

San Ysidro School District Bond Oversight Committee Frequently Asked Questions

What does a Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee do? The Committee represents the Community to hold the School District accountable for the spending of bond funds authorized by the voters. It is an independent Committee that sets its own agenda within the rules and regulations provided in its by-laws.

It reviews reports and information provided by the District. For the Committee to be most effective, it must ask probing questions and receive complete and transparent responses from the School District. The Committee reports to the public its findings including both positive observations about the efficiency and effectiveness of the District as well as areas for improvement. As part of its responsibilities, the Committee visits school locations to observe construction before/after to witness building modifications.

What is the time commitment expected? There will be quarterly meetings lasting about two hours. There could be Subcommittees, though not likely at first, that could involve the same amount of time commitment. It is difficult to predict the amount of reading, but it could be several hours in the days leading up to the quarterly meetings. Except for perhaps the Chair, being on this Committee is not a huge time commitment.

What is expected of a Committee member? The Committee member should be prepared to read a moderate amount of written material, be attentive at the quarterly meetings, and not be shy in asking questions or inquiry about specific data and reports. While the by-laws state a majority of the members should have expertise in construction, municipal finance, public agency budgeting, project management or related field, it is not an absolute requirement for every member. Different perspectives such as Senior Representatives, Parents and Taxpayer Groups are on the Committee.

What can you expect at Bond Oversight Meetings? There will be a good deal of reports from staff on the progress of projects and information related to master planning, design and construction. Issues of community concerns about particular school projects could also be discussed, so meetings are an opportunity to have the Community directly participate in school governance.

What if I don't have a background in construction, municipal finance, public agency budgeting, project management or related field? This is not a requirement of every member. A variety of views and any concerns need to be heard. Critical thinking and question asking are very important factors to make your volunteer experience valuable to the District and enjoyable as a volunteer.

What makes for a successful Bond Oversight Committee? The recently adopted By Laws are structured so it encourages independence by having a selection process that is fair and transparent, requires the Agenda for meetings be set by the Chair of the Committee not the District, and requires the District to prepare an independent Performance Audit that analyzes the efficiency and effectiveness of spending.