

Claremont Unified School District Board of Education
League of Women Voters of the Claremont Area Observer Report
By Observer Mary Caenepeel
May 11, 2017

The Board makeup is now President David S. Nemer, Vice-President Steven Llanusa, Clerk Hilary LaConte, and Members Beth Bingham and Nancy Tresor Osgood.

I am serving as Observer in place of Judith Tanenbaum while she is in Spain this academic year. Judith will resume her duties as observer when she returns. I have observed the school board meetings since the Sept. 1, 2016 meeting.

I was able to attend most of the regular meetings of the district and a Special Meeting of the board in January.

In addition to information from staff, the Board stays informed by walking the campuses with the superintendent and observing students and teachers. Attending school open houses and district events is something each member does. Additionally, each board member participates on at least one other board, such as Claremont Education Foundation, Claremont After-School Programs, Baldy View Regional Opportunity Program and the Chamber of Commerce.

In November the district successfully passed a bond measure for \$58 million which will be used to update and refurbish facilities at the schools throughout the district. As required by law, an Independent Citizens Oversight Committee was appointed by the board to ensure funds are spent only on voter-approved projects.

At the April 20, 2017 meeting the board approved hiring architects and contractors for the initial phase of the bond projects and authorization to issue General Obligation Bonds for these projects.

The work to install solar panels at all schools was completed in late winter. This is the culmination of a project that began last year.

The district is currently in negotiations with the teachers and classified unions.

There has been no public comment this year. Most open sessions are completed in an hour or less and no meeting has exceeded 2 hours.

No issues needed the attention of the League. The agency is following good government standards. It operates transparently, welcomes public input, and members appear well prepared and cordial with each other, staff and the public.

I have enjoyed serving as a substitute observer this year and look forward to continuing in this role until Judith returns. Thank you for allowing me to be of service.