

To: Members of the Pasadena City Council
From: The Partnership for School Age Children
Tom Selinske, Chair
Sue Miele Coordinator
Subject: Sustaining After School Programs: A video presentation and update on the
Work Group on Sustaining After School Programs
Date: January 25, 2001

Background Information:

The governmental jurisdictions that constitute the boundaries of the Pasadena Unified School District (The City of Pasadena, the County of Los Angeles, the City of Sierra Madre, and the School District) have a rich history of working together to provide enriching activities for children during non-school hours. For fifty years a joint powers agreement (JPA) for this purpose served as a model for the nation, and later a permissive property tax supported these programs financially for many years. The JPA was dissolved in 1975 and the property tax ended with California's approval of Proposition 13 in 1977.

For 26 years this community has lacked a coordinated plan for children's activities during non-school hours. The Partnership for School Age Children was organized eleven years ago through the City's Commission on Children and Youth and a planning grant from the League of Women Voters to address the need for coordinating out of school activities for children. Three years ago the Federal and State Governments entered the arena of after school programming in a big way. Largely, because of our Partnership, this community was positioned to apply for and receive some of the largest grants for our size. PUSD, in cooperation with the Partnership, received full funding for all grants for which we applied. The result has been nothing short of amazing! In one year's time **16 new programs have started on elementary and middle school sites that serve over 2500 students.** These programs run 220 days of the year - after school from 3pm-6pm, vacations, and partially during the summer recess. This program was named PasadenaLEARNs (Leading Educational Achievement * Revitalizing Neighborhoods). Ongoing cooperative planning occurs with the City Recreation After School Playground program and with school related after school child care programs.

The Partnership for School Age Children has grown as well. Today the collaborative Partnership includes the major governmental bodies and sixty community based agencies involved in children's programming. The annual budget for the work of this Partnership is \$55,000 jointly provided by the City of Pasadena and PUSD. Two committees of the Partnership, Funding and Future Growth, have been working on sustainability models for after school programs, which include local cooperative initiatives. In June 2002 the first federal grant for PasadenaLEARNs will expire (\$1.2 million). This and other possible loss of funding in the future has brought an urgency to the issue of sustainability over time. New CORAL after school programs (funded by The James Irvine Foundation) will be opening this year. The Foundation has committed to seven years of funding. However, these programs will also need to be sustained over time.

A joint meeting of the Pasadena City Council and the School Board in August resulted in agreement to initiate a Work Group on Sustaining After School Programs in

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response to Charter Reform Task Force Recommendation #48, "...initiate discussion of a joint powers agreement which would fully fund and maintain the important after-school programs after the grants now in place run out." Interim Superintendent of Schools, Edgar Seal, and City Manager, Cynthia Kurtz, called together this working group, which has been meeting since November. The mission of this group is to bring to the City Council and the School Board "...a recommended financial resource strategy to assure that collaborative after school programs serving students and families in the PUSD geographic area will continue and expand beyond the expiration dates of grants currently in place." The Work Group is planning to complete its work in the next few months.

The Partnership video has been developed as an education piece on this community's rich history in serving its children and as a public information piece regarding the current status of after school programming for children. It ends with an appeal for community involvement to sustain these programs over time. The Partnership agreed that we would offer to show this video to the School Board, the Pasadena and Sierra Madre City Councils, and the Altadena Town Council before it is distributed widely in the community. We know your agenda is very crowded and we appreciate your obvious commitment to this subject and scheduling the time to view this video.