



PARCEL TAX OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

1015 Seventh Street, Novato CA 94945 • 415.897.4201

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019
to
June 30, 2020

Parcel Tax Funds Highlights

- ◆ Attract/retain high quality teachers
- ◆ Avoid significant increases in class sizes
- ◆ Protect music, arts and athletics programs
- ◆ Maintain school library staff and operating hours
- ◆ Lower secondary school counselor ratios

2019-2020 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Members

Alan Harris
Ross Ingels
Scott Keen
Michelle Roberts
Jackie Sissel
Wendy Sissel
Lisa Swanson
Diane Gasson-Trustee
(non-voting)

NUSD Parcel Tax: To Preserve Quality Education in Novato Schools

About the Parcel Tax: Since 1992, voter-approved local funding has been crucial to maintaining high-quality academic programs and retaining highly qualified teachers for our students. In 2014, voters 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.



NUSD's Parcel Tax provides \$4.15 million per year and 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 Report provides an overview of how the funds were spent last year, July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

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



QUALITY TEACHERS CLASS SIZE & COUNSELORS	ATHLETICS	MUSIC	LIBRARIES
Attract and retain high quality teachers and school employees. Avoid significant increases in class size in all grades and maintain lower secondary counselor ratios.	Maintain athletics programs, including funding all athletic coaches, equipment safety refurbishment, and officials fees.	Maintain music and performing arts programs for 1st through 12th grades, providing a well-rounded education for Novato kids.	Provide library support, including all site library techs, software, and library programs in the district.

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Questions?

Email us at:

ParcelTax@nUSD.org

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

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2019- 2020 Annual Report



Fools! Production by Marin School of the Arts (MSA) Novato High students

San Marin beginning Drama students perform a holiday show for Novato Elementary students

Letter from the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee:

The NUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee, at its meeting on February 10, 2021, received a detailed report of staffing positions and programs supported by the Measure A revenues during 2019-2020. 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.

Your tax dollars directly benefit our students in the following areas:

- Attracting and retaining qualified teachers and staff
- Avoiding significant increases in class size
- Secondary counseling services
- Music and performing arts programs
- Library support
- Athletics programs

Our parcel tax committee, currently seven members, oversees the \$4.15 million annual budget and provides an annual report to the NUSD Board of Trustees. Looking forward, we hope to bring on a few new members as some of our long standing members are terming-out. We appreciate the time these members have put in and their valued input. If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Ashley Albertson at (415) 493-4260 or by email at aalbertson@nUSD.org.

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/parcel-tax-oversight-committee.

Thank you for supporting the children of Novato.

Sincerely,

Alan Harris
Ross Ingels
Scott Keen
Lisa Swanson

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 School Fuel, Novato's Education 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, and are introduced to musical instruments in fourth and 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.

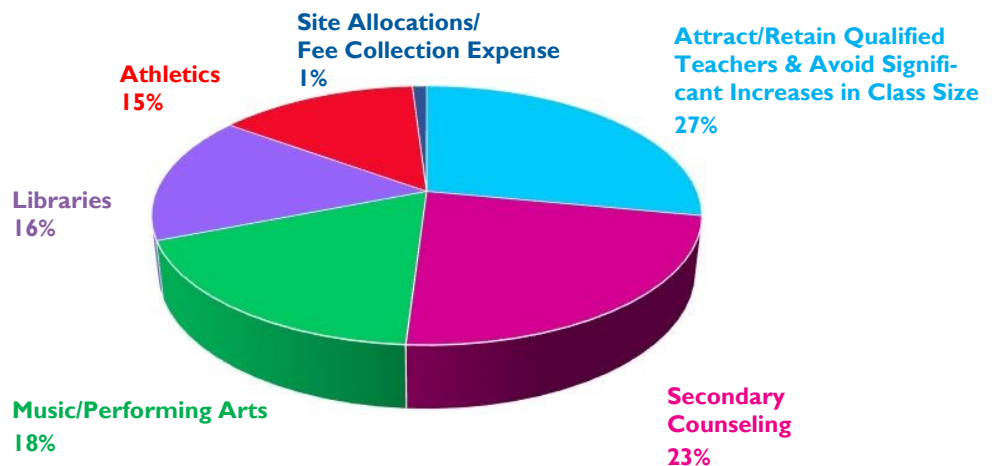
Novato High School offers Marin School of the Arts (MSA), a specialized program for students who are passionate about the arts. The MSA provides traditional, strong academics combined with college-level arts training.

San Marin High School offers San Marin Arts and Technical Arts (smARTt). This is an integrated group of 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 is relatively flat from 16,642 in 2018-19 to 16,549 in 2019-20
- ⇒ In 2019-20, your parcel tax dollars funded 42.3 full-time employees and 88 Athletic coaching positions
 - **2019-20 Parcel Tax Revenues = \$4,153,802**
 - **2019-20 Parcel Tax Expenditures = \$4,147,233**



Parcel Tax: Use of Funds

Attracting/Retaining Qualified and Experienced Teachers & Avoiding Significant Increases in Class Size	\$1,106,715	27%
Secondary Counseling	\$955,516	23%
Music/Performing Arts	\$760,888	18%
Libraries	\$671,282	16%
Athletics	\$601,420	15%
Site Allocations/ Fee Collection Expense	\$15,527 \$35,885	1%
	\$4,147,233	100%



LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT

The parcel tax provides the vast majority of the District funding for library support. Elementary students visit their school library weekly and secondary schools offer book clubs and programs. All students have the opportunity to explore the resources available.



Novato Unified School District
1015 Seventh Street
Novato, CA 94945

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NUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee 2019-2020 Annual Report

How does the NUSD Parcel Tax directly benefit our students?



“Secondary school counselors play an important role in the academic and social emotional support of our students. Their jobs are many and often overlooked in public education. Secondary school counselors focus on three main areas. They support academic achievement, college and career preparation, and social emotional wellness. With regards to academic support, school counselors assist students with reviewing grades and academic progress, course selection, and supporting and nurturing positive relationships with teachers and adults on campus. In the college and career realm, school counselors support a-g track starting in 9th grade, career exploration through career assessments and Naviance, internships, and a big part of this is the college search and application process as well as financial aid. For social and emotional wellness, the school counselors are the first line in supporting student’s emotional well-being on campus. They use therapeutic techniques to assist students, work with mental health professionals, and provide a conduit for getting students the help they need when they need it. Many secondary school counselors do mental health presentations in classrooms as well as coordinate with teaching and administrative staff, as well as community-based organizations, to support the wellness of our students.”

-Mark Sims (Principal at San Marin High School)



“Elementary Music covers all subject areas. While in music class, students are participating in Math (fractions & note reading), Language Arts (song lyrics, new vocabulary), Physical Education (dances & body percussion), Science (how sound travels and how instruments work), History & Geography (from songs around the world), & learning about different Cultures (from all aspects of music). Research shows that participating in music and playing an instrument engages every area of the brain at the same time, thereby strengthening the visual, auditory and motor cortexes of the brain, which unquestionably, is a good thing!”

-Lynette Boosey (Music Specialist 1st - 5th Grade at Lynwood & San Ramon Elementary)



“Libraries are not only about books; they serve as a safe community space for students, especially in schools with open campuses. Library Media Specialists and the programs they facilitate encourage responsible research, champion equity and creativity and foster effective communication.”

-Penny Janiak (Library Media Specialist at Sinaloa Middle School)



“Sports are extremely important for the physical and mental growth of our students. Most people think that learning only happens in the classroom. However, there is an incredible amount of learning through sports. Skills like teamwork, leadership, achievement, dealing with adversity, being part of something greater than oneself, and selflessness just to list a few. These are skills that help students in the classroom and in life. Running athletic programs requires funding. Without the help of the parcel tax we would not be able to provide the required needs for each sport as it helps cover the costs for the coaches and Athletic Director positions, replacing worn out equipment, recertifying required safety equipment, and everyday upkeep of the fields that must be maintained. All of these components are crucial for the wellbeing and safety of our student-athletes.”

-Michele Smith (Athletic Director at San Marin HS and Novato HS)