

CITY OF PASADENA
City Council Minutes
February 16, 2017 – 5:30 P.M.
City Hall Council Chamber

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

OPENING:

Mayor Tornek and Vice President Boulghourjian called the Special Joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) Board of Education to order at 6:31 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Boulghourjian. (Absent: Councilmembers Gordo, Hampton, President Kenne)

ROLL CALL:

Councilmembers:

Mayor Terry Tornek
Vice Mayor Gene Masuda
Councilmember Victor Gordo
Councilmember Tyron Hampton
Councilmember John J. Kennedy
Councilmember Steve Madison
Councilmember Margaret McAustin
Councilmember Andy Wilson

Staff:

City Manager Steve Mermell
City Attorney/City Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris
City Clerk Mark Jomsky

Board of Education:

President Kimberly Kenne
Vice President Roy Boulghourjian
Member Patrick Cahalan
Member Adrienne Ann Mullen
Member Scott Phelps
Member Elizabeth Pomeroy
Member Larry Torres

Staff:

Dr. Brian McDonald, Superintendent of Schools
Shawn Bird, Chief Academic Officer

FUTURE OF PASADENA ELECTIONS: CALIFORNIA VOTER PARTICIPATION RIGHTS ACT (SB 415), CALIFORNIA VOTER'S CHOICE ACT (SB 450), AND THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S VOTING SYSTEM ASSESSMENT PROJECT (VSAP)

Recommendation: This is presented for information only; no action is required at this time.

Councilmember Gordo arrived at 6:39 p.m.

Mark Jomsky, City Clerk, introduced the item, summarized the staff report, and responded to questions.

Aaron Nevarez, Division Manager of the Governmental and Legislative Affairs Division of the Los Angeles County Registrar Office, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the future voting experience in Los Angeles County, including information regarding Senate Bill 415, Senate Bill 450, and the Los Angeles County's Voting System Assessment project; and responded to questions.

Councilmember Hampton arrived at 6:51 p.m.

Councilmember Madison stated his concerns with the City and School District election dates potential moving to the statewide election cycle, which may have a number of negative impacts (i.e. partisanship, inability of local candidates to compete with national and state campaigns, "down ballot" turnout rates, increased campaign costs).

President Kenne arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Councilmember Gordo stated if it is determined that the City and School District are subject to SB 415, staff will need to maintain input and influence in decisions related to the establishment of voting centers located in Pasadena, and suggested a working group, consisting of City Council and Board of Education members, partnering cities, and staff.

Councilmember Kennedy and Vice Mayor Masuda suggested that any implemented changes to statewide election dates include robust outreach and voter education programs.

Member Phelps spoke favorably regarding the County's new demonstrated voting system, and also expressed his interest in examining alternative voting models, such as plurality voting or instant-runoff voting, should the City and School District be subject to SB 415.

In response to concerns regarding the yet to be determined applicability of SB 415 and the potential related impacts, the City Clerk stated he will continue to work with the City Attorney's Office to acquire a legal determination from the State Attorney General's Office.

Following discussion, on order of the President and Mayor, the information was received and filed.

COMMENTS

The Mayor reported that the 35th Annual Black History Month Parade scheduled for February 18, 2017 has now been cancelled due to weather-related/public safety concerns; the

Robinson Park Recreation Center Groundbreaking Celebration will commence at 1:00 p.m., rain or shine.

YOUTH MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Tony Santilena, Chair of the Human Services Commission, introduced the item, and Christy Zamani, Executive Director of Day One, provided a PowerPoint presentation overview on the updated Youth Master Plan, and responded to questions.

A number of Pasadena students spoke on the six priority areas (Access to Healthy Food Environments, Life Ready, Feeling Free to be Me, United Youth Support, Buses & Bikes, and Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco) detailed in the Youth Master Plan, and requested that the City Council and Board of Education receive the Youth Master Plan and the 2016 Progress report.

The following individuals submitted comment cards in support of the Youth Master Plan:

Elijah Carlos Aguilar, Pasadena resident
Kelly Acevedo, residence not stated
Melissa Perez, Pasadena resident
Lauren Sugiyama, Pasadena Youth Council
Joanna Escobar, Day One
Geovany Lucero, Pasadena resident
Lorenzo Cervantes, Day One
Fernando Navarrete, Day One
Gabriella Villegas, Day One
Mary Valbaneda, Pasadena resident
Natalie Lopez, Pasadena resident
Janet Ramirez, Pasadena resident
Joshua Santos, Pasadena resident
Antonio Castillo, Pasadena resident
Monica Mercado, Pasadena resident
Eric V. Johnson, Lake Avenue Community Foundation
Charisma J. Marines, Day One
Rigoberto Molina, Day One
Jacqueline Aguirre, Day One
Peaches Forte-Woods, Day One
Ashley Veronica Mercado, Pasadena resident
Christopher Silva, Day One

Dominick Correy, Field Rep. for State Senator Portantino, read a letter from Sen. Portantino expressing support for the Youth Master Plan and the 2016 Progress report and also voiced his support.

Councilmember Gordo spoke on Priority Area 2: Life Ready, Strategy 3, Create More Arts Opportunities for Youth, which appeared to be lacking in non-profit participation; and requested that Ms. Zamani provide information on the proposed program's funding stream, any existing programs occurring, and identify any gaps in service. In addition, Mr. Gordo asked staff to revisit the Pasadena Transit system in the City to ensure that the routes and hours of operation meet the needs of the public, and provide a report to the Economic Development and Technology Committee.

Councilmember Hampton expressed concerns with the unhealthy items offered by street vendors selling goods on City property (i.e. City parks, within the Arroyo) and suggested that City staff review rules, regulations, and policies to ensure healthier options are available for purchase; and asked Day One representatives to provide information on how they believe the City can better advertise to youths and parents on the various programs offered by the City.

Councilmember Wilson suggested that Day One work with the Transportation Department and utilize recommended safe routes to schools in their planning process as part of Priority Area 5: Buses & Bikes strategies; and spoke in favor of outreaching and engaging all students from public and private schools regarding various City programs

Member Pomeroy stated the need for PUSD to implement and prioritize the items that the youth in the City have identified as priority areas.

Member Mullen offered her assistance to bridge the gap between Day One, and AB 288: Dual Enrollment, with regard to Community Colleges, due to the importance of creating accessible pathways to college.

Member Torres suggested that the Youth Plan incorporate technology, for example the creation of a specialized transit app that can provide bus schedules to all Pasadena students.

The City Council and PUSD Board thanked Day One staff and all the students involved with the Youth Master Plan for their hard work and contribution.

Following discussion, on order of the President and Mayor, the information was received and filed.

Member Mullen was excused and left the dais at 8:19 p.m.

REPORT ON THE OFFICE OF THE YOUNG CHILD

Lila Guirguis, Early Childhood Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 5-Year Master Plan for the Office of the Young Child, and responded to questions.

The following individuals provided comments, recommendations, and/or spoke in favor on the item:

Vera Vignes, Office of the Young Child
Dr. Marie Paulsen, Office of the Young Child
Daniel Savedes, Office of the Young Child
Patricia Herrera, Office of the Young Child
Tara Enriquez, Office of the Young Child
Peggy Sisson, Office of the Young Child

Councilmember Kennedy suggested that Ms. Guirguis meet with the Flintridge Center and representatives of the Pacific Oaks Children's School in order to better coordinate Early Childhood programs.

Councilmember Hampton asked the Office of the Young Child to work with the Mothers' Club to identify and make publically available a list of existing childcare services that might be utilized by PUSD parents.

Member Cahalan suggested Ms. Guirguis connect with PUSD's Foster Youth Advisory Council whose goal is to assist in the academic success of foster students in the district, and who could provide assistance in providing transitional kindergarten care for foster students.

The City Council and PUSD Board thanked Lila Guirguis and all of the speakers representing Office of the Young Child for their diligent work on the report.

Following discussion, on order of the President and Mayor, the information was received and filed.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR COLLABORATE PASADENA

Recommendation: This report is for information only; no City Council action is required.

Lisa Cavelier, Director of Collaborate Pasadena, Mary Donnelly-Crocker, Executive Director of Young & Healthy, Laura Zachar, Executive Director of Reading Partners, and Gloria Sanyika, Altadena Town Council Member, reported on

the collaboration efforts of their various organizations work groups and accomplishments, and responded to questions.

Councilmember Hampton suggested that Collaborate Pasadena partner with Pasadena public libraries to provide summer reading programs to assist students in their preparation for the fall school year; and asked the PUSD to provide text books to local libraries to facilitate tutoring of the students.

Following discussion, on order of the President and Mayor, the information was received and filed.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Councilmember Madison expressed gratitude to PUSD's pledge to protect undocumented students, its recent actions to support San Rafael School and Linda Vista Park, which provides continuity and connection to West Pasadena residents and the City, and spoke highly of the quality of the PUSD Board Members currently serving.

ADJOURNMENT

On the order of the President and Mayor, the special joint meeting of the City Council and Pasadena Board of Education adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Terry Tornek, Mayor
City of Pasadena

ATTEST:

City Clerk