November 30, 2015

Dear SJUSD Board of Education:

The consideration of an aquatic center and a performing arts center as potential community-benefit projects was driven by the extensive community engagement effort that occurred prior to the Board of Education adopting the Measure H Implementation Plan on November 20, 2014. That implementation plan established a blue-ribbon panel charged with determining the feasibility and viability of these potential community-benefit projects by January 30, 2016. After meeting throughout 2015, the blue-ribbon panel has made its determinations and offers the following recommendations.

**Aquatic Center**

The blue-ribbon panel determines that a community-benefit aquatic center is neither feasible nor viable.

- **Feasibility:** The panel has determined that there is no location that will meet the needs of site-specific programs and that funding site-specific pools is not a community-benefit project.
- **Viability:** The panel has determined that a community-benefit aquatic center will not meet district nor community needs as the needs exist at the site-level, not the community level.
- **Recommendation:** The panel recommends that the 25-yard by 40-meter pool, suitable for swimming, diving, and water polo, become the standard at the high-school level and that the district use this standard for any new or necessary pool construction at each comprehensive high school.

**Performing Arts Center**

The blue-ribbon panel determines that a community-benefit performing arts center is viable and is conditionally feasible as stated in the following recommendation.

- **Feasibility:** The panel has determined that available land located at 760 Hillsdale Avenue is suitable for the project, but that there are currently insufficient funds available for the entire project.
- **Viability:** The panel has determined that a performing arts center will meet district and community needs and that the programmatic requirements of the facility can be maintained and operated.
- **Recommendation:** The panel recommends: (1) that the district allocate the full $19 million reserved for community-benefit projects to a performing arts center, which is currently estimated at $28 million for a full-scale facility targeted to open fall 2018; (2) that work on the project begin immediately; and (3) that the Board of Education empower a fundraising team to secure the additional funds to complete the project. Absent sufficient fundraising, the panel recommends that the Board of Education secure funds from other sources in order to complete the project.

The blue-ribbon panel appreciates the opportunity it had to serve the San José Unified community. With identified needs exceeding available resources, the panel recognizes the challenges of the decisions that must be made.

Sincerely,

Blue-Ribbon Panel on Community-Benefit Projects

Measure H: Phase II – 2015 Issuance