

PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

DATE: January 11, 1999

JOINTLY TO: Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education &  
Pasadena City Council

FROM: Vera J. Vignes, Superintendent of Schools  
Cynthia J. Kurtz, City Manager

SUBJECT: PASADENA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PRIORITIES 1998-99

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**RECOMMENDATION**

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

- 1) Review the 1998-99 District goals and priorities, the learning plans, and the activities which support these goals.
- 2) Identify areas in which the City can support the priorities, especially those relating to student learning, before and after school student activities, and technology infra-structure; and,
- 3) Reach agreement on specific areas to be explored and/or developed immediately.

**BACKGROUND**

Over the last five years the Pasadena Unified School Board has focused on specific goals, the purposes of which are to improve student performance, foster safe school environments for all students, and support the staff through a well developed professional development program.

The District priorities are clearly defined and include the following:

- 1) Literacy - Every student will read, write, and communicate at grade level or above beginning in the primary years.
- 2) Math - All students will be algebra ready by the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and at a minimum will complete and pass algebra and geometry by graduation.
- 3) Standards - Content and performance standards which define what students should know and be able to do have been adopted and are being implemented with on-going professional development for staff in teaching to the standards and in fostering student performance to the level of the standards or above.
- 4) Public Engagement - In partnership with the Pasadena Educational Foundation (PEF) and Community Alliance for Public Education (CAPE), the District is developing an on-going plan and set of activities to achieve the active involvement of parents in their children's learning and to engage the broader communities, business sectors, service groups, and social agencies to support the drive for exemplary student performance.
- 5) Technology Plan - A full technology plan for the District has been developed by a group of staff, parents and community members. The immediate targets are the following:
  - a) Every teacher will have a network computer and printer.
  - b) Every classroom will be wired for network and Internet access.

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- c) At the elementary level there will be one computer for every four students. At the secondary level there will be one computer for every two students.
- 6) Accountability – While a full accountability plan will be developed within the next three months, the following are current District requirements:
- a) Every principal and teacher will be held accountable for student results.
  - b) Specific targets for improvement on the Stanford 9 test results have been established for each school. Targets reduce the number of students in the lower quartiles and increase those scoring on the upper quartiles.
  - c) District and site expenditures through grants and the District funds must be aligned with the goals of literacy and math to improve student results.
  - d) A Board policy has been developed which: 1) addresses the social promotion issue by identifying students who are not reaching standards; and 2) requires the development of intervention programs to assist the students.

Attached as further information are the following:

- Attachment 1 – The 1998-99 District Goals adopted by the Board of Education on May 26, 1998.
- Attachment 2 – A paper which defines briefly the learning priorities of the District.
- Susanna Miele, Chair of the Communitywide Partnership For School Age Children and President of the Board of the Pasadena City College, will briefly address the Council and the Board regarding the Partnership.

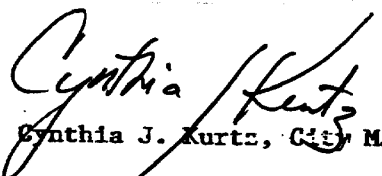
**ISSUES**

Given the priorities of the District and the focus on improving student achievement and student results, it is suggested that the Members of the City Council and the Members of the Board of Education explore specific ways in which the City can become a full partner in supporting the work of the District to improve student achievement. Issues to consider are:

- 1) Support for the learning areas such as has been achieved through the creation of the Travel and Tourism Academy due to City support. (Report attached)
- 2) Before and After School student activities including tutorial programs and school-based learning centers.
- 3) Technology infra-structure such as the ability for school sites to utilize the City's fiber backbone.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Vera J. Vignes, Superintendent of Schools

  
Cynthia J. Kurtz, City Manager

Attachments