

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
May 12, 2008 – 6:30 P.M.
Pasadena Senior Center, Multi-Purpose Room
85 East Holly Street, Pasadena

Teleconference Location:
Marriott Hotel Teaneck at Glenpoint, Room 903
100 Frank W Burr Boulevard
Teaneck, New Jersey

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 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Shelly James, PUSD Chief Human Resources Officer.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers:

Mayor Bill Bogaard
Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein
Councilmember Victor Gordo
Councilmember Chris Holden (Arrived at 7:44 p.m.)
Councilmember Steve Madison (Participated via
teleconference beginning at 6:40 p.m.)
Councilmember Margaret McAustin
Councilmember Jacque Robinson
Councilmember Sidney F. Tyler

Staff:

City Manager Bernard K. Melekian
City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Jane L. Rodriguez

Board of Education:

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

Staff:

Edwin Diaz, Superintendent of Schools

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that Tom Selinske had been recently elected to fill the position of Board President, and commended Member Lizardo for his leadership as the past Board President. The Mayor also announced that City Clerk Jane Rodriguez would be retiring in July 2008 after 35 years of dedicated service to the City.

Superintendent Diaz introduced new PUSD staff members: Shelly James, Chief Human Resources Officer and Steve Brinkman, Chief of Staff.

PRESENTATION BY THE CITY MANAGER AND SUPERINTENDENT REGARDING THE SUMMARY OF JOINT ACTIVITIES

The City Manager introduced the following City staff who were in attendance to answer questions, as needed: Patsy Lane, Director of Human Services and Recreation Department; Martin Pastucha, Director of Public Works Department; Karyn Ezell, Director of Human Resources Department; Acting Police Chief Chris Vicino; Richard Bruckner, Director of Planning and Development Department; Phyllis Currie, General Manager of Water and Power Department; Steve Mermell, Acting Director of Finance Department; and Bryan Sands, Information Systems and Technology Manager for Information Services (Library). He thanked all those who had assisted in putting the meeting and agenda together.

Councilmember Madison joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m. via the teleconference location.

The City Manager commented on the dependency of the City and PUSD on each other in achieving success, and on the creation of a workable partnership that would include steps to form a joint City/PUSD Staff Committee and to prioritize various partnership opportunities.

Superintendent Diaz thanked the City Manager for his leadership and City staff for their openness in supporting the ongoing dialogue derived from these joint meetings. He highlighted the budgetary and reorganization processes that he and the District had used in identifying areas for potential partnership between the City and District (e.g., emergency preparedness, housing, recruitment efforts, transportation, nursing and health services, energy savings, and library services). He indicated the District had identified the following priorities for proposed partnerships:

- safety and security (individual school security plans and emergency preparedness)
- dropout recovery, attendance improvement, and truancy reduction (get students back in school and linked to community resources)
- grounds and joint use of facilities (maintenance and upgrading of grounds and athletic facilities)
- secondary reform (preparation of students for college and/or work and internships)

Councilmember Gordo proposed that the City and District look at a plan that would transition traditional sports fields to artificial fields, and suggested the City and District collaborate on a prioritization plan for fields that might be transitioned to artificial turf.

Superintendent Diaz noted the District was in the process of developing a facilities master plan that includes a component that would upgrade fields and athletic facilities and would look

at joint community and/or nonprofit partnerships in accomplishing this.

Councilmember Gordo expressed concerns about the District entering into partnerships that could lead to a requirement for dedicated field usage time for a specific nonprofit or community group, thereby limiting field accessibility for other community groups/residents.

Member Honowitz suggested the Burbank City/School District partnership for transitioning to artificial turf fields be explored as a model.

Vice Mayor Haderlein suggested those fields with lights be considered as a high priority for transitioning to artificial turf.

Discussion followed on use of District fields, the proposed nature of joint use plans between the community and/or nonprofit groups, the Civic Center Permit process for use of District facilities, and transitioning natural fields to artificial turf fields.

Mary-Erin Crook, Altadena resident and parent of McKinley School student, praised the progress made in supporting the District and sharing the District's fields, suggested the City and District explore an opportunity to make use of the building on El Molino Avenue that was previously occupied by Kidspace Museum, and spoke in support of taking the necessary steps to see that funding for the District is stabilized (e.g., bonds or parcel taxes).

Councilmember Madison noted that the City/District collaboration that resulted in the conversion of a portion of the property at the former Linda Vista Elementary School site into a neighborhood park and as a site for the All Saints Church preschool should be seen as a model for future partnering by the City and District.

Member Cooper was excused at 7:06 p.m.

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

FORMATION OF JOINT CITY/PUSD STAFF COMMITTEE

~~**Recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent:** It is recommended that the City Council and the Board of Education appoint a Joint City/PUSD Staff Committee made up of senior staff from each organization to prepare research and recommendations on opportunities for partnership between the two organizations.~~

Revised recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent: It is recommended that the City Council and the Board of Education support the concept of a City/PUSD Staff Committee comprised of senior staff from each organization to prepare, research, and make recommendations for partnering opportunities, to be created by the City Manager and School Superintendent.

The City Manager read into the record the above revised recommendation for this item; summarized the agenda report; clarified that reports from the Committee would be presented to the separate bodies (Council and Board) in a timely manner as the information is developed; and responded to questions.

Discussion followed on the composition of the Committee, the need to move forward expeditiously in implementing the Committee, and the Committee's reporting process to the Council and Board.

Councilmember McAustin suggested the Committee reports about any partnership proposals that are presented to the Council and Board include information on costs to the City, current PUSD costs, and cost savings to the District.

Vice President Harrison suggested the Committee reports also include information on how the District is using the cost savings realized as a result of any partnership.

President Selinske suggested the Committee hold regular (monthly) meetings as outlined in the agenda report.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Gordo, seconded by Councilmember Tyler, to approve the above revised City Manager's/Superintendent's recommendation:

AYES: Councilmembers Gordo, Madison, McAustin, Robinson, Tyler, Vice Mayor Haderlein, Mayor Bogaard

NOES: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Holden

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP

Recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent: It is recommended that the City Council and Board of Education prioritize the partnership opportunities listed below and refer them to the City/PUSD Staff Committee for further review and recommendation. The opportunities are:

- Career Internship Program
- Truancy Program
- Security Rangers
- Grounds and Fields Maintenance
- Joint Permitting Software
- Joint Recycling Program
- Joint Facilities Use

The City Manager reviewed the agenda report, emphasized that the commitment was for the Staff Committee to begin reporting out on the partnership opportunities as soon as the Council/Board had selected the first priorities that they wanted the Committee to review, and responded to questions.

Superintendent Diaz concurred with the City Manager in the use of the City/PUSD Staff Committee to analyze the proposed partnership opportunities. He clarified that District security and school security operate at the school sites.

Acting Police Chief Chris Vicino responded to questions regarding proposed changes in the security rangers program and consolidation of the mission and purpose of the rangers.

Member Phelps discussed the Infrastructure Academy (an after-school program in which he teaches); distributed an informational pamphlet on the program; and suggested the Academy be used as a model for youth workforce development.

Member Honowitz suggested looking at the Glendale Unified School District career/apprenticeship programs with various partners as a model for career development, and exploring a possible partnership with the City's Workforce Investment Board regarding career development. He also suggested the District update Council on the District's facilities master plan process.

Member Phelps was excused at 7:41 p.m.

Councilmember Holden arrived at 7:44 p.m.

Councilmember Tyler suggested the Committee reports to the Council and Board contain information on the scope and quality of the proposed services, what the change in direct costs on an annualized basis will be for the City and for the District, and changes that might occur to full-time personnel.

Discussion followed on prioritization of the seven areas for partnership opportunities listed in the recommendation; criteria for the prioritization process (e.g., ability to implement before the next school year, initial focus on short term vs. long term goals, and impacts on the priorities related to implementation of various planned District projects); emphasis on the safety issues area; proposed changes in the security rangers program; and linkage of truancy with dropout prevention and safety issues.

The City Manager noted that, based on the Council and Board discussion, there seemed to be a consensus in placing the truancy, security rangers, and career internship programs at the top of the list of priorities, and that interest was also shown in grounds and fields maintenance and joint facilities use programs; and that these areas of interest would be referred to the Staff Committee for review and recommendations. He indicated that the truancy and career internship programs might lend themselves to fairly rapid implementation with minimal cost issues, and that the security rangers program would probably require more detailed discussion as to implementation.

Superintendent Diaz concurred with the concept that the truancy and career internship programs could be developed and implemented relatively quickly; and commented on the need to integrate the grounds and field maintenance program into the development of the District's facilities master plan, with a City staff representative to be involved in this process.

Mary Dee Romney, Pasadena resident, discussed the need for a reporting process on the scope and quality of services being implemented and for an equitable distribution of services to all schools; commented on alleged problems with the quality of work that was done on the Muir High School tennis courts (resurfaced rather than new courts, with no landscaping); and suggested using the tennis courts project at McKinley School as a quality standard for all school sites.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Robinson, seconded by Vice Mayor Haderlein, to approve the City Manager's/Superintendent's recommendation, with the top priorities to be the Security Rangers Program, Truancy Program, and Career Internship Program, as stated above by the City Manager.

AYES: Councilmembers Gordo, Holden, Madison, McAustin, Robinson, Tyler, Vice Mayor Haderlein, Mayor Bogaard

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

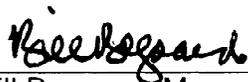
CLOSING STATEMENTS

The Mayor commented on the establishment of the City/PUSD Staff Committee, which will allow collaborative efforts between the City and PUSD to move forward in a timely, effective, and efficient manner, and will allow transparency and accountability in these efforts.

President Selinske expressed appreciation for everyone's time and participation in these efforts.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the special joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Board of Education adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Bill Bogaard, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:



Jane L. Rodriguez
City Clerk