



"Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist" Frederick Douglas

August 12, 2016

School Board Puts Bond on Ballot But Not Refinancing Gretchen COPS Funding

The Dixon Unified Board of Trustees at their regular meeting last week, after a closed session meeting with their legal counsel, approved to place a bond measure on the November ballot to repair and renovate the old high school and Anderson school. The Board however, removed the re-payment of the Certificate of Participation (COP) from the proposed bond measure. This bond Measure has been designated as Measure Q

The removal of the repayment of COPs from the bond measure came after the Solano County Taxpayers Association (SCTA) questioned if the COPs, that are currently debts of the District's General Fund, could be paid off from money approved under Proposition 39 which requires 55% voter approval.

The Board held a special meeting Wednesday to decide if they would put a second measure on the ballot for the re-payment of the COPs. After a recommendation by the Superintendent the school board unanimously voted to "table" the repayment of the COPs indefinitely! The board did not even want to consider a measure for the 2018 election.

The taxpayers told the board that, as an organization, they would "stay neutral" on Measure Q because the Board included in the bond resolution that they would award construction contracts through a competitive process; will prioritize projects; structure the bonds to mature in a manner consistent with the useful lives of the projects financed; control soft costs of construction (ie cost of bonds, architectural/engineering fees, and other) and most importantly they will set funds for the maintenance of the facilities.

However, SCTA said will oppose the repayment of the Certificate of Participation (COP) issued for the construction of Gretchen Higgins Elementary. They pointed out that the newer part of Dixon will be paying twice if the COPs are re-paid through a bond since they already paid for Gretchen Higgins and Tremont Schools through the Mello-Roos District. In fact they told the board that a repayment of the COPs may put a bad light on the Measure Q.

George Guynn, President of SCTA said that he was more than pleased with the Board's "wise" decision.