

On behalf of the Measure G Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee, I would like to extend our thanks for placing the item on this agenda on such short notice. For the last six years the CBOC has taken seriously its responsibilities to this community. We have met quarterly, diligently kept an eye on the various projects and the Measure G finances. It hasn't been without struggles. If you recall the first two years we had issues with the information provided by the audit firm. In previous annual reports, we have cited the committee's struggles to get annual facility tours and the lack of receiving necessary information in the timely fashion.

As chair, the committee has directed me to bring a recent situation to your attention and seek your assistance.

On January 4, 2018 the CBOC had a Special Meeting in which we toured half of the school sites. With us on the tour was the Interim MOT Director, Shelley Arthur and two Vanir representatives, Robert Sands and Eric Barger. The tour took place on Ms. Arthur's first day as Interim MOT Director. We were fully aware Ms. Arthur would have limited answers pertaining to the projects. However, Mr. Sands had been working in Newark for almost 3 years and Mr. Barger oversaw the play structure projects. As we toured the various sites it was very apparent the Vanir representatives couldn't answer the questions posed by committee members. Mr. Knoop, as the committee's secretary, documented the questions and at the conclusions of the tour he spoke with Ms. Arthur and Mr. Sands about his plans to email over to the committee's questions to the district office.

Mr. Knoop emailed the various questions on January 8, 2018. On January 9, 2018, Mr. Simon addressed the security cameras concerns. On January 22nd Mr. Knoop sent a follow up email in which he asked for a response timeline for the remainder of the questions. In the district's reply email, he was told; a response would be sent by the end of the week, beginning of the following week.

On February 13, 2018, the committee had a Special Meeting to discuss the 2016/2017 Annual Report and for the district to provide an update on the questions generated from the site tour.

At that meeting the committee still did not receive answers to the questions and the members expressed frustration with respect to being ignored.

By a vote of the membership, if by the end of business on February 21, 2018 the district fails to respond in writing to the committee's questions, I was directed, as chair, to bring this matter to your attention. I am here today because the committee didn't receive a district response until late yesterday afternoon.

Needless to say the committee has not met to discuss the response, however, we should not have to wait two months and resort to requesting an item be placed on your agenda in order to prompt the district to communicate with us. This is a symptom of a much larger issue, we have tried to diligently do our job and have been hindered by the lack of timely responses. There needs to be a professional relationship between the district and the CBOC.

In conclusion, we need this situation remedied, so we can fulfill our responsibilities to the Newark Taxpayers.