



PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT

1015 Seventh Street, Novato CA 94945 • 415.897.4201

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2016
to
June 30, 2017

Parcel Tax Funds Highlights

- ◆ Maintain competitive science, math, engineering, and other programs
- ◆ Attract/retain high quality teachers
- ◆ Avoid significant increases in class sizes

2016-2017 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Members

Diane Gasson

Ross Ingels

Denise McIntyre

Michelle Roberts

Jackie Sissel

Wendy Sissel

Shelly Scott—Trustee
(non-voting)



Parcel Tax - Measure A: To Preserve Quality Education in Novato Schools

About the Parcel Tax: On May 6, 2014, voters in the Novato Unified School District renewed Measure A, a \$251 per parcel tax. This Parcel Tax renewal began July 1, 2015, continues for a period of eight (8) years, and includes a Senior Citizen Exemption, Supplemental Security Income Exemption, and a Social Security Disability Insurance Exemption. The Parcel Tax also calls for independent oversight to monitor the expenditures of the taxes collected.

All Parcel Tax funds stay in Novato schools under local control. Nothing can be taken by the State, and no funds can be used for administrative salaries. This was a renewal in 2014 of existing local school funding that the Novato community has supported since 1992.

The purpose of the Parcel Tax is to fund the following specific types of programs and services:

- ◆ Maintain competitive science, engineering, and math programs and protect the quality of academic instruction in core subjects, such as reading and writing
- ◆ Attract and retain high-quality teachers and school employees
- ◆ Avoid significant increases in class size in all grades
- ◆ Keep school counselors
- ◆ Maintain music, arts, library, and athletics programs that provide a well-rounded education for Novato kids
- ◆ Integrate computers and instructional technology in all classrooms and libraries to provide 21st Century education, and prepare for new state and federal standards
- ◆ Provide career and technical training, and integrate modern instructional technology to prepare students for future success



San Marin STEM students' airplane scheduled to fly in 2020-21.

Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

The Parcel Tax Oversight Committee was formed to ensure that tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes, and to report annually to the Board of Trustees and the public regarding expenditure of such funds.

The committee is comprised of local community members representing the PTA, Parents, the Business Community, and the Community at large. The committee has been meeting and will present their report to the Board of Trustees and the public. *Currently there are vacancies on this vital committee*; if you are interested in participating, or simply have questions about the Novato school parcel tax, please call the NUSD Business Office at (415) 897-4298.

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Operations*

Ashley Albertson
*Executive Assistant to
Asst Superintendent,
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Questions?

Email us at:
aalbertson@nUSD.org

Find us on the web at
[www.nUSD.org/
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citizens-oversight-
committee](http://www.nUSD.org/committees/parcel-tax-citizens-oversight-committee)

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Letter from the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee:

Thank you for your continued support through the parcel tax measure originally passed in 1992, and renewed in 1997, 2005, 2009, and 2014. Your tax dollars directly benefit our students by attracting and retaining qualified teachers and staff, avoiding significant increases in class size, counseling services, music and performing arts programs, libraries, athletics, and technology.

It is the duty of the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee to ensure that the proceeds from the parcel tax are spent as intended. We are pleased to report that NUSD is allocating funds in alignment with the ballot language to directly benefit our children. Our parcel tax committee, currently six members, oversees the \$4.2 million annual budget and provides an annual report to the NUSD Board of Trustees.

New committee members are welcomed. If you are interested in participating please contact Ashley Albertson at (415) 493-4260.

The Parcel Tax Oversight Committee meetings are conducted under The Brown Act. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome observers. Past and future meeting information is available at www.nUSD.org.

Thank you for supporting our children.

Sincerely,

Diane Gasson
Ross Ingels
Denise McIntyre

Michelle Roberts
Jackie Sissel
Wendy Sissel



MUSIC & ART PROGRAMS

With the support of the Novato Community, NUSD's music and art programs have received ongoing financial support from the Novato Parcel Tax and the School Fuel Foundation.

Our music program begins in elementary school providing instruction to first through fifth grade students.

Students begin learning musical notes and rhythms in first grade, the recorder in fourth grade, and are then introduced to musical instruments in the fifth grade.

Students have the opportunity to continue with a concentrated formal program of music instruction beginning in sixth grade and continuing through grade twelve.

Novato High School offers MSA, a specialized program for students who are passionate about the arts. The MSA provides traditional, strong academics combined with college-level arts training.

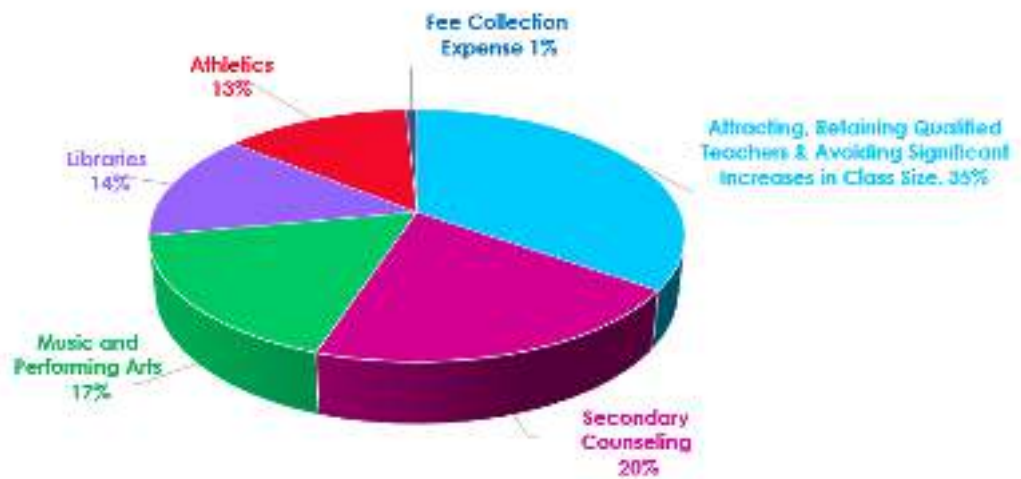
San Marin High School offers San Marin Arts and Technical Arts (smARTt). This is an integrated group of University of California approved classes which include, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Writing Arts, and Technical Arts.

The community's commitment to ensure that the visual and performing arts is an integral part of Novato's educational programs has provided equal opportunities to all students who are enrolled in our schools.

An Accounting of Your Parcel Tax Dollars

- ⇒ The current parcel tax is \$251, and has not increased since 2009
- ⇒ The number of paid parcels dropped from 16,639 in 2015-16 to 16,603 in 2016-17
- ⇒ In 2016-17, your parcel tax dollars funded 48.5 full-time employees and 88 Athletic coaching positions

- **2016-17 Parcel Tax Revenues = \$4,167,402**
- **2016-17 Parcel Tax Expenditures = \$4,310,500**



Parcel Tax: Use of Funds

Attracting, Retaining Qualified and Experienced Teachers & Avoiding Significant Increases in Class Size	\$1,498,506	35%
Secondary Counseling	\$876,404	20%
Music/Performing Arts	\$731,241	17%
Libraries	\$592,480	14%
Athletics	\$578,709	13%
Fee Collection Expense	\$33,160	1%
	\$4,310,500	100%

Canvas paintings done by 3rd graders at San Ramon Elementary School.





Novato Unified School District
1015 Seventh Street
Novato, CA 94945

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