

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
October 24, 2001 – 4:00 P.M.
La Casita del Arroyo, 177 S. Arroyo Boulevard, Pasadena

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Bogaard called the special joint meeting with the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education to order at 4:15 p.m. The Mayor provided a brief history of the meeting site at La Casita del Arroyo.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers:

Mayor Bill Bogaard
Vice Mayor Paul Little
Councilmember Victor Gordo
Councilmember Steve Haderlein
Councilmember Chris Holden
Councilmember Steve Madison (Absent)
Councilmember Joyce Streater
Councilmember Sidney F. Tyler, Jr.

Staff:

City Manager Cynthia Kurtz
City Attorney Michele B. Bagneris
City Clerk Jane L. Rodriguez
Raphael Sonenshein, Ph.D., Staff Consultant to the Charter Reform Task Force on School District Governance

Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education:

President Tommy McMullins
Vice President Mike Babcock
Member Ed Honowitz
Member Dr. Jaqueline Jacobs
Member Dr. Susan Kane
Member Esteban (Steve) Lizardo
Member Peter M. Soelter

Staff:

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Percy Clark, Jr.

OPENING STATEMENTS

Mayor Bogaard commented on the significance of Pasadena Unified School District's public meeting of September 4, 2001, in which the recently-appointed Superintendent and recently-expanded School Board opened the new school year; and offered a theme of "new beginnings" for this joint meeting and

the developing relationship and collaboration between the City, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent of Schools.

Board President Tommy McMullins discussed strengthening the foundation of dialogue and cooperation between the District and the City; and briefly noted the District's progress in implementing all or a portion of 25 of the 51 recommendations contained in the Charter Reform Task Force on School District Governance Final Report.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Percy Clark, Jr. briefly discussed some of the infrastructure problems facing the District; and the need to provide clean, safe, and orderly schools. Dr. Clark outlined District proposals which will be presented to the community; and which will move to redistrict schools by keeping students at neighborhood schools while maintaining racial balance, and will develop magnet schools (e.g. performing and visual arts schools, technology and science schools, classical schools). He stressed the District's commitment to improve academic achievement by 30% in the next 5 years so that all schools would be performing at the 70% level or higher in SAT9 scores. Dr. Clark noted the District would also work to encourage a return of private school students to District schools; develop a strong curriculum program; and implement system-wide reading and math programs. He outlined some of the steps needed to bring about equalization of wealth in the District as this relates to obtaining and disbursing finances; posed various methods for lengthening the school day and ensuring improved student achievement; and called for the community to become involved in this process. Dr. Clark stated the District had made progress in implementing 25 of the 51 recommendations proposed by the City's Charter Reform Task Force; and added that time would be needed to accomplish the goals being set for the District.

City Manager Cynthia Kurtz briefly discussed the importance of the relationship between the City Council, the District, and the community; and highlighted various City programs serving school-age children.

Councilmember Chris Holden provided a short history of the work of the Charter Reform Task Force on School District Governance; and characterized its future review of the Task Force Report's recommendations.

Dr. Raphael Sonenshein, Charter Reform Task Force consultant, briefly explained the role of the Task Force in a review of the District's implementation of the Task Force's Final Report.

FOUNDATION FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND IMPROVED COMMUNICATION

- **Structure**
- **Discussion of Items for Future Consideration**

The above items were discussed concurrently.

Mayor Bogaard outlined some of the techniques which had been or were being taken to improve communication between the City and District officials including: ongoing meetings between the Mayor, City Manager, Board President, and Superintendent of Schools; joint meetings between the Council and Board; and various appointed task forces/ad hoc committees.

Discussion followed on the frequency of meetings between City and District officials; the attendee composition for various meetings; the need to involve all District stakeholders in various meetings; and the need to institutionalize the frequency, location, and attendee composition of meetings.

Discussion continued on the use of ad hoc committees which would focus on consideration of specific topics; development of a mechanism for reporting out to the public after meetings are held; involvement of community members in the discussions/meetings; and development of ongoing interpersonal relationships between City and District officials.

Councilmember Tyler briefly reported on the City and District's current collaboration regarding the Allendale Library expansion.

The following items were offered for future discussion: joint use of facilities; landscaping and beautification projects; joint use of human resources; joint maintenance programs; safety issues; redistricting issues; parent involvement and outreach; and after-school programs.

Members of the City Council and the Board explored suggestions to use: (1) a steering committee which would set

an agenda of items to be considered and prioritized; (2) ad hoc committees to focus on specific issues; (3) a standing committee of City and District officials to meet on a time-certain, day-certain basis; and/or (4) a small group of City and District officials (including a combination of all or some of the following: Mayor, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Board President, Board Vice President, Superintendent of Schools, representative from Altadena, representative from Sierra Madre) which would make recommendations for action to the City Council and the Board.

Discussion continued on the importance of participation by all District stakeholders; the relevance of Brown Act requirements in relationship to various types of proposed meetings; and the advantages and benefits of providing some type of forum which would optimally be flexible in providing discussion of various issues and be able to act in a timely manner.

By consensus, members of the City Council and the Board agreed that the Mayor, City Manager, Board President, and Superintendent of Schools would draft, within the next 10 days, a proposal to be presented to the City Council and the Board regarding the formation of a steering committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mary Dee Romney, Pasadena resident, commented on consideration of Brown Act requirements for proposed meetings, consideration of the District's mandate to educate in regards to decisions on the joint use of facilities, and inclusion of all stakeholders during discussions and meetings; and called the Council and Board's attention to a Pasadena Weekly article written by Ralph McKnight regarding dominance and hierarchy in Pasadena systems.

On order of the Mayor, the special joint meeting of the City Council and Board of Education adjourned at 5:55 p.m.



Bill Bogaard
Mayor

ATTEST:



Jane L. Rodriguez
City Clerk