

COLLABORATION BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

IN SUPPORT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

(A Proposal Developed and Presented by ACT, Pasadena's Grassroots, Non-partisan,
Progressive Political Organization, May 14, 2007)

I. PRESUPPOSITIONS

- A. PUSD has shown significant improvements in recent years, yet faces ongoing fiscal challenges in the wake of severe state cutbacks, under-funded state and federal mandates, and declining enrollment impacted by soaring housing costs. Moreover, the communities and city governments that make up PUSD have not been taking a proactive, constructive role in promoting PUSD's successes or supporting their ongoing efforts at improvement.
- B. With a new superintendent now in place, this is an ideal time for the PUSD to regroup its management and for new partnerships to be forged on behalf of the District's students.
- C. Continued improvement in PUSD's schools is to the advantage of the entire community, not just the families of the students enrolled, as it upgrades the general quality of life.
- D. The municipalities that are part of the PUSD have a vested interest in the success of the District's schools, because of the potential effect this would have on attracting talent to the community, lowering crime and gang activity, and improving tax revenue from thriving commerce.
- E. These municipalities have certain resources, expertise, and capabilities that can be applied to helping the District deliver quality education to students in its schools. In addition, there are frequent opportunities for joint partnerships to be supported with State resources designated for specific city-schools projects.
- F. Elected officials play an important leadership role in elevating public education to the top of the community's agenda and promoting public-private partnerships with PUSD.
- G. Moreover, elected officials and staff persons in the municipalities provide a channel for citizen inquiry and input that has the potential to be a powerful conduit of information to the city and its partnership with the district.

05/14/2007

Item G

Handout by George Van Alstine

II. PROPOSALS

- A. That a more assertive leadership around public education be demonstrated by all elected officials in the PUSD area.
- B. That a new level of mutual commitment to work together become the goal of the PUSD, the Pasadena City Council, the Sierra Madre City Council, the Altadena Town Council and Pasadena City College.
- C. That this commitment be channeled through the development of a new JOINT INTEREST COMMISSION, which should be comprised of a balanced group of elected officials, such as

2 members of the PUSD Board

2 members of the Pasadena City Council

1 member of the Sierra Madre City Council

1 member of the Altadena Town Council

1 member of the Pasadena City College Board

The addition of high-level staff and other representatives of the various government organizations will be important, but left to the discretion of the joint commission.

- D. That this Commission meet according to a regular schedule, and that its meetings be subject to the Brown Act provisions for open meetings.
- E. That in undertaking the work of this body, we encourage the municipalities and PUSD to collaborate in ways that improve public education and that have worked in other localities. Elsewhere in California, for example, local governments and local school districts have collaborated on management of public and school libraries; management and maintenance of playgrounds, athletic fields, and parks; and purchasing of equipment and supplies to take advantage of economies of scale. See <http://www.ccspartnership.org/> for information on what's working in California. Examples of successful partnerships in cities outside of California are (sources: National League of Cities website and its Institute for Youth, Education, and Families *Action Kit for Municipal Leaders*):

