

February 15, 2011

TO: CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: CITY MANAGER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF COST SHARING STRATEGY, TIMELINE, AND
PROCESS FOR PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CHARTER AMENDMENT AND SUB-GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICTING

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council and Board of Education:

1. Constitute a nine (9) member Task Force with the dual charge of (Phase I) consideration of a Charter Amendment regarding the method of election for the PUSD Board of Education enabling a change to geographic sub-district elections, and (Phase II) developing a districting plan for each seat of the Board of Education. The composition of the proposed dual role Task Force is recommended, as follows:
 - a. Three (3) members appointed by Pasadena City Council
 - b. Three (3) members appointed by PUSD Board of Education
 - c. Two (2) members appointed by Supervisor Antonovich
 - d. One (1) member appointed by Sierra Madre City Council
2. Confirm that the Pasadena Unified School District will be the lead agency in both Phase I and Phase II of the effort, with the City of Pasadena to provide support as determined and as needed.
3. Approve a cost sharing strategy, as follows:
 - a. Phase I: It is recommended that the costs associated with the Charter Amendment Task Force be shared equally between the City of Pasadena and PUSD, with requests for financial support submitted to Los Angeles County and the City of Sierra Madre.
 - b. Phase II: It is recommended that costs for the development of the districting plan for the Board of Education be solely the expense of PUSD; the City and School District shall, whenever possible, utilize common districting services (e.g. use of a shared consultant and/or demographer for separate City Council Redistricting and PUSD Districting processes).
 - c. Special Election: Consistent with Charter Section 712, the Charter Amendment ballot question and the election related expenses anticipated for a June 5, 2012 special election shall be solely the expense of PUSD.

02/15/2011

Item E

BACKGROUND

On November 23, 2010, the PUSD Board of Education passed Resolution No. 2124 District Elections, which endorsed and encouraged changing the selection method for Members of the Board of Education of the Pasadena Unified School District from the current at-large method of election to district-based elections. On January 10, 2011, the Pasadena City Council adopted Resolution No. 9090 endorsing and encouraging changing the method of elections for the Members of the Board of Education to geographic sub-districts.

(1) Charge of the Taskforce

- A. Review the 1999-2000 City Charter Amendment proposal (Measure BB) for sub-geographic district elections of PUSD Board Members, and determine what changes are necessary in order to forward to the voters.
- B. Determine, through the use of 2010 Census data and receiving community input, the geographic regions for the seven seats for PUSD Board of Education, ensuring compliance with State and Federal Voting Rights Act provisions.

(2) Timeline

The objective of this effort is to implement geographic region elections for the Pasadena Unified School District Governing Board for a March 2013 election. The following general timeline would be necessary to meet the 2013 deadlines:

March 2011	Compose Taskforce
April 2011 – July 2011	Taskforce determines City Charter changes
July 2011	PUSD Board and City Council considers Charter changes
August 2011 – June 2012	Taskforce determines sub-geographic regions
March 2012	City Council calls for June 2012 election
June 2012	Election
June 2012	PUSD Board approves final geographic regions

(3) Consultants

A request for proposal will be developed for a consultant (firm) to manage and lead the Taskforce through the various tasks to completion. Including, but not limited to:
1. Meeting facilitation. 2. Report writing. 3. Demographic information. 4. Public Hearing facilitation. 5. Oral and written reporting to various constituent groups. 6. Other duties as assigned to complete the tasks.

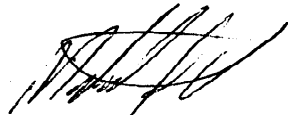
COUNCIL AND BOARD POLICY CONSIDERATION

The proposal to change the method of electing Board Members to the Board of Education of the Pasadena Unified School District has been endorsed and encouraged through resolution by both the Pasadena City Council and the Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education. The California Voters Rights Act (CVRA) which became effective on January 1, 2003, encourages those governing bodies elected by an “at-large” election format to change to geographic sub-district elections. The CVRA in part states: “An at-large method of election may not be imposed or applied in a manner that impairs the ability of a protected class to elect candidates of its choice or its ability to influence the outcome of an election, as a result of the dilution or the abridgement of the rights of voters who are members of a protected class...” (E.C. Section 14027). The findings of the 1999-2000 Charter Reform Task Force on Pasadena Unified School District governance discussed potential changes and recommendations to improve the structure of the School Board. With regard to changes to the electoral structure, the Task Force strongly endorsed the concept of sub-district elections. The Task Force highlighted the pros and cons of the geographic sub-district issue, and cited “greater access by the public to individual members, representing a smaller numbers of voters; and greater public interest” as one of the determining factors for endorsing sub-district elections.

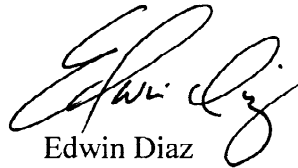
FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of a consolidated election with the County of Los Angeles in June 2012 is estimated to cost \$150,000 - \$300,000, depending on the number of issues and the number of agencies with issues on the June ballot. The costs for a consultant, demographer and other related costs for Phase I and Phase II of the Task Force is estimated to cost \$150,000 - \$250,000. Upon implementation, the School District will be able to realize substantial cost savings in future election related expenses by conducting elections by geographic sub-district.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Beck
City Manager



Edwin Diaz
Superintendent of Schools