

**CITY OF PASADENA**

**City Council Minutes  
August 1, 2000 – 6:30 P.M.  
Fuller Theological Seminary, Travis Auditorium  
180 N. Oakland Avenue, Pasadena**

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING**

**OPENING:** Mayor Bogaard called the special joint meeting with the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education to order at 6:40 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Councilmembers:**

**Mayor Bill Bogaard  
Vice Mayor Bill Crowfoot (Arrived 6:45 p.m.)  
Councilmember Steve Haderlein  
Councilmember Chris Holden  
Councilmember Paul Little  
Councilmember Steve Madison  
Councilmember Joyce Streater  
Councilmember Sidney F. Tyler, Jr.**

**Staff:**

**City Manager Cynthia Kurtz  
City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris  
City Clerk Jane L. Rodriguez  
Raphael Sonenshein, Ph.D., Staff Consultant to the Charter Reform Task Force**

**Pasadena Unified School  
District Board of Education**

**President Jacqueline Jacobs, Ph.D.  
Vice President Bonnie Armstrong  
Board Member Alex Aghajanian  
Board Member Lisa Fowler  
Board Member Tommy McMullins**

**Interim Superintendent of Schools Edgar Seal, Ph.D.  
Mr. J. Dave Banis, Special Asst. to the Supt., Measure Y  
Dr. Marietta Palmer, Deputy Supt. for Administrative Services  
Mr. David Jaynes, Asst. Supt. for Business Services  
Mrs. Gloria Delaney, Asst. Supt. for Schools  
Mrs. Kathy Lesley, Asst. Supt. for Schools  
Dr. Pamela Powell, Asst. Supt. for Schools  
Mr. Mark Gutheinz, Asst. Supt. for Facilities**

## **OPENING STATEMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mayor Bogaard welcomed the members of the PUSD Board of Education and the Interim Superintendent of Schools; highlighted the purpose of this joint meeting to discuss education in the City's school system; noted the role of the Charter Reform Task Force on School District Governance and the presentation of its report of findings and recommendations as a blueprint to address various education issues; and indicated this meeting would lead to future joint meetings of the City Council and the Board of Education to continue the discussion on education in the District. The Mayor thanked members of the PUSD staff and City staff for their assistance in organizing and conducting this meeting.

Dr. Jacqueline Jacobs, President of the PUSD Board of Education, thanked Mayor Bogaard and members of the City Council; members of the Charter Reform Task Force and the Staff Consultant to the Task Force; and members of the PUSD Board and staff for their assistance in this process. Dr. Jacobs discussed the importance of addressing current education issues and the Board's role in this process; indicated that the Board embraced the Task Force's report as a starting point to focus discussion and efforts on supporting and improving education in the District; and stated that future meetings would be held to provide an update on the District's progress in implementing various changes and improvements.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Sue Miele, speaking for The Partnership for School Age Children, commented on the need for a spirit of cooperation arising from joint meetings of the City Council and the PUSD Board; and spoke in support of the Task Force report's recommendation for the PUSD Board and the City Council to discuss a joint powers agreement which would fully fund and maintain the after-school programs which are currently funded by grants.

Mr. Bill Bibbiani, speaking as a Pasadena resident, commented on possible configuration of seven sub-districts in electing Board members; on the need for the community to discuss configuration of the sub-districts before District residents vote on this Charter change in the November election; and on possible

inequities and disparities in distributions of school facilities and of student populations within any sub-district configuration. Mr. Bibbiani called for a preliminary sub-district design to be presented to the community for discussion prior to the November election; and stated his preference for at-large election of the Board.

Mr. Dave Beadle, Pasadena resident, expressed concern regarding low voter turnout and the need to provide qualified personnel for after-school programs; and stated a concern that any possible sub-district area could contain large numbers of students and low numbers of registered voters.

Mr. Ken Lovell, Charter Reform Task Force member speaking as an Altadena resident, commented on the importance of this joint meeting of the City Council and the PUSD, and on the need for continued participation by the community and parents in this interaction and process.

Mr. Jeff Hammill, Pasadena resident, voiced support for the Council's adoption of the Task Force's report as a blueprint for change, and for the District's implementation of the recommendations listed in the report.

Mr. Ross Selvidge, Pasadena resident, commented on the need for the PUSD to measure the District's expenditures against those of other school districts; offered to provide information on how this could be accomplished; and noted that parents are regularly voicing their opinions on the success of the PUSD by choosing whether to have their children attend private schools or attend public schools in the District.

Mr. Esteban Lizardo, Charter Reform Task Force member speaking as a Pasadena resident, noted that one of the keys to success of the PUSD was to improve student achievement by addressing the needs of all the District's students in achieving their full potential; commented on the need to bring the entire community into the process, especially those segments of the District whose children attend District schools but who are not currently involved in the system. Mr. Lizardo voiced support for changing to Board elections by sub-districts as a means of providing parents with immediate access to Board members; for adopting the Task Force's report; and for providing a means for parents and the community to interact on education issues in the District.

## **DISCUSSION OF THE CHARTER REFORM TASK FORCE'S SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM PLAN**

Councilmember Holden, Chair of the Charter Reform Task Force on School District Governance, provided a brief history of the Task Force's charge and process in addressing education issues identified in the PUSD; and acknowledged the roles of all the stakeholders and participants in this process, and the work of the Task Force members in developing the report with its findings and recommendations.

Dr. Edgar Seal, PUSD Interim Superintendent of Schools, commented on the District's preliminary examination of the Task Force's report; briefly described the District's proposed process for implementing the recommendations; and noted that the District would be working with the community and the City Council in this effort. Dr. Seal provided handout materials to the Board and Council members containing a matrix describing the current status of the Task Force report's recommendations; and noted that these materials could be used to assess the District's progress in implementing those recommendations listed in the Task Force's report.

Dr. Seal responded to questions regarding the matrix materials; noted that a majority of the report's recommendations were either "in process" or "to be evaluated," briefly described the District's process for studying and assessing the information in the recommendations and the financial implications of implementing the recommendations; and indicated that the District would share information with the community derived from this process as it progressed.

Ms. Bonnie Armstrong, Vice President of the PUSD Board of Education, clarified that the District would be dealing with both the Charter Reform Task Force's report and the PUSD's Accountability Task Force report, along with various State reporting mandates. Ms. Armstrong indicated that the Board's positions on the recommendations in the Task Force's report regarding the three Charter changes and the placing of the School Accountability and Reform Plan on the ballot as an advisory measure had been outlined in a memorandum to the Task Force dated June 7, 2000.

PUSD Board members expressed support for the Charter changes to increase the size of the Board and to require an annual State of the Schools address. Board members noted

concerns with changing to the election of PUSD Board members by sub-districts; with voting on Board elections by sub-districts without first arriving at some definition of the proposed areas; and with placing the Task Force's School Accountability and Reform Plan on the ballot as an advisory measure. Board members discussed the role of the PUSD Board in developing a workplan and a timeline for implementing the Task Force's recommendations; the role of the Superintendent in presenting an annual address to the community on the progress in achieving the District's goals; and the challenge of conveying a message on the recommended changes to the students and to the community.

Discussion by Council members followed on use of ballot arguments for expressing dissent with the ballot measures; on promotion of debate regarding these issues; on concerns with placing the School Accountability and Reform Plan on the ballot; and on the importance of allowing the community to vote on the Charter measures. Discussion continued on the efficient use of resources in the District; on the need for cooperation between the District and the City in addressing education issues; on the merits and drawbacks of changing to sub-district Board elections; and on the need to increase the responsiveness and credibility of the school system.

In response to questions from Council, Vice President Armstrong clarified that the publishing of a recent District newsletter was the culmination of an ongoing effort to communicate district-wide with the community and not a response to the Task Force's report. Ms. Armstrong also clarified that the percentage of the number of children of color in the District closely reflected the percentage of the number of children of color in the City's population.

President Jacobs indicated that the publishing of the District newsletter had afforded an opportunity for Dr. Vera Vignes, as the outgoing Superintendent of Schools, to inform the community on the progress of various education issues; and that the Board was committed to goals of expanding community outreach, as shown by the distribution of the District newsletter, and of conducting academic and management audits.

Council discussion followed on the process which could be initiated to develop a joint powers agreement between the various authorities (Cities of Pasadena and Sierra Madre and the County of Los Angeles) and on the scope of this agreement; on

the possible roles of various community resources and institutions in funding and maintaining after-school programs in the District; on the creation of a structure to focus on joint projects between the City and District; on the need to communicate the District's specific goals for improving student achievement; and on the need to provide two-way communication between the District and the community.

Councilmember Little requested the results of the PUSD teachers' comments on the Task Force's public comment forms be made available to the Superintendent and District.

In response to questions regarding sub-district elections of Board members, City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris confirmed that the City's research reflected that the State's Education Code currently called for at-large elections in the District and that a legislative change would need to be made before PUSD could conduct Board elections by sub-districts. The City Attorney reported that State legislative representatives had indicated legislation to allow sub-district elections would be initiated after the voters approved the Charter amendment. It was noted the earliest that sub-district elections could be implemented would be in the 2003 election cycle, provided the State legislation is in place.

PUSD Board and Council discussion followed on the process to be followed by the Board in studying and implementing the recommendations in the Task Force's report; on combining the Task Force's report with the PUSD Accountability Task Force's report and other District issues; on designing a District strategic plan for addressing the various recommendations; on achieving accountability for implementing the Task Force's recommendations in conjunction with actions on other reports; and on maintaining community involvement in this process. Discussion continued on the Board's process for devising a plan and a timetable for implementing the Task Force's recommendations; on a means for the PUSD to share information and report back to the community on the District's progress in implementing the Task Force's recommendations; and on the need to fully engage the community in this process and in ongoing discussions of education issues.

Discussion continued on the placement of the School Accountability and Reform Plan on the ballot; on clarifying the advisory nature of such a measure and its attempt to seek voter reaction "in principle" to the report; and on concerns regarding

the maintenance of the integrity of the Board of Education's judgment in managing District business in relationship to an advisory ballot measure, and the financial ramifications of implementing the Task Force's recommendations.

Dr. Raphael Sonenshein, Staff Consultant to the Charter Reform Task Force, briefly reviewed the cover letter that had been incorporated into the Task Force's report.

By consensus, the Council and Board agreed to direct the Pasadena City Manager and the PUSD Superintendent of Schools to explore ways to maintain and sustain the long-term needs of after-school programs in the District and to suggest a possible structure for these activities.

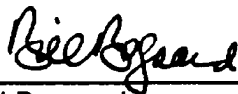
#### **TASK FORCE ON JOINT USE OF FACILITIES: FOCUS AND PRIORITIES**

Vice President Armstrong summarized the goals and the committee membership of the Task Force on Joint Use of Facilities for PUSD and the Cities of Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre. Ms. Armstrong briefly discussed the Task Force's first focus on identifying a new elementary school in Northwest Pasadena; and indicated that the Task Force on Joint Use of Facilities would be holding meetings that would be noticed and open to the public.

Mr. Thom Christy, Pasadena resident, deferred his public comment to a future meeting of the Task Force on Joint Use of Facilities.

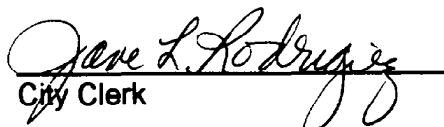
Mayor Bogaard and President Jacobs expressed appreciation for the progress made at this joint meeting.

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



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Bill Bogaard  
Mayor

ATTEST:



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Jane L. Rodriguez  
City Clerk