

The Hermosa Beach City School District June 7, 2016, facilities bond Measure S
The Hermosa Beach City School District failure to file as a Major Donor Committee
after making contributions of \$10,000 or more 90 days prior to the election.

Submitted By: Miyo Prassas, 1753 Valley Park Ave., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254
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Date Submitted: May 8, 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 (husband of HBCSD School Board President Mary Campbell)

Principal Mailing Address: 2309 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 207, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Principal Phone: 310-989-4323

Treasurer Name: John Friberg (husband of HBCSD School Board member Maggie Bove LaMonica)

Treasurer Mailing Address: 1927 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Treasurer Phone: 310-809-3006

VIOLATIONS:

1. The Hermosa Beach City School District failed to register as a Major Donor Committee (form 461) after making 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
2. The Hermosa Beach City School District failed to report major donor committee contributions and expenditure form 497.

Contributing Circumstances:

3. The contributions and independent expenditures were made from General Treasury funds (aka HBCSD General Fund) that were non-donor funds that were directed by the HBCSD School Board members (School Board President Mary Campbell, school board members: Patti Ackerman, Maggie Bove LaMonica, and Monique Ehsan) to the benefit of the Yes on S Committee.
4. HBCSD Superintendent Pat Escalante acted as the agent by exercising significant influence over the actions and decisions of the organization and acted jointly with HBCSD school board in connection with making of expenditures.
5. HBCSD expended non-donor, taxpayer generated General Fund funds for the purpose of attempting to influence the action of voters to pass a facilities bond, Measure S at the June 7, 2016 election.
6. The Yes on S committee chairman, Mr. Michael Collins and his wife HBCSD School Board president Mary Campbell as well as the spouse of the Yes on S committee treasurer (HBCSD Board member Maggie Bove LaMonica) were substantially involved in the day-to-day operations of both the Yes on S committee AND the Major Donor committee.

7. It is possible that HBCSD employee Pat Escalante spent more than 10% of her taxpayer compensated time working on campaign activity during her normal work hours and that activity was not reported as a nonmonetary contribution.
 - a. According to multiple emails, Superintendent Escalante worked daily during school hours with Yes on S committee chairman Michael Collins and Yes on S paid political Consultant Larry Fox along with taxpayer paid HBCSD attorney Mr. Terry Tao and taxpayer paid consultant Jon Isom and the staff at Isom Advisors to coordinate Yes on S activity.
 - b. Superintendent Escalante colluded in at least six hours with HBCSD attorney Mr. Terry Tao according to invoice #499132 from Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo to the Hermosa Beach City School District dated May 31, 2016 to create an approximately one-hour presentation that contained substantial and egregious misinformation.
 - c. Superintendent Escalante colluded with HBCSD attorney Terry Tao to provide verifiably false information and highly suspect conclusions in the Historical Assessment of North School and the Traffic Report provided by Garland and Associates. Both reports were paid for with taxpayer funds and released 90 days prior to the bond Measure S election. (See attached evidence of intentional lying and misinformation by HBCSD hired consultant Pam Daly of Daly & Associates regarding the Historical Assessment of North School and the Garland & Associates traffic report for North School.)
8. **Date of benefits:** March 1, 2016 through June 30, 2016.
9. **Amount of expenditures:**
 - a. **\$10,901.25** (See attached 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.
 - b. **\$2,000 - \$25,000** for TPRC Communications Public Relations Services (See attached Consultant Agreement for Public Relations Services dated March 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016 and examples of Facebook communications.)
 - c. **\$26K** paid to PlaceWorks in 2016 for the Historical Resource Assessment Report of the North School Campus and Traffic Assessment by Garland & Associates.

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
5. Cassandra Bates, Hermosa Beach, CA

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,

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