

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
March 4, 2019 – 5:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chamber

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

**OPENING:**

Mayor Tornek and President Torres called the Special Joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education to order at 6:32 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by PUSD President Torres. (Absent: PUSD Member Phelps)

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilmembers:

Mayor Terry Tornek  
Vice Mayor John J. Kennedy  
Councilmember Victor Gordo  
Councilmember Tyron Hampton  
Councilmember Steve Madison  
Councilmember Gene Masuda  
Councilmember Margaret McAustin  
Councilmember Andy Wilson

Staff:

City Manager Steve Mermell  
City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris  
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

Board of Education:

President Larry Torres  
Vice President Patrick Cahalan  
Member Michelle Richardson Bailey  
Member Roy Boulghourjian  
Member Kimberly Kenne  
Member Scott Phelps (Absent)  
Member Elizabeth Pomeroy

Staff:

Dr. Brian McDonald, Superintendent of Schools  
Leslie Barnes, Ed.D., Chief Business Officer

**PRESENTATION BY COUNCILMEMBER MCAUSTIN ON THE  
CITY'S CELEBRATION OF THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE**

Councilmember McAustin spoke on the collaborative efforts among City staff and the Commission on the Status of Women to celebrate and recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote, and unveiled a commemorative logo celebrating the anniversary:



The following individuals spoke in support and provided comments on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, as well as the City's commemorative efforts:

Dorothy Keane, League of Women Voters, Pasadena  
Nan Johnson, Pasadena 2020

## **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURE J**

**Recommendation:** The oral report is for information only; no City Council action is required.

City Manager Mermell, provided introductory comments, and Leslie Barnes, Ed.D., Chief Business Officer, provided a PowerPoint presentation on Pasadena Unified School District's funding priorities, fiscal stabilization strategies, reporting and fiscal oversight features, prioritized funding categories, and the impacts of declining enrollment; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Gordo requested detailed information on grant funding opportunities that might be utilized to restore PUSD programs, including the amount of each grant, the effected program and students, and the amount of funding, if any, provided by the state.

Dr. Brian McDonald, Superintendent of Schools, responded to questions related to PUSD's plan to mitigate impacts created by declining enrollment of PUSD students.

Councilmember Madison requested an update on when the PUSD's Facilities Master Plan will be completed; and reiterated his concerns regarding the City Council's need for accountability to City constituents on how PUSD will utilize Measure J funds, the benefits this will provide to Pasadena students, and key performance indicators needed to measure success/impacts.

In response to Councilmember Madison's concerns, President Torres stated that the Board of Education will consider what measures to take and information to provide with regard to performance and accountability.

Following discussion, Councilmember McAustin recommended that staff budget as set amount of approximately \$5 or \$6 million in funding to the PUSD due to the uncertainty in the amount of taxes to be collected.

Councilmember Hampton requested information on why PUSD students are leaving the district and enrolling in other schools; and spoke in favor of providing funding opportunities to Charter

Schools in the City. He also spoke on the need to improve PUSD's aesthetics around schools to increase curb appeal and asked PUSD board members to budget for school façade maintenance.

The Mayor stated that he would support PUSD actions if the School Board decides, after their budgetary process, that students would benefit from allocating funds to Charter Schools.

The following individuals advocated for the use of Measure J funds to support Pasadena Charter Schools, and provided comment on the item:

Deirdra Duncan, Pasadena resident  
Marisa Davis, Odyssey Charter School (OCS)  
Rick Doub, Pasadena resident  
Sandy Kapteyn, Pasadena resident  
Kate Bean, Aveson Charter School  
Aarron Fyke, Pasadena resident  
Sydney Brumfield, Pasadena Rosebud Academy (PRA)  
Shawn Brumfield, PRA  
Ryan Mackey, Pasadena resident  
Anne Lee, Alma Fuede Public School  
Alexandra Lehrman, OCS  
Allison Henry, Pasadena resident  
Emanuel Najera, Pasadena resident  
Jenny Didier, OCS  
Mel Morron, OCS  
Stacy Finley, Altadena resident

Patrice Marshall McKenzie, Pasadena resident, spoke on public education and expressed concerns with the legality of providing Measure J funds to Charter Schools.

Following public comment, on order of the Mayor and President, the information was received and filed.

#### **POSSIBLE FORMATION OF A STANDING JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY AND PUSD**

**Recommendation:** The oral report is for information only; no City Council action is required.

The Mayor summarized the City Council's discussion on the item and stated that there is a consensus of the City Council and the Board of Education to form a standing joint subcommittee of the City and PUSD.

President Torres spoke in favor of the opportunity to work with the City to create a unique partnership.

Member Kenne stated her preference that the proposed standing committee's purpose, role, and charge be clarified in writing, as well as detail regarding members and frequency of the meetings.

Councilmember Wilson spoke in favor of the formation of a standing joint subcommittee of the City and PUSD.

The following individuals provided comments on the item:

Emanuel Najera, Pasadena resident  
Chris Copolillo, California Charter Schools Association

Following discussion, on order of the Mayor and President, the information was received and filed.

#### **UPDATE ON COLLABORATE PASADENA**

**Recommendation:** The oral report is for information only; no City Council action is required.

The Mayor made introductory comments on the evolution of the Collaborate PASadena program; and Dr. Donald Grant and Geoff Albert representing Collaborate PASadena through Pacific Oaks College, provided a PowerPoint presentation on transitioning Collaborate PASadena to Pacific Oaks Center for Community and Social Impact, shared missions, primary and supporting goals, and responded to questions.

Christine Lenches-Hinkel, 301 Organics, acknowledged the work of Collaborate PASadena, and spoke on possible future collaborative opportunities.

Following discussion, on order of the Mayor and President, the information was received and filed.

#### **OFFICE OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

**Recommendation:** The oral report is for information only; no City Council action is required.

Crystal O'Grady, Early Childhood Coordinator, Office of the Young Child, and Dr. Ying Ying Goh, Medical Director for Programs and Research, jointly presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Office of the Young Child Health Officer's various programs, including 2018 achievements, recommendations, and goals of the program; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Kenne asked staff to encourage Early Development Instrument (EDI) research to gain information on the incoming kindergarten students in relation to completing pre-school. She spoke on the Community Health and Improvement Plan format and encouraged Collaborate Pasadena to view the format of the outlined goals and indicators.

Vice Mayor Kennedy spoke on the importance of instructors teaching in an unbiased manner, and encouraged the Office of the Young Child to work with PUSD, and utilize tools such as EDI research and other predicting measurements to ensure all children have high success rates irrespective of race.

Bill Gould, First 5 LA, suggested that the City could emulate the City of Los Angeles who proposed considering locating childcare centers at public parks and other suggestions.

Councilmember Gordo suggested that the City Council and Board of Education focus on restoring some programs and services that were eliminated during recession years.

Following discussion, on order of the President and Mayor, and by consensus, the information was received and filed.

#### **UPDATE ON YOUTH MASTER PLAN**

Due to time constraints, the City Council and PUSD agreed to delay the discussion on the above item at a future meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On the order of the President and Mayor, the special joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Board of Education adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

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Terry Tornek, Mayor  
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

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City Clerk