Minutes of the Strategic Planning and Resource Allocation Committee Held on

October 30, 2025

Zoom: https://smccd.zoom.us/j/89715478630

Chairs Present: Paul Cassidy, Ingrid Vargas

Members Present: Michelle Amaral, Chris Collins, Kevin Corsiglia, Chelssee De Barra, Lorraine DeMello, Lauren Ford, Katie Hern, Eric Imahara, Michael Kane, Nancy Kaplan-Biegel, Albin Lee, Elizabeth Llamas, Andy Murillo, Vivian Paw, Jarred Ramos (serving as alternate for Jiaxuan Qiao), Roger Perez-Vaughan, Bianca Rowden-Quince, Eric Torres, Monique Ubungen Wardell, Phillip Williams, Clair Yeo-Sugajski, Hellen Zhang

Members Absent: Jose Cartegena, Filipp Gleyzer, Will Minnich, Jiaxuan Qiao (alternate rep. Jarred Ramos attending), Chris Watters, Kenyatta Weathersby

Resource Persons Present: Zahra Mojtahedi, Karen Wong

---

1. **SPARCkle Minutes:** What are you or your kids dressing up as for Halloween?
2. **GENERAL FUNCTIONS**
   2.1. Call to Order
   Committee Tri-chair Ingrid Vargas called the regular meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.
3. **ACTION ITEM(S)**
   3.1. Approve Agenda
   A motion was made by Paul Cassidy and seconded by Nancy Kaplan-Biegel to approve the October 30, 2025 meeting agenda. The motion carried.

   3.2. Approve Minutes
   A motion was made by Katie Hern and seconded by Paul Cassidy to approve the September 25, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion carried with four abstentions.

4. **DISCUSSION/REPORT**
   4.1. SMCCCD Adopted Budget FY2025-2026

   The committee was joined by District Chief Financial Officer Peter Fitzsimmons and Budget Officer Judy Hutchinson to discuss the adopted FY 2025–26 budget.

   Peter provided a strategic and fiscal overview of the adopted budget, while Judy followed with a detailed breakdown of revenues, expenditures, and fund allocations.

   Peter presented the adopted FY 2025–26 budget, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on September 10, 2025. He noted that the District remains a “basic aid” district, funded primarily through local property taxes rather than the state. Property tax revenue is projected to rise by 4.8%, reflecting a slower growth rate due to market conditions.

The budget remains balanced and compliant with Board Policy 8.11, maintaining reserves equal to about two months of operating expenses. Key allocations support board and community priorities, capital projects, and long-term obligations such as retiree health benefits.

Peter also summarized major state and local assumptions, including moderate inflation, steady resident enrollment, and continued funding for key initiatives such as the SB 893 Free College program and student support services. He briefly outlined the District's capital planning efforts, including bridge funding for near-term projects and possible future bond measures.

He concluded by emphasizing fiscal stability, progress toward compliance with state requirements, and alignment of spending with District goals and student success priorities.

Budget Officer Judy Hutchinson presented an overview of the District's adopted FY 2025–26 budget, focusing on the unrestricted general fund. She reported total projected revenue of $279 million, primarily from local property taxes, with additional funding from Redevelopment Agency sources, student fees, and non-resident tuition, which is expected to decrease slightly due to lower international enrollment.

Expenditures total $278 million, resulting in a balanced budget. Major allocations include $209 million across the five sites withing SMCCCD, with additional funding for utilities, District-wide technology, salary commitments for part-time faculty, strategic initiatives such as the SB 893 Free College program, insurance, and other District-wide expenses.

Judy summarized other District funds, including a $5 million self-insurance fund, debt service, restricted and capital funds, and auxiliary services, bringing the total District-wide budget to roughly $790 million. The financial aid fund totals $31 million, and the District's post-retirement benefits (OPEB) fund remains fully funded.

Looking ahead, she noted several factors that could affect future budgets, such as property tax trends, enrollment, labor negotiations, insurance costs, and inflation. The District will also assess whether to continue funding SB 893 when current state support expires. Judy closed by emphasizing the District's ongoing commitment to maintaining a balanced budget aligned with board priorities and community needs.

5. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next regular meeting will take place on November 13, 2025.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional agenda items, the meeting was adjourned early.