

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
May 14, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.
Pasadena Conference Center East Pavilion
300 E. Green Street

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

OPENING:

Mayor Bogaard called the special joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education to order at 6:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Honowitz.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers:

Mayor Bill Bogaard
Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein
Councilmember Victor Gordo (Arrived at 6:47 p.m.)
Councilmember Chris Holden
Councilmember Steve Madison (Absent)
Councilmember Margaret McAustin
Councilmember Jacque Robinson
Councilmember Sidney F. Tyler

Staff:

City Manager Cynthia Kurtz
City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Jane L. Rodriguez

Board of Education:

President Esteban (Steve) Lizardo
Vice President Tom Selinske
Member Mike Babcock
Member Renatta Cooper
Member Bob Harrison
Member Ed Honowitz
Member Scott Phelps

Staff:

Edwin Diaz, Superintendent of Schools

INTRODUCE NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

The new members elected to the Board performed self-introductions (Renatta Cooper, Seat 2, Bob Harrison, Seat 4; and Tom Selinske, Seat 6).

INTRODUCE NEW CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Bogaard introduced new members elected to the Council: Jacque Robinson (District 1) and Margaret McAustin (District 2).

Councilmember Gordo arrived at 6:47 p.m.

INTRODUCE EDWIN DIAZ, NEW SUPERINTENDENT

President Lizardo introduced Edwin Diaz, Superintendent of Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON VARIOUS AGENDA ITEMS

Davilena Bailey O'Connor, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns regarding recent gang-related violence occurring in District 1, asked Council to ensure that the Police Department's gang unit is fully staffed, encouraged residents to promptly report any suspicious activities or wrong-doing to the Police, and asked the Council and the community to work together to achieve peace in Northwest Pasadena.

The City Manager clarified that there had been a number of recent violent incidences occurring in various City districts, announced a public forum to be held on May 23, 2007 at Jackie Robinson Center to give the community an opportunity to ask questions about recent events and receive information on what the City is doing to address the problems that are occurring, and indicated that an arrest had occurred in connection with one of the recent shootings. In response to Councilmember Holden's question, the City Manager briefly discussed police staffing.

George Loew, Pasadena resident and retired teacher, discussed a proposal he is developing to present to the District on the implementation of a bicycle repair class/program at the middle school level, and asked for assistance from the District as the formal proposal evolves.

Jarvis Emerson, representing State Assemblymember Anthony Portantino, announced that nomination forms for the Women in Business Awards would be delivered to the Council, and encouraged Council to participate in the nomination process.

Reverend George Van Alstine, ACT representative, commented on the collaborative relationship between the City and District and on ACT's proposal for development of a new Joint Interest Commission on Public Education whose members would work together on matters involving the District and governmental jurisdictions; and submitted a written report on the proposal.

UPDATE ON CURRENT JOINT PROJECTS

Pre-Employment Physicals

Carol Laval, PUSD Health Programs Coordinator, provided an update on this program that provides pre-employment physicals to the City's job applicants, which is running smoothly and efficiently.

Heidi Petersen-Leach, City Public Health Administrator, commented on the benefits of the program and high quality of the service.

School Policing

Deputy Police Chief Chris Vicino provided an update on the success of the school policing program that has led to less crime in and around the schools and creation of an atmosphere for better learning in the schools, discussed the types of calls that the Safe Schools Team is responding to and the miscellaneous activities/meetings that are being held, and commented on the high level of cooperation between the Safe Schools Team and District personnel and the Police's philosophy of building relationships rather than focusing on arrests. Deputy Chief Vicino responded to questions regarding the deployment of officers, capability of the District's Security Officers to communicate with the City's Police and Fire personnel via radios and cell phones, types of arrests that have occurred, and solutions to safety issues related to bus stops used by students.

Dr. George McKenna, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Secondary Schools, commented on the Police's success in the establishment and building of relationships with staff, students, parents, and neighborhood communities; the timely and effective manner in which the Team has responded in the areas of prevention, intervention, and mediation; the high level of appreciation for their presence on the school campuses; the communication/intelligence shared between the Team and the District; and the high level of preparedness and professionalism of the Team. Dr. McKenna responded to questions regarding the relationship between crime/violence on the streets and crime/violence in the schools, the role of the police in referrals for various types of student behavior, safety issues related to bus stops used by students, use of District security staff, and the District's relationships with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Sierra Madre Police Department.

Board Member Babcock expressed objections to the term "lock down" and asked the Team and District to find some other term to substitute for this situation.

Board Member Honowitz complimented the Team and District for their accomplishments with the program.

Emergency Preparedness

Fire Chief Dennis Downs provided an update on shared activities of the City and District involving the City's emergency response plan as this impacts the District, proposed training for

the District security staff in light search and rescue, and preparation of a joint hostage response plan. Chief Downs acknowledged Lisa Derderian, Disaster Preparedness Coordinator; and responded to questions regarding emergency drills for students and the schools' role as shelters during emergencies.

Michele McClowry, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, thanked the City for their assistance and cooperation with emergency preparedness and acknowledged Janna Kelley, PUSD Risk Manager.

Madison School/Park

Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works Department, provided an update on the improvements that were made and the maintenance that is being performed at the Madison Elementary School joint use park site.

President Lizardo expressed appreciation for the planning and implementation of joint projects by the City and District that have resulted in the discussion of other collaborative efforts to maximize the use of District and City facilities/assets and possible cost savings.

Tennis Courts at Pasadena High School and John Muir High School

Patsy Lane, Director of Human Services and Recreation Department, provided an update on improvements at the tennis courts and the opening of these courts for use by the public, and discussed the upcoming request for proposals for the citywide tennis program.

Vice Mayor Haderlein suggested staff explore the use of the Pasadena High School restroom facilities with the Principal (Dr. Derick Evans) and determine if handball court improvements could be included in the project.

Gary Roggenstein, John Muir High School Principal, responded to questions regarding the availability of restroom facilities for the tennis courts at John Muir; and acknowledged Sarah Austin, volunteer coach of the John Muir Tennis Club.

Three members of the John Muir Tennis Club presented a framed team photograph to the Council in appreciation of the improvements made by the City to the tennis courts. Mayor Bogaard accepted the gift on behalf of the City.

Board Member Phelps suggested John Muir High School offer Ms. Austin a stipend for her coaching work.

Marvin Pastucha, Director of Public Works Department, discussed possible rehabilitation of tennis courts at Woodrow Wilson Middle School, McKinley School, Marshall Fundamental Secondary School, and Blair International Baccalaureate School; and responded to question regarding the rehabilitation process.

Discussion followed on the need for restroom facilities to be provided as tennis courts are made available to the public and the use of artificial turf for sports fields.

The following persons expressed support for and/or offered suggestions regarding the City and District joint projects:

Chris Brandow, Pasadena Education Network (PEN)
Executive Director
Jeanette Mann, Pasadena City College (PCC) Board
Trustee, also offered to make PCC's facilities available
for use by the District.
Virginia Hoge, Pasadena resident
Mary Dee Romney, Pasadena resident
Jon Fuhrman, Pasadena resident

Board Member Harrison suggested future discussions be held on needed improvements for baseball fields.

Superintendent Diaz noted that as the District develops master plans for each school, the District and City could discuss future joint projects that would be of interest to the community (e.g., improvements for and joint use of gymnasiums and sports fields).

Councilmember Gordo suggested staff investigate the use of artificial turf in helping to increase the availability of sports fields in meeting community needs and explore possible corporate sponsorship opportunities for funding this option, and asked that this topic be agendaized for the next joint facilities meeting held by the City and District.

In response to Vice Mayor Haderlein's question, the City Manager clarified that in the area of transportation, the City and District had reached agreements regarding the lease of land for bus parking and for the use of school buses in emergencies, if the buses are not being used by the District.

Vice Mayor Haderlein suggested staff explore ways the City can collaborate with the District in transporting high school students (e.g., use of ARTS buses).

The City Manager indicated staff will confer with the District as the ARTS bus plan is reviewed and modified.

Board Member Selinske suggested the District and City also explore transportation links between the District campuses and Pasadena City College.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Bogaard thanked Michael Ross, Chief Executive Officer of Pasadena Center Operating Company, for accommodating this joint meeting of the City and District in the temporary facility being used by the Pasadena Convention Center during the remodeling and construction project for the Center.

Mr. Ross provided a brief update on the Convention Center project (demolition work, temporary facility, new facility, and remodeling), and reminded the community that the Convention Center would remain open for business during the project.

UPDATE JOINT USE SCHOOL/PARK SITE STUDY

Recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent of Schools:

It is recommended that:
(1) City Council and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education approve McKinley School and Hamilton Elementary School as the next sites to be developed into school/park facilities. These projects will be completed within the next twelve months; and

(2) City Council and PUSD Board of Education approve the prioritized list of Joint School/Park sites for future staff implementation (Attachment 1 of the agenda report).

Recommendation of Public Safety Committee and PUSD Facilities and Capital Projects Subcommittee:

It is recommended that the City Council and PUSD Board of Education approve the staff recommendations with the following additions:

(1) Staff shall proceed with the planning for Linda Vista Elementary School and Marshall Fundamental Secondary School (as school/park facilities) as soon as PUSD determines these sites are available for joint use.

(2) Staff shall identify any blacktop space at these sites that can be converted into green space.

Mayor Bogaard introduced the agenda item, and noted that the City's Public Safety Committee chaired by Vice Mayor Haderlein and the District's Facilities and Capital Projects Subcommittee chaired by Board Member Babcock had been holding joint meetings regarding school/park sites.

Vice Mayor Haderlein summarized the agenda report and responded to questions.

Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works Department, reviewed the park study and rationale for joint use of the proposed and prioritized sites; and responded to questions

regarding park design, responsibility for maintenance of the improvements, level of public involvement in the joint site selections and design process, and funding sources for the improvements and maintenance.

The City Manager indicated that City monies would be added to the budget to provide enhanced maintenance for the improvements at the joint use sites and agreements would need to be reached with the proposed sites, and responded to questions.

President Lizardo highlighted design issues that had been discussed at the joint facilities meetings, and discussed current community use of various school facilities.

Board Member Cooper asked that the park design for each site enhance the overall appearance and attractiveness of the school in a way that is progressive for children's use.

Councilmember Tyler stressed the need to delineate responsibility for maintenance at the sites in the joint use agreements.

Mayor Bogaard urged the City and District to agree on a fair allocation of the costs as the joint projects move forward.

Board Member Honowitz noted that maintenance costs are set as an allocation amount (percentage) by the State, expressed concerns regarding the need to balance the level of activity at the proposed sites (passive vs. activity) with the costs for the improvements and ongoing maintenance, and discussed the need for community/neighborhood/parents involvement in the planning/funding process.

Councilmember Holden suggested a future City/District discussion of a comprehensive master plan approach that integrates the City's and District's needs for open space and field/recreation improvements and could include a bond measure to fund these needs.

Councilmember Gordo noted that City and District staffs had previously been directed to look at all of the school sites for joint uses that could be immediately implemented; and then determine possible sites where enhancements or additional sports fields could be identified, keeping in mind the community's needs.

Superintendent Diaz, Board Member Selinske, and Councilmember Gordo expressed support for a comprehensive planning approach to address the issues of identifying joint use sites and funding the improvements/maintenance.

Councilmember McAustin expressed concerns regarding the use of the residential impact fees on these joint use sites vis a vis the fees' purpose of creating new parks, and cautioned against use of all of the City's residential impact fees on joint use site projects.

Councilmember Gordo expressed his perspective that if the City is using District land that would not otherwise have been used for park land and is perhaps dedicating the land as park land, that this situation could constitute creation of a new park area and allow for use of the residential impact fees for this purpose.

The following persons spoke in support of joint use school/park sites and/or expressed concerns or offered suggestions regarding various aspects of the joint projects:

Mark Persico, Recreation and Parks Commissioner
speaking as an individual
Monica Watts, Altadena resident
Betsy Nathane, Friends of Linda Vista Park Co-Chair
Sharon Yonashiro, Friends of Linda Vista Park member
Susana Lopes, Padres de la Escuela Cleveland
representative
Davis Johnson, Altadena resident

It was moved by Vice Mayor Haderlein, seconded by Councilmember Gordo, to approve the City Manager's/Superintendent of Schools' recommendation, as amended above by the Public Safety Committee/PUSD Facilities and Capital Projects Subcommittee; and to direct City staff to begin to reconcile the City's park master plan, which is nearing completion, with plans for school sites so as to create a grand vision (comprehensive master plan) approach. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent Councilmember Madison)

Vice Mayor Haderlein reported that a discussion on a proposed softball field at Pasadena High School (PHS) had taken place at a joint meeting of the Public Safety Committee and PUSD Facilities and Capital Projects Subcommittee; and that as a result of this discussion, staff was directed to gather information (e.g., cost, usage, accessibility, and parking) on a possible joint project for future consideration.

CHILDREN, FAMILY AND YOUTH POLICY

Mayor Bogaard introduced the agenda item.

Patsy Lane, Director of Human Services and Recreation Department, highlighted the following three target areas of possible joint City/District interest from the Pasadena Policy on Children, Youth and Families 2006 Update, which could be

implemented by the end of December 2008: Good Health – Obesity Epidemic, Education – Youth Participation, and Economic Well-Being – Employment and Training Opportunities.

Councilmember Holden expressed concerns regarding the statistics on homeless children, and suggested this issue be given the highest priority in bringing resources together to address the problems of homeless children.

Board Member Cooper suggested a focus on youth participation on various governmental commissions or a different model from the proposed youth council; and encouraged a diversity of students to be sought whatever model is implemented.

The following person expressed support for the Pasadena Policy on Children, Youth and Families 2006 Update:

Gregory Harrison, Human Services Commission Chair

The following persons offered suggestions regarding various areas in the Pasadena Policy on Children, Youth and Families 2006 Update or issues involving children that could benefit from City/District collaboration:

Melody Comfort, League of Women Voters-Pasadena Area (LWVPA), Pasadena Unified School District subcommittee representative, submitted a report titled "PUSD Report for the LWVPA Dropout Prevention Project" dated March 2, 2007.

Peter Dreier, Pasadena resident

Jeanette Mann, Pasadena resident

Councilmember Gordo asked that the status of vocational training be agendaized for a future joint meeting of the City/District, including discussion of possible collaboration with Pasadena City College and labor organizations.

Board Member Selinske suggested this policy be used as a framework for District staff to map the policy concepts and develop action plans, where appropriate, in the context of a strategic plan and discussion of possible additional joint projects with the City.

On order of the Mayor, the information was received and filed.

MANAGEMENT AUDIT

Councilmember Tyler, Chair of the Management Audit Advisory Committee, introduced the agenda item.

Superintendent Diaz noted that the District had requested the Management Audit Advisory Committee to stay active during the audit's implementation phase in order to provide feedback on the audit recommendations and to help provide communications with the community on the implementation of the recommendations. Mr. Diaz mentioned action steps being taken by the District to implement: a modified version of the Central Office organizational structure contained in the audit, an internal and external communications plan, and changes to the decision-making structure at the District level. He noted the Board would be considering adoption of the California School Board Association's Governance Standards and an evaluation of the Board's committee structure, and that another analysis of District services at the department level (director and below) was being requested.

**COUNCIL/BOARD
COMMENTS**

Councilmember Holden suggested that the Pasadena City College Superintendent/President and/or Board of Trustees President be included in the planning for the next joint meeting of the City/District, and that the Legislative Policy Committee review the ACT proposal regarding a Joint Interest Commission on Public Education, with the League of Women Voters' report to be filtered through the Board of Education. He also suggested the City and District explore use of the Council Chamber for Board of Education meetings.

Board Member Honowitz expressed support for regularizing the City/District joint meeting schedule.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the special joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Board of Education adjourned at 10:32 p.m.



Bill Bogaard, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:



City Clerk