

**Hermosa Beach City School District June 7, 2016, facilities bond Measure S
Recipient Ballot Measure Committee failure to notify a Major Donor (HBCSD) to file
Form 461 for a contribution over \$10,000 made 90 days prior to the June 7, 2016
election.**

Submitted By: Miyo Prassas, 1753 Valley Park Ave., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
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Date Submitted: May 12, 2020

VIOLATOR: Hermosa Beach City School District
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Recipient Ballot Measure Committee: Committee to Improve Hermosa Schools – Yes on S
I.D.#1383261
Principal Name: Michael Collins
Principal Mailing Address: 2309 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 207, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
Principal Phone: 310-989-4323
Treasurer Name: John Friberg
Treasurer Mailing Address: 1927 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
Treasurer Phone: 310-809-3006

VIOLATIONS: The Hermosa Beach City School District failed to register as a Major Donor Committee while making political contributions and expenditure of more than \$10,000 90 days prior to the Measure S bond election at the behest of the Committee to Improve Hermosa Schools – Yes on S, I.D. #1383261
The Hermosa Beach City School District failed to report major donor committee contributions and expenditure forms 497 and 461.

1. The contributions and independent expenditures were made from General Treasury funds (HBCSD General Fund) that were non-donor funds and were controlled and directed by the HBCSD School Board members (School Board President Mary Campbell, school board members: Patti Ackerman, Maggie Bove LaMonica, and Monique Ehsan)
2. **Date of benefit:** March 1, 2016 through May 31, 2016 - Dates Yes on S Committee received benefits of the expenditure.
3. **Amount of expenditure: \$10,901.25** (Exhibit XX Invoice #499132 dated May 31, 2016 from Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo to the Hermosa Beach City Elementary School District.) The expenditure included coordination and collusion by HBCSD employee Superintendent Patricia Escalante from May 17, 2016 to May 31, 2016.
4. **Nature of contribution:** An approximately one-hour presentation made by HBCSD attorney Mr. Terry Tao of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo that benefited the Yes on S Committee. The presentation was advertised to the public as dispelling misinformation regarding the use of the Hermosa Beach Community Center (formerly Pier Avenue School) by HBCSD. (See attached HBCSD agenda for Tuesday, May 31, 2016.)

HBCSD desired to rebuild a current grand-fathered in campus at North School at a cost of approximately \$32M. The NO on S proponents argued that HBCSD (and the community) also had the options to either exercise their valid contractual right to use classrooms, office and storage space at the Community Center (aka Pier Avenue School) OR to renovate North School for approximately \$11M instead of completely destroying and rebuilding the campus for approximately \$32M. HBCSD wished to discredit these options in order to pass a \$59M facilities bond that would destroy and completely rebuild North School. The information given by Mr. Tao's during his presentation was purposely incorrect and biased in order to discredit the other options to pass Measure S. In addition, information that would have supported the district's other options was purposely withheld from the community. (See attached transcripts of the meeting with supporting information.)

5. **Behest payment:** The Committee to Improve Hermosa Schools (aka Yes on S) was controlled by Michael Collins who is the husband of HBCSD School Board president Mary Campbell. Michael Collins home and work addresses and phone number were given on CA Form 410 and forms 460 as the principal officer information.

The Yes on S committee treasurer was John Friberg who is the spouse of HBCSD School Board member Maggie Bove LaMonica. John Friberg and Maggie Bove LaMonica's home address and personal phone number were given on CA Form 410 as the contact mailing address for the Yes on S committee.

Michael Collins was in constant contact with HBCSD Superintendent Pat Escalante during the bond campaign. (See attached email examples of collusion on the Yes on S campaign.) In addition, both Michael Collins's wife and John Friberg's wife were in constant contact with Superintendent Pat Escalante during the bond campaign.

6. **Contributing Circumstances:**
- a. The payments made by the Hermosa Beach City School District for Mr. Terry Tao's presentation on May 31, 2016 were intended for the general public by way of a public meeting that was also streamed live on public access television channels one week prior to the bond election. HBCSD also embedded the video of Mr. Tao's presentation on their website. Exhibit XX
 - b. Local newspaper reporter, Ryan McDonald, wrote a widely distributed newspaper article one week prior to the June 7th election that supported the district's plan for Measure S at the expense of the other options based on Mr. Tao's presentation. Exhibit XX
7. I have personal knowledge of this violation because I attended presentations, fact-checked public statements and examined public record requests made by HBCSD Superintendent Pat Escalante during the 2016 Measure S bond campaign.

I am a 30 year resident of Hermosa Beach and have been involved with, attended meetings and have researched the Hermosa Beach City School District and the California Department of Education and the Department of General Services, Office of Public School Construction and the Department of State Architects rules and regulations and findings regarding our school district facilities since 2002.

8. **Names and Address of witnesses:**

1. Chris Miller, 528 W. Maple Ave., El Segundo, CA 90245
2. Jackie and Jim Hausle, 1824 Valley Park Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
3. Blair and Sally Smith, 316 25th Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
4. Lynn Pope, 2202 Manhattan Ave., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, certify and affirm that:

I am over the age of 18 and am a resident of the State of California. I have personal knowledge of the facts herein.

Sincerely,

Miyo Prassas
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Hemosa Beach, CA 90254
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310-977-6293