ALBANY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD AGENDA BACKUP

Regular Meeting of September 12, 2023

ITEM: **AGREEMENT WITH TEAMCIVX, LLC FOR PARCEL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES**

PREPARED BY: **JACKIE KIM, CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICIAL**

TYPE OF ITEM: **REVIEW & DISCUSSION**

PURPOSE: The purpose of this item is for the Board of Trustees to review and discuss the Agreement with TeamCivX, LLC for parcel tax consulting services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The District currently receives revenue from two parcel taxes, Measure J and Measure B. Measure J was passed in November 2009. Measure B was passed in March 2020, and it replaced the old Measure LL, which was approaching its expiration date. Measure J brings us $4.5M and Measure B brings us approximately $2.3M, totaling approximately $6.8 million. Parcel tax income is important to school districts because it can be used to pay staff, and to maintain and expand critical programs. Staffing is the single largest expense of running schools—teaching is very people-centered, as it should be. In the average California school district, 80% of total expenses is spent on salaries and benefits. As Albany competes with other school districts for teachers and support staff, it is essential to offer competitive compensation.

Further, Measure J generates $590,000 from a single taxpayer—Golden Gate Fields. Golden Gate Fields racetrack has announced that they will close this fall and sell the property. If any part of the large parcel of land, owned by Golden Gate Fields, is transferred or sold to a nonprofit or a government entity the district will lose this portion of the parcel tax revenue.

DETAILS: The District is exploring the possibility of increasing parcel tax revenue. If the contract with TeamCivX is approved, their first task would be to poll the Albany community about their thoughts around our schools and a new parcel tax. TeamCivX's work would also include analysis of a progressive tax versus a flat tax. The survey results would then be presented to the board at a public meeting.

This agreement does not in any way commit Albany Unified School District to placing a parcel tax on the ballot. This is an early step in initiating a community conversation about a possible ballot item.

Breakdown of the *Not-To-Exceed Budget* that TeamCivX provided:
    TeamCivX Fee: $7,500 per month for 4 months — $30,000
    Godbe Polling: High-end estimate — $35,525
    Optional Mailer #1: Tear-off survey mailer — $11,595
    Optional Mailer #2: Standard brochure mailer — $9,275
    Optional Mailer #3: Standard brochure mailer — $9,275
    Total: $95,670

Should the Board decide to pursue a parcel tax, the consultant would also help the District develop the measure and qualify for the ballot.

Key decisions the Board has to make before December 6th:
- Whether to place a measure on the ballot to increase revenue
- Which election? (March 2024 or November 2024)
- The amount that would be assessed (informed by district budget needs to achieve educational goals)
- The structure: flat tax or per-square-foot tax
- The duration of tax (6 years, permanent, etc.)
- What exemptions to include
- Any additional language for the ballot measure (purpose, etc.)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: Not to exceed $95,000

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED:

Objective #1: *Assess and Increase Academic Success.* ***Goal***: *We will provide a comprehensive educational experience with expanded opportunities for engagement, assessment, and academic growth so that all students will achieve their fullest potential.*

Objective #2: *Support the Whole Child.* ***Goal***: *We will foster the social and emotional growth of all students, implement an array of strategies to increase student engagement, identify individual socio-emotional and behavioral needs, and apply collaborative appropriate interventions.*

Objective #3: *Communicate and Lead Together.* ***Goal***: *All stakeholders will collaborate and communicate about decisions that guide the sites and district.*

RECOMMENDATION: For the Board of Trustees to review and discuss the Agreement with TeamCivX, LLC for parcel tax consulting services.