

From: [REDACTED]
To: [BoardComment](#)
Subject: Item 7C
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 6:23:52 PM

Hi, Haley -- I expect to attend and read this comment. Thanks.

August 13 meeting

Item 7C

Thank you for bringing this item forward for discussion. While it may be inconvenient to bring grant applications to the board three times for review: first, prior to grant application requiring match funding; second, to accept a grant requiring match funding and to approve any required resolution(s); and third, to approve a budget adjustment to provide payment of the funds required by the grant.

This is public money. If it is going to be committed, the public needs to know how much and what for before a grant gets to the point of being awarded.

The board has had good discussions of grant funding in the past. Director Rice has pointed out that turning down a grant that has been awarded because of lack of matching funds is not well received by granting agencies. After they have taken the time and effort to evaluate a grant application and offer an award, the expectation is that the grant will be accepted. A grant that is turned down by the applicant at that point can affect how future grant applications are treated – they are less likely to be funded, if the granting agency thinks that their award will not be accepted.

By the time the General Manager comes to the board with a fait accompli grant ready to be accepted and funded, the pressure is on the district to accept – even though the board, and the public, have not been informed about the application before that.

It may sound like duplicated effort, but public funding requires allowing the public to be informed of what is proposed as well as what money has been spent.

If the board feels this is a policy that should be reconsidered, please refer it to the policy committee, which exists to address exactly this kind of question.

The General Manager should not be burdened with authority beyond appropriate commitment of public money. Giving him this authority conceals significant decisions about how public money will be spent. That authority is rightly the board's, and should remain there. This policy looks fine to me as it is. Please do not adopt these changes.

--

Christine Heinrichs

From: [REDACTED]
To: [BoardComment](#)
Subject: Comment for Aug 13 Board meeting re Regular Business, item 7C
Date: Thursday, August 13, 2020 11:59:44 AM

Haley, please read the content below aloud at the meeting today.

I see this proposed modification in the following light:

Does the Board want to cede more authority to CCSD staff, and in particular to the General Manager. Recent Cambria CCSD history does not support the idea of a more empowered GM becoming increasingly independent from Board oversight. Cambria ratepayers are paying and will to continue to pay into the future for the operational indiscretions of the previous manager .

Now is not the appropriate time for the Board to again cede their authority to a new and unproven GM.

I urge the Board to retain their direct oversight over grant policy.

Scott Anderson
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Harry Farmer](#); [Cindy Steidel](#); [Amanda Rice](#); [Donn Howell](#); [David Pierson](#)
Cc: [John F. Weigold IV](#); [Haley Dodson](#)
Subject: Agenda 13 August 2020, Item 7.C.
Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020 10:25:33 AM
Attachments: [12 Aug 20 re grant authority.pdf](#)

Please read the Memorandum from me that is attached concerning 13 August 2020
Agenda No. 7.C.:
**DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO THE POLICY ON
APPLYING FOR GRANTS**

Thank you.

Elizabeth Bettenhausen

Cambria, Ca

[REDACTED]

via electronic mail

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12 August 2020

FROM: Elizabeth Bettenhausen

TO: CCSD Board of Directors; cc: General Manager

SUBJECT: 13 August 2020 Agenda Item 7.C. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO THE POLICY ON APPLYING FOR GRANTS

Here's my assumption. In Items of Regular Business and Hearings and Appeals in the Agendas of the CCSD Board of Directors, the word "staff" refers to the person whose name follows FROM at the beginning of the Item. Is my assumption correct?

Thus, in 7.C. John F. Weigold IV, General Manager is recommending the changes. The changes are summarized this way: "Staff recommends condensing this process together to one Board touchpoint –for budget adjustment approval and to approve any required resolution(s) following a grant offer."

This condensing would shift significant authority in budget creating and oversight from the Board of Directors to the General Manager. All analysis of the merits of the project for which the grant is proposed will be done by "staff." The staff will submit the application. The only time the project comes before the Board of Directors is when the Board is asked to amend the current Fiscal Year Budget to provide matching funds. Amending the budget is the only task left to the Board.

I think this proposed change is extremely unwise. Too often since I moved to Cambria in 2002 the CCSD General Manager has assumed authority inappropriate to the office. This is another instance of the struggle between the CCSD Board of Directors and the General Manager for more power. The CCSD Board of Directors must oppose this attempt by the General Manager to stand on top of the pyramid, not two layers down below the public and the Board of Directors, as the law requires.

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