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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools, Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2019

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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Jody London, Chair, Facilities Committee

DATE: June 26, 2019

SUBJ: Potential Placement of Parcel Tax to Support Maintenance and Operations of Bond-Funded Capital Projects on March or November 2020 ballot

ACTION REQUESTED

If following discussion of the issue, the Board has decided to place a Parcel Tax on the ballot in either March or November 2020, it directs the Superintendent and General Counsel to take the steps necessary to prepare a Parcel Tax to support maintenance and operations of bond-funded capital projects on the March or November 2020 ballot.

BACKGROUND

The Oakland Unified School District (District) has a long history of using voter-approved bond funds to support improvements in the District's school facilities. The bond was last renewed in 2012 via Measure J, a \$475 million bond. The 2012 Facilities Master Plan identified need of \$1.5 billion. This pattern of need to modernize school facilities far outstripping the amount of available funds is a recognized issue at the State and Federal level. See, for example, numerous reports published by the UC Berkeley Center for Cities and Schools.

An ongoing challenge for school districts is adequately maintaining school facilities, and operating them to design specifications. Other districts have obtained voter approval for parcel taxes that accompany general obligation bonds and are used to support maintenance and operation of the projects funded by the bond.

At the May 22, 2019, Board meeting, Director Hinton Hodge requested that the Board consider a number of actions related to renewing the bond and establishing an accompanying parcel tax. The Facilities Committee considered this request at its June 14, 2019 meeting (see attached memo from Director Hinton Hodge).

After discussing this issue, the Facilities Committee recommends that the full Board a) decide whether to place a Parcel Tax on the ballot in March or November 2020 and, if affirmative, b) to provide direction to staff to proceed with preparing for a Parcel Tax for maintenance and operations that would support a renewal of the bond in 2020. Staff should report back, through the Facilities Committee, on a parcel tax, polling of voters, and other deliverables necessary to place a Parcel Tax on either the March or November 2020 ballot, including a recommendation on whether it is best advised to proceed on the March or November 2020 ballot. The staff report should also provide examples of how other school districts structure similar parcel taxes.

JL:os