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Measure E Supported by More Than 65% of Voters, But Falls Short of 2/3 Requirement for Passage

Alameda, Calif. – Wednesday, June 23, 2010 – With all ballots counted, Measure E garnered more than 65% support in the Tuesday, June 22nd special all-mail in school parcel tax election. With two-thirds support required for passage, the Measure would have provided our schools with approximately \$14M annually for eight years.

The Board voted 4-1 in March to place the Measure on the ballot after months of unprecedented community engagement, including the creation of a Parcel Tax Advisory Group, comprised of business owners, residents and parents, who made recommendations to the Board of Education regarding the structure of Measure E.

Following the Registrar of Voter's unofficial report of the election results today, with all ballots counted, Superintendent Kirsten Vital released this statement:

“Despite the fact that the results did not turn out as we had hoped, we should all be extremely proud of what we did achieve. A two-thirds vote is often times an impossible hurdle to overcome, yet we came very close.

It is only because of every door knocked on, every phone call made, and every conversation our supporters and volunteers had with friends, neighbors and sometimes strangers on the street, that we came as close as we did.

I want to thank the community and the volunteers who worked countless hours from the bottom of my heart, and I know from the bottom of every student, teacher and AUSD employee's heart.

Given the state of education funding in California, we will begin to see some of the effects of those budget cuts as our student head back into the classroom in August. Unfortunately, given the staggering cuts in state funding, those effects will worsen as we head into the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years.

The Board of Education will convene a special meeting on June 29, 2010 to provide staff with direction as to the implementation of Plan B in the Master Plan. Unfortunately, this will likely mean that the school closure and/or reconfiguration planning process will begin in the fall of 2010 with actual closures occurring in the 2011/2012 school year.

But, we as a school district and community will not give up the fight to ensure every child has a quality education. With the filing of the groundbreaking lawsuit challenging the State of California's school funding system, Robles-Wong v. California, we are making great strides toward a future in which our schools can focus on teaching and learning, not school closures and program cuts.

Please know that the Board of Education and I will do everything we can to minimize the impact of those cuts on the classroom, and will keep you informed as we move forward.

Despite this loss, I am so proud to be a part of AUSD and a part of the Alameda community that cares so deeply for its schools and students.”