

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
November 13, 2007 – 6:30 P.M.  
Pasadena Senior Center, Multi-Purpose Room  
85 East Holly Street, Pasadena

**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 6:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Julio Camara, ROTC cadet at Blair High School.

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilmembers:

Mayor Bill Bogaard  
Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein  
Councilmember Victor Gordo  
Councilmember Chris Holden  
Councilmember Steve Madison (Arrived at 6:55 p.m.)  
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  
Michele McClowry, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS**

Vice Mayor Haderlein thanked the District's ROTC members for participating in the event commemorating Veterans Day on November 11, 2007.

President Lizardo welcomed everyone and thanked the community for their participation in this joint Council/Board of Education meeting.

The Council and Board performed self-introductions.

## **REPORT ON NOVEMBER 4TH COMMUNITY FORUM ON BEST PRACTICES OF CITY/DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS**

Vice Mayor Haderlein distributed and reviewed a report titled "Report on the November 4, 2007 Forum" that discussed the partnership relationship between the City and District; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Madison  
arrived at 6:55 p.m.

Superintendent Diaz highlighted PUSD's approach in moving forward with a strategic planning process based on the seven priorities set by the Board of Education in August 2007, noted the District was currently examining its internal resources and operations, discussed the need for the District to identify the resources gap that will occur in the implementation of the strategic plan prior to any engagement with community partners about funding, commented on possible future collaboration with the communities and community-based organizations in addressing resource needs, and thanked the sponsors of the Forum. Mr. Diaz briefly described a possible strategic planning process that would include future interaction with various cities and community groups in discussions of the District's Funding and Support Plan (with specific resource/program needs identified) and of ways to meet these needs.

The following persons expressed concerns and suggestions regarding various elements of the relationship to be developed between the community partners and the District:

Larry Morrison, Pasadena Educational Foundation Board Member  
Susan Schwartz, Invest In PUSD Kids representative  
Dawn O'Keeffe, Invest In PUSD Kids member speaking as an individual  
Mark Mastromatteo, Pasadena resident  
Chris Brandow, Pasadena Education Network Executive Director  
Carolyn Ellner, League of Women Voters representative, distributed a packet of informational materials titled "Civic Investment in Our Public Schools".  
Maureen Carlson, Pasadena resident  
Raul Borbon, Coalition for Investing in Public Education representative  
Peter Dreier, Pasadena resident  
Virginia Hoge, Pasadena resident  
Mary Dee Romney, Pasadena resident  
Jeanette Mann, Pasadena City College Board Trustee  
Barry Gordon, Pasadena resident  
Susan Kilber, United Teachers of Pasadena, Site Representative for Webster Elementary School  
Sole Teramae, Pasadena resident  
German Barrero, Pasadena resident  
Janet Thigpen, resident

Discussion followed on the need to develop a relationship that will best work for the District and participating cities and a strategic plan to address the District's identified priorities; an option for the City to provide unrestricted funds to the District; ways to measure the City's ongoing and future support of the District (financial and services); the City's fiduciary responsibility to its residents in allocating monies to the District; ways for the City and District to develop and define their collaborative partnership; possible development of a district-wide commission on youth and education and a youth council; the concern that any partnership might result in a piecemeal approach, rather than systemic approach, for addressing the issues facing the District and City; and the leadership role for the District to take in developing recommendations for workable partnerships with the cities and community.

The City Manager responded to questions on the City's funding support of the District.

Councilmember Tyler asked for additional information for comparisons with other Districts on achievement levels and instructional costs per pupil.

Board Member Phelps distributed and summarized his letter with attachment dated November 11, 2007 regarding the future of school funding and the need for unrestricted funding.

Councilmember McAustin expressed support for Superintendent Diaz's approach in which the District would prepare a list of needs and an evaluation of possible resources to meet these needs that would be presented to the cities and community organizations/entities/businesses, with partnerships to then be developed with the community and with the understanding that the community will receive a return on each investment.

Councilmember Gordo expressed support for the Superintendent's and Board's leadership roles in presenting recommendations for partnerships/collaborative efforts for consideration by the Council and community entities, and asked the District to give careful consideration to crossover areas when the needs analysis is developed. He stressed the need for the City and District to coordinate information regarding the community agencies used to provide various program services in order to concentrate efforts more effectively in using City funding to support District needs.

President Lizardo indicated the Board and Superintendent would agendize the strategic planning process for a District meeting, and return to Council as soon as possible with their recommendations on the District's needs assessment, including funding issues.

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

### **PUSD ENROLLMENT AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS FOR CITY OF PASADENA 2007-2008**

President Lizardo and the City Manager introduced the agenda item.

Superintendent Diaz provided an overview of the projected vs. current student enrollment for the current and upcoming school years, and commented on the loss of public students to charter schools.

Bill Trimble, Senior Planner, provided an oral presentation of current and projected demographics for the City, discussed the information gathering process and the reliability of this information, and related the demographics information to projections for future school enrollment. In response to a request, Mr. Trimble indicated he would provide a copy of his notes to the Board.

Vice President Selinske suggested the District engage City staff in making future student enrollment projections.

The following persons expressed concerns regarding the impacts of demographics on the equitable distribution of students/services and/or the facilities/grade configuration planning process:

David Herman, Muir High School teacher speaking as an individual

Mary Dee Romney, Pasadena resident

Discussion followed on various reasons for students leaving the District, possibilities for tracking students longitudinally, the District's need for improved technology to be used for tracking purposes, the relationship between incorrect projected birth rates and decreased student enrollment, possible impacts of decreased enrollment on efforts to reduce classroom size, and potential realignment of District resources.

Superintendent Diaz commented on PUSD's problems with tracking students who leave the District and available means for determining why students have left, and potential impacts of decreased enrollment and fixed costs/revenues on classroom size.

Michele McClowry, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, responded to questions regarding staffing and classroom size.

President Lizardo noted that information on classroom staffing/size is included in the District's budget process and could be provided to Councilmember Holden.

On order of the Mayor, the information was received.

## **REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

Mayor Bogaard updated the Council and Board on the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee's work to formulate short- and long-term solutions to deal with the needs of youth as part of an intervention and prevention approach to addressing violence in the City, and described the broad, communitywide participation on the Committee.

President Lizardo commented on challenges in arriving at a process for the Committee to move forward with its work.

Councilmember Robinson noted that the complexity of the issues to be addressed regarding at-risk youth may lead to an extension of the six-month period of time initially set for the Committee's work, and noted that input from the communities' youth would be included as a part of the process.

Board Member Honowitz indicated that the Committee would be discussing funding needs and resources as part of the process for implementing the proposals/recommendations that are developed by the Committee.

The following persons expressed concerns and/or offered suggestions regarding the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee's work:

Monica Watts, Altadena resident  
Virginia Hoge, Pasadena resident

Board Member Phelps suggested the Committee look at following students over time and better utilization of Pasadena City College.

On order of the Mayor, the information was received.

## **CONSIDERATION OF JOINT PROPOSAL FROM ACT**

Mayor Bogaard provided a brief history of the Council's receipt of the proposal from ACT, and highlighted ACT's proposal for the development of a new Joint Interest Commission as set out in the "Report of the ACT Task Force Appointed to Study How the City Council of Pasadena Can More Effectively Support Education in Our Public Schools".

President Lizardo reported on the District's plan to discuss the ACT proposal with the Sierra Madre City Council and the Altadena Town Council; and noted that the proposal had not, as yet, been discussed by the Board and would be agendaized for Board discussion.

Councilmember Tyler asked that additional information be provided on what the work (scope) of the Joint Interest Commission will be, what the Commission's relationship with existing commissions and task forces will be, and what will come out of the Commission.

Councilmember Madison expressed concerns regarding the last section of the Report (III. Procedure) and suggested this section not be included in the discussions to be held by the various governing bodies; and offered to serve on the Joint Interest Committee, if it is established.

Board Member Cooper commented on the differences between the entities cited in the ACT proposal and challenges in bringing these entities together for meetings, and suggested the proposal be put on hold until the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee's work has been completed and funding issues have been addressed.

Vice Mayor Haderlein suggested that there be agreement by all of the entities when areas of mutual interest are identified, if the Commission is established.

Councilmember Robinson cautioned against folding the Joint Interest Committee's work into the work of the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee.

Discussion followed on the need for a specific purpose for the Commission, the proposed scope of work for the Commission, options for the various governing bodies in taking action on the ACT proposal, possible topics for discussion and additional information regarding the proposal, the benefits of establishing a formalized structure to address areas of mutual interest and concerns, potential correlation between the work being done by the Youth Development and Violence Prevention Committee and that proposed for the Joint Interest Committee, possible inclusion of the business community in the Committee, funding issues in establishing a Committee, and a determination of who will take the lead in coordinating the discussions on the ACT proposal.

The following persons expressed support for the ACT proposal and/or expressed concerns regarding elements in the proposal:

Julianne Hines, District Director representing  
Assemblymember Anthony Portantino

Ralph Hurtado, ACT Co-Chair  
Monica Watts, Altadena resident  
Jeanette Mann, Pasadena City College Board Trustee

The following persons expressed concerns regarding the ACT proposal:

Mary Dee Romney, Pasadena resident  
German Barrero, Pasadena resident

President Lizardo confirmed that the Board will take the lead in the discussions regarding the ACT proposal, with a determination on further action on the proposal to be made at some time in the future.

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

### **STATUS REPORT ON CITY/SCHOOL PARK PROJECTS**

President Lizardo announced the new members for the PUSD Facility Subcommittee: Vice President Selinske and Board Members Honowitz and Phelps.

Vice Mayor Haderlein provided an overview of the City/District park projects program, and highlighted proposed projects involving the Linda Vista Elementary School (park area) and Pasadena High School (softball field).

The following persons expressed support for the City/District park projects program:

Gregor Edwards, Recreation and Parks Commission Chair  
speaking as an individual  
Sharon Yonashiro, Linda Vista/Annandale Association  
Board President and Friends of Linda Vista Park  
representative

In response to Ms. Yonashiro's request, President Lizardo noted that the contact persons for the park projects would be Patrick Kennedy (Facilities Manager for PUSD) and Martin Pastucha (Director of Public Works Department for City).

Discussion followed on funding for the joint projects, and overlaying the City's Park Master Plan onto the District's Facilities Assessment to identify opportunities for joint projects.

Councilmember Madison thanked City and District staffs for moving forward with the Linda Vista proposal and for assisting in the relocation of the All Saints Preschool program.

President Lizardo complimented City and District staffs for expeditiously addressing the priorities that were given to them

by the Council and Board, noted that additional opportunities for joint projects involving non-field areas (e.g., gymnasiums) can be explored, and commented on the District's development of a Facilities Master Plan.

Board Member Phelps noted that the District should provide the Council with copies of the Facilities Assessment.

The Mayor noted that staff had distributed a report titled "Status of City/School Joint Projects" with additional information on various joint projects that have been completed or are underway since May 14, 2007.

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

### **TRUANCY REPORT**

President Lizardo announced that the above item was being pulled from the agenda and would be presented at a future joint meeting.

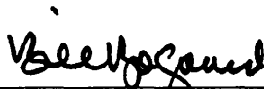
Councilmember Tyler commented on a proposed use of the City Prosecutor's Office to deal with chronic absenteeism in order to get students back into the classrooms.

### **CLOSING STATEMENT**

The Mayor expressed confidence in the ongoing cooperative efforts between the City and District, which are now leading to meaningful results and potential for the future, and gratitude for the community's support of these efforts to serve young people.

### **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.



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Bill Bogaard, Mayor  
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:



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Jane L. Rodriguez  
City Clerk