

**MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO
THE LOS ANGELES CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

SUBJECT: Establishing an Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee for Measure EE (Res-041-18/19) (Waiver of Board Rule 72)

DATE NOTICED: 04-23-19

PRESENTED FOR ACTION: 04-23-19

PRESENTED BY: Dr. McKenna,
Mr. Schmerelson, Dr. Vladovic, Mr. Melvoin, Ms. Gonez,
Ms. García, Mr. Okeke

MOVED/SECONDED BY: Ms. Gonez /
Mr. Melvoin

MOTION:

RESOLUTION: x

Whereas, On February 28, 2019, the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District adopted Board of Education Report No. 300-18/19 to authorize a qualified special tax, otherwise known as a parcel tax, to be placed on the June 4, 2019 special election ballot;

Whereas, The Board placed the Quality Teacher, Class Size Reduction, and Local School Safety Measure (Measure EE) on the ballot in order to address decades of underinvestment in public education, provide all Los Angeles area public school students with access to a high-quality educational program, to lower class sizes, and to attract and retain quality teachers, counselors, nurses, librarians, and support staff;

Whereas, Measure EE will help further the implementation of the Los Angeles Unified School District's commitments to closing the opportunity gaps that persist within its school system and improving education outcomes for all children, in keeping with its goal of increasing graduation rates, proficiency in English Language Arts (~~ELA~~) and math, and preparing all students for college, career and life. The District shares with communities, families, and the State, and posts on its website, the progress being made to improve these educational outcomes annually in the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP);

Whereas, Significant progress has been made to improve student outcomes:

- In 2017-2018, the graduation rate was 77.3 percent, an increase from 62.4 percent in the 2009-2010 school year;
- Over the last four years, English Language Arts proficiency has increased by 9 percent and math proficiency by 7 percent;
- In 2018-2019, 24 percent of students were enrolled in Advanced Placement courses, a gain of 17 percent from 2013-2018.

Whereas, As indicated by the latest data, additional improvements and investments are needed to continue our work for our children:

- Districtwide, 77.3 percent of students are graduating;
- Districtwide, 42.31 percent of students are proficient in English Language Arts
 - 42.26 percent of third graders
 - 42.11 percent of fourth graders
 - 42.15 percent of fifth graders

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- 39.45 percent of sixth graders
- 41.27 percent of seventh graders
- 39.59 percent of eighth graders
- 50.99 percent of eleventh graders
- Districtwide, 31.62 percent of students are proficient in math
 - 42.34 of third graders
 - 35.94 percent of fourth graders
 - 28.59 percent of fifth graders
 - 30.22 percent of sixth graders
 - 29.37 percent of seventh graders
 - 28.28 percent of eight graders
 - 23.28 percent of eleventh graders.
- Districtwide, 47.9 percent of students are A-G college and career ready;

Whereas, The allocation and expenditure of Measure EE funds shall (a) be designed to help achieve Measure EE’s stated purposes to improve achievement; (b) be equitable and supportive of the needs of all students; and (c) sustain the long-term fiscal stability of the District;

Whereas, The District will prepare an annual allocation and expenditure plan for Measure EE projected revenue, which shall include which programs, initiatives, and positions will be supported, in-line with Measure EE’s stated purposes;

Whereas, The Board, when it voted to place Measure EE on the June 4, 2019 ballot, confirmed its commitment to oversight by stating in the full text of Measure EE that “it is the intent of the Board of Education that there be strict oversight, transparency and accountability for the expenditure of funds generated by this measure”, and required the Board, upon approval of the measure, to “provide a structure and mechanisms for oversight of the expenditure of the funds”;

Whereas, To ensure public accountability of Measure EE revenue, the Board desires to authorize the establishment of an Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee prior to the June 4, 2019 election so that the structure and mechanisms for oversight can be immediately implemented should Measure EE be approved by voters; and

Whereas, The Board seeks to ensure a prompt and orderly process for selection of such committee members in the event that Measure EE passes by at least two-thirds vote on June 4, 2019; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District hereby establishes the formation of an Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee for the purpose of ensuring the proceeds are used and distributed only for voter approved purposes as stated in the full text of Measure EE and to provide an enhanced level of accountability for the allocation and expenditure of Measure EE parcel tax funds as to positively impact student outcomes;

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Resolved further, That the membership of the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee shall consist of nine (9) independent representatives with significant expertise in at least one of the following areas: academia, school/public finance, parent and family engagement, and performance measurement and management. Each nominated member shall reside within the boundaries of the District and the membership shall reflect a balance of participants with each of the aforementioned expertise areas;

Resolved further, That the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee shall be nominated by a Membership Selection Panel and shall convene at least quarterly to carry out the purposes of this Resolution;

Resolved further, That the Panel shall be comprised of nine (9) members:

- Two (2) of which shall be selected by the Board;
- One (1) selected by the Mayor of Los Angeles;
- One (1) selected by the Los Angeles County Department of Education;
- One (1) selected by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors;
- One (1) selected by the members of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments by the member cities located within Los Angeles Unified boundaries;
- One (1) selected by the Gateway Cities Council of Governments by the member cities located within Los Angeles Unified boundaries.
- One (1) selected by the City Council of the City of San Fernando; and
- One (1) selected by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood.

The Panel shall screen and recommend potential candidates for membership to the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee. The Panel will develop guidelines to solicit, collect, and review applications of potential candidates for the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee. The Superintendent of Schools, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Academic Officer shall receive and review the nominations from the Panel and make final recommendations to the Board. The recommendations are subject to approval by the Board by a majority vote;

Resolved further, That and the Taxpayer Oversight Committee's duties shall include, but not be limited to: reviewing, making findings, making recommendations, and publicly reporting annually on:

- The progress on measurable student achievement outcomes to result from the allocation and expenditure of Measure EE funds, including but not limited to: (a) increasing graduation rates; (b) preparing all students to be proficient in English Language Arts and math; and (c) increasing the number of students that are A-G college and career ready, as outlined in the resolution Local Control and Accountability Plan and Realizing the Promise for All: Close the Gap by 2023! (Res-047-17/18);
- How revenues were spent in the prior year, and whether those expenditures aligned with the stated purposes of Measure EE and furthered progress on measurable student achievement outcomes and the District's expenditure plan;
- The amount of Measure EE revenues received each year;

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- The District's expenditure plan for Measure EE revenue, which shall include which programs, initiatives, and/or positions will be supported, and how the funding has been allocated for Measure EE's stated purposes, including reducing class sizes, and retaining and attracting high-quality teachers and employees, among other things;
- How expenditures are anticipated to further the equitable distribution of resources and their efficient use to support the long-term fiscal stability of the District, including addressing declining enrollment trends; and
- The financial audit of Measure EE conducted by the independent financial auditing firm hired by the District, as well as the independent financial audit reports of Measure EE funds received by non-profit charter schools that receive an allocation of Measure EE revenue. This review shall include meeting with the independent auditing firm.

Resolved further, That the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee shall create bylaws by which it will operate and inform the public concerning Los Angeles Unified School District's expenditure of Measure EE proceeds, including but not limited to publicly distributing an annual report that communicates its annual findings and recommendations regarding the prior fiscal year, and public hearings to discuss critical topics related to the expenditure of Measure EE revenues, which shall take place no less than once a year;

Resolved further, That the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee shall prepare, approve, and distribute other progress reports of any activities, findings, and recommendations to the Superintendent, the Board, and the public, regarding the receipt, allocation, and expenditure of Measure EE funds;

Resolved further, That each member of the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee shall serve for a term of three (3) years, or until a successor is appointed, except that initial appointments may be staggered with terms of two (2) years to prevent significant turnover at any one time. There is no limit as to the number of terms that a member may serve; and, be it finally

Resolved, That to ensure the Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee's independence, no employee, official, vendor, contractor, or consultant of the Los Angeles Unified School District shall be appointed, and each member shall strictly follow the ethics and conflict of interest rules pursuant to the District's policies and guidelines. All Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee proceedings shall be subject to open meeting laws, including the Brown Act.

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	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NOES</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Ms. Gonez	X			
Dr. McKenna	X			
Mr. Melvoin	X			
VACANT				
Mr. Schmerelson	X			
Dr. Vladovic	X			
Ms. Garcia	X			
TOTAL	6			

ACTION: ADOPTED AS AMENDED