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So when the Board is discussing recommendations from District staff to have the CBOC meet every other month or even quarterly—instead of monthly—and to minimize the ability of the CBOC members to meet and discuss the Bond Program with Board members, there is a concern that the independence and effectiveness of the CBOC is being coopted.

As CBOC member Sallie DeWitt recently said: “The CBOC is a “watch-dog” overseeing the bond fund “hen house” which is managed by the District. The CBOC is supposed to exercise critical oversight concerning District procedures and output. Thus, District “foxes”, if any, shouldn’t have any say in how the CBOC goes about doing its job, including how often we meet. In making decisions about the CBOC’s policies and procedures, the Board should act strictly in the best interests of the voting Public, the true “stakeholders” when it comes to how the CBOC operates. Given reasonable budget constraints, the Board should allow the CBOC as much time and resources as the CBOC requests, deferring as much as possible to the CBOC, not the District.”

And these same District staff wants to minimize our ability to meet to even review the limited information we're provided? They're advising you that meeting with us twice each year is too much?

As we told the Board last week, if a CBOC member wants to have a conversation with the Board about a Bond issue, they can try to call you but most of you are not all that easy to reach by phone. They can try to email you but getting reply emails can be a joke.

They can sign up to speak at a Board meeting but they're limited to a 2 minute one way conversation. There's no actual dialogue or interchange of ideas.

That's where the value of the joint meetings can benefit the people—the ones that elected the Board and the ones the CBOC members are supposed to represent.

We just hope that as the Board considers policy revisions regarding the CBOC, they don't take action that would suggest to the public that they don't want the people's representatives looking over their shoulders. For the next several decades we all get to pay for the forensic audit that came as a result of the PERCEPTION that there was no transparency or oversight. It cost the jobs of dozens of teachers to pay for legal bills, consultants and audits over the same thing.

Before I walk away tonight, I want to leave you with what was written on a sign above the throne of the man responsible for the Jonestown massacre: "[Those who forget the past are destined to relive it.](#)"