

**Presentation of ICOC Annual Report to Governing Board May 13, 2014**  
**Cary Demaree and Helen Ofield**

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Good evening, Governing Board, Superintendent Anastos, esteemed staff, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Cary Demaree, chair of the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. With me is our vice chair Helen Ofield. We are pleased to bring you the 2014 Annual Report of the ICOC, which you have before you.

**1**

This is the movie version of the ICOC's activities over the past 12 months. Our executive producer Dr. Gina Potter is at the helm. Courtesy of Michelle Flores, our editor, and cinematographers Barbara Martinez, Diane Moses and Bret Felix, we've got some great footage to convey what happened during a blockbuster year, the most important year to date in the life of Proposition W, the 2008 school bond that has changed life in our schools and community for the better.

**2** Here are the members of the ICOC. Left to right: Ilse Hanning, Rosemary Putnam, Legal Counsel Sophie Akins, Emma Rios, that's me standing at attention in the middle, outgoing vice chair Gerry Selby, Helen Ofield, Toni Shaw and Bill Baber. Also, are Tom Clabby and Mark Gracyk. Just behind Ilse Hanning is our Den Mother, Michelle Flores. Several ICOC members are here tonight to walk the red carpet.

**3** The year started with a bang on June 1 2013 when we opened the new Lemon Grove Library and threw a big community party. Here is that beautiful, Mission Revival building.

**4** The best address in town is 3001 School Lane. Rosemary Putnam calls it "First on the Street."

**5** The great threesome: Dr. Gina Potter the Money Lady, Superintendent Anastos the Wizard of Oz, and Mr. Ken Fine the Owner's Representative who oversaw the Prop W projects. Ken retired this past year and we miss him -- but are delighted to be working with his very able successor, Bret Felix.

**6** Here is Dianne Jacob, Supervisor of District 2, a big library supporter and a former school teacher.

- 7** A big, happy crowd showed up to see what the bond between us produced, and hear some great speeches.
- 8** Here is Helen Ofield waving to Ilse Hanning. These two ladies co-chaired the Prop W campaign, so June 1 had special meaning for them.
- 9** This was a great moment: A bevy of beautiful white doves was released in front of the new library to symbolize our upward flight as a community toward a new world of learning and culture.
- 10** Here is a very special group: Left to right: Ric Davy of Davy Architecture, Joanne Branch the guru from the County Office of Education, David Gardner of Legacy, Inc., who rode herd on library construction, just behind David is the library architect Raul Diaz, and three representatives of Legacy, Inc. which delivered the winning bid back in early 2009.
- 11** The ribbon cutting was a family affair with everybody getting into the act. That's Rosemary Putnam in the middle. At far left is Amanda Heller, a nifty lady and head librarian -- the very first one in our new library.
- 12** You can see the joy on Rosemary Putnam's face as she is escorted by Mayor Mary Sessom and County Library Director José Aponte into the library for the first time. Rosemary's dream became real.
- 13** The Governing Board -- they get to party at last!
- 14** We spent every nickel of the Dan Thren Trust--a half million dollar bequest given over a decade ago to support a new library. That sum grew to nearly a million dollars. The youth section of the library is named in memory of his wife Virginia Thren. Here is the teen room, now in constant use.
- 15** Look at all those strollers! We've got toddlers and little kids in the Children's Room all week long.
- 16** Over the entrance to the youth section is a huge photo mural, the brainchild of Superintendent Anastos and Helen Ofield. It features historical photos, 1912 to 1929, from the Lemon Grove Historical Society and shows the original Mission Revival style school that once stood on the site of the new library. Those beautiful arches were recreated on the new library.

**17** This plaque dedicating the room we are standing in now was presented by the School District back on Dec. 9, 2010 when we were still in the old library on Broadway. Rosemary Putnam is right here -- maybe a round of applause for her is in order. (APPLAUSE)

**18** The new library got lots of nice press coverage. Here is a TV interview with Amanda Heller and Superintendent Anastos.

**19** It doesn't get much better than this. A room with a view for Mrs. Bell, all 250 pounds of her and holding firm at age 120. Our original school bell came home and reigned over the June 1 grand opening.

**20** Do you love this? Even the infrastructure around the library looks like public art.

**21** Moving now to the new Dental Clinic on the campus of Lemon Grove Academy. A million dollar federal grant Health & Human Services underwrote this innovation.

**22** Here are the dentist chairs for our students. The dentists come from the Dentistry Division of UCSD School of Medicine (STILL DON'T HAVE THIS RIGHT).

**23** This gives you an idea of the clinical precision and sheer size of the clinic -- built to handle the whole campus.

**24** Looks like public art, but is actually an example of the new, well-designed playground equipment at all of our schools.

**25** Monterey Heights is a challenging, multi-level campus and these exercise stations are a clever use of space.

**26** This is a terrific innovation -- an interactive set-up with a pavement treatment for handicapped students at San Altos. The rubberized surface under foot is typical of all the new playground surfaces at our schools.

**27** The district worked hard to fulfill ADA requirements like this striping on Vista La Mesa's big parking lot.

**28** Here's another view.

**29** Handicapped students, family and visitors can cross in safety.

**30** Oh, where is the red carpet, we hear you cry. Enough, already! This type of infrastructure detail is what Prop W is all about. This gets the Academy Award for Best Set Decoration. This is the rejuvenated equipment shed serving the new athletic field at Vista La Mesa. Look at that new concrete foundation! That new asphalt! The red carpet is stored inside. If you play well with others, we'll let you walk on it one day.

**31** Now we come to the Safety Section. This gets the Academy Award for best Technical Achievement. School shootings in other parts of the nation had districts scrambling to defend their campuses. Take a look at these security measures.

**32** A secure front office that doesn't permit interlopers to access the main campus.

**33** Secure gates for our little ones at Monterey Heights.

**34** And how about these at Mt Vernon.

**35** And these at San Altos.

**36** It gets better. BPW -- Before Prop W -- This is how we used to defend our campuses. Primitive. Old style.

**37** But now we have a campus single point of entry like this one at San Miguel School.

**38 & 39** Vista La Mesa was really vulnerable, but is now secure. Here are two great shots of the VLM office door, entry gate and fence.

**40** In conclusion, we rounded up the usual suspects so we could thank you for letting us serve in a great cause all year long. We love our job! We look forward to the work ahead in 2014-2015. You get the Academy Award for Best Team Effort.

Thank you.