

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
November 18, 2008 – 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 6:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by boy scouts from Troop 4 of Pasadena.

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers:

Mayor Bill Bogaard
Vice Mayor Steve Haderlein (Arrived at 6:45 p.m.)
Councilmember Victor Gordo
Councilmember Chris Holden
Councilmember Steve Madison (Arrived at 6:47 p.m.)
Councilmember Margaret McAustin
Councilmember Jacque Robinson (Absent)
Councilmember Sidney F. Tyler

Staff:

City Manager Michael J. Beck
City Attorney Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

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

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Bogaard and President Selinske welcomed the public to the joint meeting and thanked staff members for their assistance in preparations for the meeting.

UPDATE ON JOINT CITY/SCHOOL STAFF TEAM

Stephanie DeWolfe, Acting Assistant City Manager, reported that the Joint City/School Staff Team had completed work on the level one priorities (Truancy Program, Security Rangers, and Career Internship Program) that had been approved by the Council and Board at their joint meeting of May 12, 2008; and noted that specific reports on these three issues would be presented during this meeting. She reported that the Team

had completed work on a City/PUSD joint communication plan that would also be presented to the Council and Board.

By consensus, the information was received.

CITY/PUSD COMMUNICATION PLAN

Recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent of Schools: This report is presented for information only.

Lisa Fowler, Special Assistant to the City Manager, reviewed the agenda report.

Binti Harvey, PUSD Director of Communications, provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the joint website content of various collaborative City/PUSD initiatives, and responded to questions.

Vice Mayor Haderlein arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Councilmember Madison arrived at 6:47 p.m.

Member Babcock suggested that information on the facilities permit process be placed on the website.

By consensus, the report was received and filed.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF JOINT TRUANCY PROJECT (LEVEL ONE PRIORITY)

Recommendation of City Attorney/City Prosecutor/Superintendent of Schools: This report is being provided for information only.

The City Attorney introduced the agenda item.

Connie Orozco, Chief Prosecutor, reviewed the agenda report, highlighted the roles of the City and PUSD in the pilot truancy programs, and responded to questions.

John Zamora, PUSD Director of Child Welfare, Attendance and Safety, discussed the District's recordkeeping process for attendance and tardiness, current District truancy and tardiness policies, implementation of the pilot truancy programs, and use of the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) process; and responded to questions.

Superintendent Diaz commented on the District's emphasis on taking attendance and tracking tardiness at all schools, noted that this process was monitored to ensure that policies are being followed, clarified the role of the site administrator in the reporting process, and responded to questions.

The following persons commented on truancy issues and/or offered suggestions for addressing truancy issues:

Nicole Bernard, PUSD high school student, working with the Flintridge Foundation
Kim Kenne, Pasadena resident

Member Phelps asked District staff to ensure that new teachers are informed about the District's policies on truancy and tardiness.

Discussion followed on expansion of the pilot truancy programs and related costs, and evaluation of the pilot programs.

By consensus, the report was received and filed.

REPORT ON PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SECURITY OFFICERS (LEVEL ONE PRIORITY)

Recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent of Schools: This report is being provided for information only.

John Zamora, PUSD Director of Child Welfare, Attendance and Safety, reviewed the agenda report and responded to questions.

Member Lizardo encouraged the District and City to move forward with the security ranger program that had been discussed at the May 2008 joint meeting of the District and City, in conjunction with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and City.

Deputy Police Chief Chris Vicino indicated that discussion of the security ranger program and consolidation of all District security staff under a single authority (City) was continuing, with further study of financing and personnel issues to occur; and responded to questions.

By consensus, the report was received and filed.

UPDATE ON CITY-PUSD CAREER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP (LEVEL ONE PRIORITY)

Recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent of Schools: This report is for information only.

Patsy Lane, Director of Human Services and Recreation Department, reviewed the agenda report, and responded to questions regarding the City's summer Rose program.

Councilmember Gordo suggested the City explore ways of introducing students to a civil service career.

Superintendent Diaz described a grant received by the District from the Irvine Foundation to be used for strategic planning in an initiative that will incorporate more career and technical programs into the instructional experience at the secondary level, and thanked the City for their collaboration on the career internship programs.

Discussion followed on various ways to link students with career paths and opportunities for employment with the City,

and the need to introduce career and technical training opportunities to both middle school and secondary students.

By consensus, the report was received and filed.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN CITY OF PASADENA AND PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR MY MASTERPIECES DISTRICT-WIDE ARTS CURRICULUM
Recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent of Schools: This report is for information only.

Rochelle Branch, Cultural Affairs Manager, reviewed the agenda report.

Marshall Ayers, PUSD Arts Coordinator, highlighted the My Masterpieces collaborative program and various contributors to the program, and distributed informational brochures on components of the My Masterpieces program.

In response to Councilmember Holden's questions, the City Manager indicated that the My Masterpieces program might be eligible for Community Development Block Grant funds if it meets the criteria in the public service area.

By consensus, the report was received and filed.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTNERSHIP: ASSIGNMENT OF LEVEL TWO PRIORITIES

Recommendation of City Manager/Superintendent of Schools: It is recommended that the City Council and Board of Education refer the level two priorities to the Joint City/PUSD Staff Committee for further review and recommendation. The level two opportunities for partnership are:

- Grounds and Fields Maintenance
- Joint Facilities Use

Stephanie DeWolfe, Acting Assistant City Manager, summarized the agenda report.

Councilmember Gordo asked staff to research a past relationship (in the 1970's) between the City and District, in which the City operated the District's facilities during non-school hours and the summer months when school was not in session, with staff to report on the scope and terms of the relationship and possible application of this type of relationship as another partnership opportunity.

The following persons expressed concerns regarding use of the facilities/fields at Marshall Fundamental Secondary School and/or opposition to a joint use agreement at this site:

Augustin Zuniga, Pasadena resident, submitted a letter stating his concerns and suggestions for rules and regulations to address these concerns.

Councilmember Madison was excused at 8:17 p.m.

Vice Mayor Haderlein was excused at 8:20 p.m.

John Lihani, East Mountain Neighborhood Watch Secretary, speaking as an individual
Tim Norman, Pasadena resident
Bill Turner, Pasadena resident
Nehama Jacobs, Pasadena resident
Harlan Klipp, Pasadena resident
Tony Boschetti, Pasadena resident
Pamela Clark, Roxbury/Mountain Neighborhood Association representative
la Brown, Pasadena resident

The following person expressed support for posting minutes of the joint meetings (actions taken and public comment received):

Mary Dee Romney, Pasadena resident

The following person spoke in support of a joint use agreement at the Marshall Fundamental Secondary School:

Robert Friedland, FC Golden State Soccer representative

President Selinske clarified that referring the level two priorities to the Joint City/PUSD Staff Committee was only the beginning step in a process of reviewing and studying joint facilities use, and that the above recommendation was not specifically targeting any particular school.

Discussion followed on mitigation of noise problems caused by generators used to power field lights, the authority provided in the Education Code to regulate public schools and their activities vs. City regulations that might be applied to permitted use of District facilities, the ability to regulate club team activities vs. school activities, the need to make low impact use of outdoor school areas available to neighboring residents, permitted use of school fields by outside/private sports clubs, criteria for developing a joint facilities use park at a school, the need for a system to address complaints regarding events/activities held on District fields, the need to include the community/stakeholders in the planning process for joint facilities use, and the level of disconnect between the District and community on joint facilities use issues.

Councilmember Gordo indicated that his intent in formalizing a joint facilities use relationship was to better coordinate the use of District facilities so that facilities are used in a more responsible way, impacts are managed to protect the quality of life for neighbors and users, and City and District use of the fields is given priority over private use of the fields. He asked the City Attorney to review the City's ability to regulate field usage/activities in light of the authority afforded under the Education Code.

Superintendent Diaz indicated that assessing the impacts to the community should be a part of the process in reviewing and determining possible joint facilities use at any school site; suggested the District review its Civic Center permit process on a site by site basis, together with the City and community, to determine if changes are needed in applying standards and regulations to the permit; and responded to questions.

Member Lizardo emphasized that a joint facilities use park was meant to provide low impact, non-noise generating, passive use of a facility and to provide a usable play space for those persons living around the schools; asked District staff to provide information on permits issued to private clubs/organizations for use of school fields; and commented on the need for the District to address the community's concerns/issues regarding existing uses at the schools.

Councilmember McAustin stressed the need for an analysis of existing conditions at each school site in order to address the concerns of the community in moving forward with the joint facilities use program; and suggested the Joint City/PUSD Staff Committee use Marshall Fundamental Secondary School as a case study to analyze existing conditions/problems (e.g., number of events, who is benefiting from use of the facilities, impacts on streets/parking, permitted use of amplified sound and lights, and criteria used in granting a permit). She commented on the need for improved notification to neighbors regarding school events and permitted activities at the school site, improved communication between the District and neighbors regarding field use planning and implementation; and development of a centralized system/process to address complaints as they occur.

Member Honowitz suggested that District and City staffs explore co-location of operations for PUSD/City in a new or existing office space building to be located on District property as a joint use project; suggested District staff look at school sites to determine if there are mitigation steps that could be quickly implemented to address the concerns of neighbors adjacent to the schools involving noise, lights, and litter; and asked District staff to explore providing access to the newly-renovated tennis courts for neighbors of the Woodrow Wilson Middle School site.

By consensus, the City Manager's/Superintendent of Schools' recommendations were approved.

CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET IMPACTS – MID YEAR CUTS FOR PUSD

Superintendent Diaz reported on financial impacts of the State budget deficit on the local education system and steps being studied to address the District's reduction in funding, outlined

the District's schedule for discussions of mid-year budget cuts that must be made, and responded to questions.

The following persons spoke in support of continued funding of the JROTC program in the District:

R. Scott Martin, Pasadena resident
Michael Englander, Pasadena resident
Yolanda Leyva, Pasadena resident
Frances Nicholson, Blair International Baccalaureate School teacher, speaking as an individual
Bob Monk, Pasadena resident
Judy Boehr, Volunteer Coordinator at Blair International Baccalaureate School, speaking as an individual, submitted a letter stating her support dated November 18, 2008.
Cynthia Fairfax, Pasadena resident
Jacquelyne Santos-Cruz, Muir High School student and JROTC member
John F. Watkins, Pasadena Council of the U.S. Navy League representative, submitted a letter stating his support dated November 18, 2008.
Alan Stelzer, Pasadena Council of the U.S. Navy League representative
Bryan Rivas, Blair International Baccalaureate School student and JROTC member
Tami Tucker-Thomas, Altadena resident

Member Lizardo was excused at 9:41 p.m.

Member Honowitz discussed the District's decision to cut the JROTC program in the next budget and the District's funding contribution for the program.

Member Phelps asked District staff to provide the Board with the budget costs (encroachment) for the JROTC program.

Councilmember Gordo suggested the Mayor contact Congressman Adam Schiff for assistance in addressing the Federal issues linked to funding the JROTC program.

Member Cooper suggested the community members direct their advocacy efforts on behalf of funding the JROTC program towards members of the State legislature.

UPDATE ON MEASURE TT AND FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

Steve Brinkman, PUSD Chief Finance and Operations Officer, thanked the community for their support of Measure TT; provided information on internet links to the District's completed Facilities Master Plan; distributed a handout titled, "Pasadena Unified School District Facilities Master Plan"; reviewed information in the handout about the Measure TT election results, potential joint use opportunities, and ongoing

accountability and transparency measures that will be used to inform the public on how the bond funds are spent; and responded to questions.

Superintendent Diaz discussed components of the construction process and responded to questions.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of the District hiring a professional project manager to provide oversight for the construction projects funded by the bonds, timing of the construction projects, and use of local firms/companies in the construction process.

Councilmember McAustin encouraged the District to use a professional project manager during this process.

Member Honowitz suggested information on the collaboration between the District and Pasadena Water and Power Department regarding an energy-saving assessment be placed on the City/PUSD joint website.

CLOSING COMMENTS

President Selinske and Mayor Bogaard commented on the growing collaborative relationship and improved communications between the City and District, as reflected in the work accomplished in the joint Council/District meetings and efforts of the Joint City/School Staff Team.

ADJOURNMENT

On order of the Mayor, the special joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Board of Education adjourned at 10:29 p.m.



Bill Bogaard, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:



City Clerk