually lost from state funding.
 - In addition to \$17 million cuts since 2009, the current state funding formula, which is in effect, and under which we currently have to budget and operate until Prop. 30 can be implemented results in the district receiving only \$0.78 on the dollar budgeted for the district by the state. By law the district must have a balanced budget each year and must produce a three-year balanced budget, as well.
 - Prop. 30:
 - Governor submitted his proposed budget for next year in January, which included what he would like to see for use of Prop 30 funds. That was reported in the Marin IJ.
 - Each year, the governor must submit his “May revision” to his January proposed budget. This revision will not come out until after May 4th. There are no assurances the funding proposal from January will remain the same.
 - The May revision then goes to the State Legislature where it will most likely be revised even further before the June 30th budget deadline. Again, no assurances what will be in it.
 - Once the budget is passed, it is widely anticipated that law suits about the funding allocations will begin (e.g. ACLU). Lawsuits

cannot begin until action is taken by the state. This will likely delay (possibly for an extended period of time) the implementation of Prop 30. So current funding formula above would remain in effect.

- 2/3 of current legislature and Governor will not be in office 5 years from now (term limits) ... anything can happen with newly elected policy makers.
- A & B are 2 different ballot measures – “A” for elementary school district and “B” for high school district
 - Dixie Elementary School district is separate and families in that district would only vote for high school measure.
 - SR school board oversees both SR elementary & high school districts.
 - Vote requires 66.7% “yes” vote for passage.
 - Seniors can opt out of paying the tax, but still may vote on measures. Those households with no school aged children may also vote, but if under 65, cannot opt out.
- What A & B funding specifically provides:
 - Enhance core academic programs like math, science and reading
 - Maintain small class size
 - Support student counseling programs
 - Prepare students for college and 21st-century careers
 - Maintain quality school libraries and technology that supports learning
 - Attract and retain high quality teachers
 - Glenwood currently receives funding for 2 FTE’s, ½ library services and technology infrastructure from the parcel tax.
- A & B Accountability Protections Include:
 - Funds cannot be spent on administrator salaries.
 - Must be spent on schools.
 - Independent oversight committee ensures that funds are spent appropriately
- Vote to be taken entirely by mail.
 - Ballots will be mailed out the week of April 8.
 - Ballots must be received (not postmarked) by May 7 to be counted.
- What is being requested of GSF/parents from Yes 4 San Rafael Schools:
 - Volunteers for phone banks
 - 4 nights scheduled for Glenwood (Mar 12 & 26, April 16 & 30)
 - only ‘likely yes’ voters will be called
 - Volunteers will be trained and provided everything they need.
 - 3 hour shifts.
 - Volunteers for precinct walks
 - April 6, April 20, May 4 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 - Walk door-to-door and speak with voters (‘likely yes’ voters) who cannot be reached by phone.
 - Campaign has a fundraising goal of \$115k.
 - Funds primarily used for mailers (\$80k) and consulting firm.
 - Seeking a donation from GSF
- More information at www.yes4SanRafael.org

Minutes submitted by Michael Mink, Secretary