

The Grossmont Solution Report

With Bill Weaver

The Grossmont Union High School District's governing board member Jim Kelly was true to form recently, honing his well-practiced skills as a wily ultra far right conservative politician first, and a school board governing trustee second. His latest has been a press conference called to spew non-validated accusations. Kelly and his two pet GUHSD Board candidates, Woods and Jedynek, accused Helix Charter HS and GUHSD board incumbents Priscilla Schreiber, along with Larry Urdahl, of covering up undisclosed Helix teacher/student sexual misconduct cases.

If true, Kelly either improperly disclosed information from a GUHSD board closed session (a Brown Act violation) or if learned of outside a closed session, failed to disclose the misconduct within 36 hours as required by law. Likely he was lying and merely staged this grandstanding "news conference to promote his two pet candidates", Woods and Jedynek, to once again hijack control of a GUHSD Board majority by misinforming the voters just before the November 4th election.

TV station KUSI and the Union Tribune has since reported that the Helix Charter High School's own charter school governing board called for Kelly to resign his GUHSD governing board seat, citing his outrageous and libelous statements. It was reported that they sent a letter to their "oversight and sponsoring" (GUHSD) district board, asking that they censure Kelly and to seek his resignation.

Legal action has been discussed, and there are rumors of legal investigations going on. KUSI reported that the La Mesa police department reiterated that there were no additional reports to them of non-reported misconduct as Kelly had stated in his "news conference."

Kelly's latest maneuver has put the new needed schools improvement bond at risk. Previously, He effectively strong armed fellow board members Richard Hoy, Priscilla Schreiber, and Board President Larry Urdahl to block the building of a 12th new GUHSD high school in the Alpine/Blossom Valley area, a listed project headlined in the Proposition H Bond overwhelmingly passed by voters in 2004. Here is what Kelly did:

Kelly... back on July 31st pulled a fast one catching the whole Board and his Superintendent off-guard with a last minute clever maneuver, introducing an amendment to the motion putting Prop U on the ballot. Board Member Shield sided with Kelly... threatening a 3-2 vote which would not have put Prop U on the ballot at the 55% passing threshold... it would have been 66% and no bond typical musters 2/3 of all voters.

The GUHSD board folded to Kelly's evilness for fear there would be no bond at all, and the GUHSD would suffer because the bond (now Prop U) would be defeated and school facilities would remain in 1/2 deplorable condition, because Prop H only modernized 1/2 the classrooms and buildings.

Mr. Kelly pushed an amendment which was to include a threshold for DISTRICT WIDE ENROLLMENT of 500 students (23,745) beyond the '07-'08 year-end number of enrolled students (23,245). The amended bond proposal was passed to go on the Nov. 4th ballot unanimously 5-0.

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This vote essentially equaled legal blackmail of the simple majority because they needed 4 yes votes, rather than 3. Kelly had power as a minority and effectively used it. Because this unanimous vote deal was suspiciously worked out behind closed doors (likely Brown Act violation) at a break, a follow-up meeting was called on August 4th to correct the Kelly caused blunder.

Thank goodness the simple majority came around seeing the evil in Kelly's tactics. They held out for a compromise at NEUTRAL enrollment growth, i.e. 500 fewer students than the 5-0 vote passed! Kelly held out, Shield changed his vote... it passed 4-1. Kelly was the only No vote. Prop U went on the ballot (Nov. 4th) at 55% passes with the needed super-majority (4-1) vote to allow this. The current enrollment of 23,245 students must be maintained... we now have 23,445 enrollments... or +200.

Kelly asserts, "that he is a no new tax conservative, and that is why he voted No to the compromise of neutral enrollment growth!" Kelly is a liar. In the above described two (July 31st and August 4th) bond proposal votes... Let's call them scenarios A (+500 students) and B (neutral growth). B passed without Kelly's affirmation by a 4-1 margin, whereas; A was passed 5-0... with Kelly's support!

In A, the new bond face amount was \$417 million. In A, the Alpine/BV HS was to be built only if enrollment increased by 500 students!

In B, the new bond proposal passed 4-1; with Shield siding with simple majority of the board (members, Urdahl, Schreiber, and Hoy) the new bond face amount remained at \$417 million. In B, the Alpine/BV HS would be built if the enrollment number didn't increase at all. The additional needed enrolled students of 500 were the difference between Kelly voting Yes, and then changing to No!

The difference between scenario A & B above was that in A, Alpine/BV likely would LIKELY NOT get a new High School, and under B, where Kelly was the only NO vote, Alpine/BV WOULD PROBABLY get its promised new H.S. and both bonds scenarios cost taxpayers the same \$417 Million.

Where did Mr. Jim Kelly save us taxpayers any money -- NOWHERE -- he just cut out Alpine/BV but kept the taxed amount the same, and yes we in Alpine/BV paid the full tax in both the A & B scenarios. I hope this explanation is clear... Kelly seems to be a liar at worst, thinks we are dumb at best.

Regardless of how the November 4th vote turns out... Please come to the next (Thursday, November 13th) regular GUHSD board meeting and give Mr. Kelly a piece of your mind. Show up at 5:30 and (if you feel a passion to hold the GUHSD to its commitments) fill out a speaker card to be allowed 3 minutes to address the board, specifically Mr. Jim Kelly! He is bad for the GUHSD and should be reprimanded. ([GUHSD Meeting Map](#)) For more info go to www.AHSCC.com ■