

Shared Use of Rio del Valle Junior High School Gym

Background

On June 24, 1997 the County of Ventura and the El Rio School District (District) entered into a joint agreement to construct and operate a gym at the Rio del Valle Junior High School. When completed the gym was to be the sole property of the School District but jointly operated by both parties. This investigation was initiated by a complaint that the County was not receiving an equitable distribution of time and costs.

Methodology

Meetings and phone conversations with the primary negotiators for both parties, the Deputy Executive Officer for Regional Development for the County and the Superintendent for the School District were held to determine how the parties were adhering to the agreement.

Findings

- F-1. Discussions are required to be held on the operational and maintenance budget to begin by April 15 and conclude by June 15 of each year. If no agreement is reached by the June 15 date, then the budget for the previous year is to be used for the current year
- F-2. The operational and maintenance budget is to be divided 50-50 by the two parties with neither party paying more than \$30,000 per year.
- F-3. The operational and maintenance budget includes utility costs, janitorial costs, equipment maintenance, supplies and ongoing repairs.
- F-4. Before the end of July each year, a Master Scheduling Calendar for the gym is to be agreed upon by both parties.
- F-5. The current agreement provides for a duration of ten years but may be modified by the mutual agreement.
- F-6.. The District has exclusive use of the gym during any time the school is in session or during school sanctioned special events and sports functions.
- F-7. The County has the right to use the gym at all other times.
- F-8. The failure to reach agreement has been at issue for more than a year.

Conclusions

- C-1. The primary reason for not meeting the dates for a budget was the objection of the County to a 50-50 apportionment on costs. The objection results from the fact that the County uses less of the gyms features and for less time than the School District. (F-2, F-3)
- C-2. The Master Scheduling Calendar was not completed as required by the agreement until well into the school year due to the objection of the County to a 50-50 apportionment of costs. (F-2, F-4)
- C-3. The negotiating parties have reached unofficial agreements. No official modification has been voted on, by the Board of Supervisors and the El Rio School Board since no written agreement has been provided. (F-5)
- C-4. The inability of the parties involved to reach an agreement has put the availability to prospective users, i.e. the children of Ventura County, at risk.

Recommendations

- R-1. Modify the current agreement to match current procedures by June 30, 2003 (C-1, C-3, C-4)
- R-2. Complete an agreed to Master Scheduling Calendar before the beginning of the next school year in order to insure the efficient operation of the gym. (C-2)
- R-3. If no resolution has been reached as specified in R-1 and R-2, the Board of Supervisors should take action. (C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4)

Responses Required

Ventura County Board of Supervisors (R-3)
Rio School Board (R-1), (R-2)
Deputy Executive Officer for Regional Development (County) (R-1), (R-2)
Superintendent, Rio School District (R-1), (R-2)