

CITY OF PASADENA  
City Council Minutes  
February 15, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.  
City Hall Council Chamber

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

**OPENING:** Mayor Bogaard and President Harrison called the special joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education to order at 6:38 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Harrison.

**ROLL CALL:**

Councilmembers:

Mayor Bill Bogaard  
Vice Mayor Victor Gordo (Arrived at 6:44 p.m.)  
Councilmember Steve Haderlein (Absent)  
Councilmember Chris Holden (Arrived at 6:47 p.m.)  
Councilmember Steve Madison  
Councilmember Margaret McAustin  
Councilmember Jacque Robinson  
Councilmember Terry Tornek

Staff:

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

Board of Education:

President Bob Harrison  
Vice President Renatta Cooper (Arrived at 6:47 p.m.)  
Member Ed Honowitz  
Member Ramon Miramontes  
Member Scott Phelps (Absent)  
Member Elizabeth Pomeroy  
Member Tom Selinske

Staff:

Edwin Diaz, Superintendent of Schools

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Vice Mayor Gordo arrived at 6:44 p.m.

Vice President Cooper and Councilmember Holden arrived at 6:47 p.m.

The Mayor, on behalf of the City Council, congratulated Superintendent Edwin Diaz on being named Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators.

President Harrison recognized the Blair Culinary Arts Program students in attendance (Chelsea Lynch, Alex Avaranca, Dustin Lundy, and Alexandria Garcia), who had prepared and served dinner to the City Council and Board of Education prior to this joint meeting, under the guidance of Dometha Wallace, Culinary Arts teacher.

## **JOINT CITY/PUSD 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND STAFF WORKPLAN FOR 2011**

As part of a PowerPoint presentation, Alice Petrossian, Chief Academic Officer, highlighted the 2010 accomplishments that had been the focus of joint City/PUSD efforts in the past year, and elements of the proposed staff workplan for 2011; and responded to questions.

Steve Mermell, Assistant City Manager, clarified that the City/PUSD staffs have been holding ongoing discussions regarding possible use of surplus District property.

Superintendent Diaz noted that joint City/PUSD discussions on specific areas of public service (e.g., student internships in the Fire, Police, and Water and Power Departments) were part of a collaborative effort to offer a multiple pathways approach to college and careers for District students.

On order of the Mayor, the information was received.

### **APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM NUMBER 2 TO THE JOINT USE FACILITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PASADENA AND THE PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM AND USE OF SURROUNDING OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL AREAS AND SPORTS FIELDS**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council and Board of Education:

- (1) Authorize the City Manager and Superintendent of Schools to execute Addendum No. 2 to the Joint Use Facilities Agreement, for construction and use of Washington Middle School Gymnasium (the terms of which are set forth in Attachment A in substantial final form) and use of surrounding outdoor recreational areas and sports fields, provided the following conditions are met:
  - a. The project has been approved pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
  - b. The City has successfully obtained the required conditional use permit.
- (2) It is recommended that the City Council:
  - a. Appropriate \$1,250,000 from the approximately \$5.6 million which is designated in fund balance in the General Fund for capital-related projects; and
  - b. Find that the proposed action is not subject to environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because the project replaces an existing structure.

**(Agreement Amendment No. 13,991-6)**

Lisa Fowler, Special Assistant to the City Manager, reviewed the agenda report as part of a PowerPoint presentation, and responded to questions.

Superintendent Diaz, the City Manager, David Azcarraga, PUSD Chief of Facilities, and Steve Mermell, Assistant City Manager, responded to questions regarding the proposed gymnasium project (joint funding and use/programming). Superintendent Diaz clarified that the agenda report applies to the proposed facility and outdoor areas of the school site.

Vice Mayor Gordo stressed the need to require a conditional use permit process for all non-educational activities, especially as this pertains to third-party use of the facility.

Member Miramontes asked that the District's legal counsel ensure that a broad definition of "educational" be used in the agreement terms, as expected by PUSD's parents/primary clients.

Member Honowitz suggested that the City and PUSD work to ensure that their separate policies related to specific funding and operational issues are in alignment, as joint use situations are identified.

Councilmember McAustin expressed concerns regarding third-party events scheduled by the District that could take priority over City events.

The following persons spoke in support of the proposed facility and/or expressed concerns regarding facility usage issues:

Sole Teramae, Pasadena resident  
Mary Sullivan, Victory Rose Neighborhood Association  
representative

It was moved by Member Honowitz, seconded by Member Selinske, to approve the staff recommendation. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Member Phelps)

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Robinson, seconded by Councilmember Tornek, to approve the staff recommendation, with the caveat that staff will work with the District to address the issues raised regarding third-party use of the facility. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Councilmember Haderlein)

Councilmember Robinson offered to use a District 1 meeting to give staff an opportunity to provide the neighborhood with information and answer their questions about the proposed project.

**APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM NUMBER 3 TO THE JOINT USE FACILITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PASADENA AND THE PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR JOINT USE OF LINDA VISTA SCHOOL**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council and Board of Education:

- (1) Find that the proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, existing facilities; and
- (2) Authorize the City Manager and Superintendent of Schools to execute Addendum No. 3 to the Joint Use Facilities Agreement, for joint use of Linda Vista School, the terms of which are set forth in Attachment A of the agenda report in substantially final form. (Agreement No. 13,997-7)

Steve Mermell, Assistant City Manager, reviewed the agenda report as part of a PowerPoint presentation, and responded to questions.

Councilmember Madison thanked PUSD for their work with the City in opening the Linda Vista School site for use as a community park and pre-school.

Betsy Nathane, Friends of Linda Vista Park representative, expressed support for the longer term of joint use for the park area at the school site.

Mary Sullivan, Victory Rose Neighborhood Association representative, expressed concerns regarding the need for continued financing of the park.

It was moved by Member Selinske, seconded by Member Pomeroy, to approve the staff recommendation. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Member Phelps)

It was moved by Councilmember Madison, seconded by Councilmember McAustin, to approve the staff recommendation. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Councilmember Haderlein)

**APPROVAL OF COST SHARING STRATEGY, TIMELINE, AND PROCESS FOR PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CHARTER AMENDMENT AND SUB-GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICTING**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the City Council and Board of Education:

- (1) Constitute a nine (9) member Task Force with the dual charge of (Phase I) consideration of a Charter Amendment regarding the method of election for the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education enabling a change to geographic sub-district elections, and (Phase II) developing a districting plan for each seat of the Board of Education. The

composition of the proposed dual role Task Force is recommended, as follows:

- a. Three (3) members appointed by Pasadena City Council
- b. Three (3) members appointed by PUSD Board of Education
- c. Two (2) members appointed by Supervisor Antonovich
- d. One (1) member appointed by Sierra Madre City Council.

(2) Confirm that the Pasadena Unified School District will be the lead agency in both Phase I and Phase II of the effort, with the City of Pasadena to provide support as determined and as needed.

(3) Approve a cost sharing strategy, as follows:

- a. Phase I: It is recommended that the costs associated with the Charter Amendment Task Force be shared equally between the City of Pasadena and PUSD, with requests for financial support submitted to Los Angeles County and the City of Sierra Madre.
- b. Phase II: It is recommended that costs for the development of the districting plan for the Board of Education be solely the expense of PUSD; the City and School District shall, whenever possible, utilize common districting services (e.g., use of a shared consultant and/or demographer for separate City Council Redistricting and PUSD Districting processes).
- c. Special Election: Consistent with Charter Section 712, the Charter Amendment ballot question and the election-related expenses anticipated for a June 5, 2012 special election shall be solely the expense of PUSD.

John Pappalardo, PUSD Chief Finance Officer, reviewed the agenda report as part of a PowerPoint presentation, and responded to questions.

The City Clerk clarified the cost savings for PUSD with the change to a districting election method, and responded to questions regarding the Task Force process and timeline.

Member Honowitz suggested that the Task Force also explore use of alternative methods of voting (e.g., instant runoff or plurality) during the Phase I process.

Jon Fuhrman, Pasadena resident, spoke in support of the joint Task Force and exploring instant runoff voting as a part of this discussion.

Mike Costello, Pasadena resident, expressed concerns regarding the possible disenfranchisement of District voters that could result from a district election method as this applies to voters who live in one geographic sub-district and have

children in schools in other geographic sub-districts; and suggested that instant runoff voting be used instead, to decrease PUSD's election costs.

Councilmember Tornek cautioned against diluting the Task Force/community discussion on sub-districting by adding more complex issues of alternative voting methods to the discussion.

Elisa Weaver, City of Sierra Madre Director of Community and Personnel Services, stated that the City of Sierra Madre will be considering this matter at its Council meeting of March 8, 2011, that the City of Sierra Madre has not as yet taken a position on the matter, and that she will be reporting on the City of Pasadena's/PUSD's actions at that time.

Superintendent Diaz indicated that preliminary conversations have been held with Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich and the City of Sierra Madre, with no formal positions taken on the matter at this time.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Honowitz, seconded by Member Cooper, to approve the staff recommendation, as amended to include the Task Force's review of plurality voting and instant runoff voting. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Member Phelps)

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Tornek, seconded by Councilmember Robinson, to approve the staff recommendation, as amended to include the Task Force's review of plurality voting and instant runoff voting. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Councilmember Haderlein)

#### **APPROVAL CONSIDERATION FOR A WORKING GROUP TO EXPLORE ONGOING REVENUE GENERATING OPTIONS**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that consideration be given to directing staff to form a working group to explore pursuing ongoing revenue generating options for the Pasadena Unified School District. The working group would include the City of Sierra Madre and Altadena. The working group would be expected to collaboratively identify and research various funding possibilities for an ongoing revenue source for the Pasadena Unified School District. The working group findings should be communicated to the Pasadena City Council and the Governing Board of Pasadena Unified School District by the end of May 2011.

John Pappalardo, PUSD Chief Finance Officer, reviewed the agenda report, and responded to questions.

Superintendent Diaz provided additional information on program funding, discussed the need for community outreach in providing information gathered by the working group and obtaining the public's perspective, and responded to questions.

The following persons spoke in support of formation of a working group to identify ongoing revenue sources for PUSD educational needs:

George Brumder, Pasadena Educational Foundation Board President

Bill Creim, Pasadena resident, suggested adding a guiding principle to the City's General Plan that would include support of education, and the formation of a permanent joint committee of Board of Education and Council members.

Angela Uriu, Altadena resident

Dawn O'Keeffe, Pasadena resident

The City Attorney confirmed that the proposed working group will be a staff-created body that will not be subject to the Brown Act.

Member Miramontes stressed that the working group be as transparent as possible in notifying the public of meetings being held and providing information to the community.

Member Honowitz suggested that the ideas of community schools and the formation of a permanent joint standing committee that looks at joint ventures should be part of the overall discussions. He also suggested that the cities of Redwood City and Portland and various organizations (National League of Cities, California School Boards Association, and Coalition for Community Schools) be contacted regarding best practices for these types of joint planning strategies.

The City Manager responded to questions regarding the creation and operation of the working group.

Councilmember Holden suggested that the working group's findings be presented to all of the stakeholders (City of Sierra Madre and the County Supervisor/Altadena).

Councilmember Madison suggested that a joint meeting of the City Council and PUSD be scheduled to receive and consider the working group's findings when they are completed.

Following discussion, it was moved by Member Selinske, seconded by Member Pomeroy, to approve the staff recommendation, with the understanding that there will be significant community outreach during certain phases of this

process, and with the working group to return with recommendations for a structure for continuing discussions into the future. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Member Phelps)

Following discussion, it was moved by Councilmember Madison, seconded by Vice Mayor Gordo, to approve the staff recommendation, with the working group's report to include recommendations for a structure for continuing discussions into the future. (Motion unanimously carried) (Absent: Councilmember Haderlein)

**CLOSING COMMENTS**


President Harrison and the Mayor thanked the City Council, Board of Education, and community members for their productive discussions, input, and actions in these joint meetings.

Councilmember McAustin thanked President Harrison for his past service, as he leaves the Board at the end of his term.


Councilmember Holden saluted the Board of Education for its dedication to the education of the District's students in these challenging times.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On order of the Mayor and President, the special joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Board of Education adjourned at 10:27 p.m., in memory of Brandon Jackson, a John Muir High School junior student and athlete, who was killed this past weekend.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Bogaard, Mayor  
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk