



City/School Liaison Committee Minutes



City/School Liaison Committee Meeting Wednesday, March 19, 2008

8:15 AM to 9:30 AM
City of Palo Alto Civic Center
Council Conference Room
250 Hamilton Ave
Palo Alto

In Attendance:

City of Palo Alto

Pat Burt, Council Member, Chair of Committee
Larry Klein, Mayor
Kelly Morariu, Assistant to the City Manager
Wendy Hediger, Sustainability Team
Katie Whitley, Administrative Assistant

Palo Alto Unified School District

Camille Townsend, Board Member
Melissa Baten Caswell, Board Member
Cathy Mak, District Co-Chief Business Officer

Handouts: **All handouts can be viewed in the City Manager's office at 250 Hamilton Ave**

Meeting convened at 8:20am

- 1. Oral Communications:** None
- 2. Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2007**
Council Member Klein moved to approve; Board Member Baten Caswell seconded.
Minutes approved 4-0.
- 3. Continued Discussion of City Climate Protection Plan**
Council Member Burt asked what remains to be discussed about the climate protection plan.

Ms. Townsend said Bob Golton was not here to discuss what he has been working on in this area and asked if Ms. Mak could share any information. Ms. Mak said Bob has been working on forming green teams in the schools and working on some things in Sacramento.

Ms. Baten Caswell said Mr. Golton was in Sacramento getting information about putting solar panels on schools. The District would buy the panels from an investor at a discounted rate and in return the district would buy energy from the investor.

Council Member Burt asked the Committee if it should use the language “climate protection plan” or a broader term such as environmental sustainability.

Ms. Townsend asked what term the City Council uses. Council Member Burt replied environmental protection is the Council Priority. However the City has many other items under the umbrella such as the City’s climate protection plan, sustainability team, Community Environmental Action Partnership (CEAP) and the zero waste task force.

Council Member Klein said one thing that surprises him is looking at the baseline and how much energy is saved by items not put in the dump but recycled.

Council Member Burt said the focus now is on alternative energy generation and expert analysis shows the greatest opportunities at reducing CO2 emissions has to do with energy efficiency over alternative generation methods.

Ms. Baten Caswell said the District is looking at putting shades on the windows in the schools and even though it sounds low tech, it works.

Ms. Hediger said a lot is being done with lighting within the schools to conserve energy. The green team’s initial focus will be waste because of where the funding comes from but one thing they can do is help get lights and computers turned off and help with the awareness of conservation.

Council Member Burt said the buildings going up in the city are moving toward sound practices in energy conservation. However, since there are so many older buildings, retrofitting becomes the greatest opportunity. What needs to be looked at is where the greatest benefit can be made with the resources available.

Council Member Burt asked if there was any further discussion on joint efforts between the City and the District on climate change or environmental sustainability.

Ms. Baten Caswell said if the City was asking the community to reduce its carbon footprint by 5% by 2012, it needs to be clearly defined to the District what is being asked from them. She said having different ways to get there seemed the likely way to go.

Ms. Hediger said a great place for discussion is at the Community Environmental Action Partnership (CEAP) meetings. There are many different ways to reduce the carbon footprint by 5% but the City does not want to choose what works best for people. By coming to the CEAP meetings, and sharing what works and joining with others, it will spread.

Council Member Burt clarified what Ms. Baten Caswell was asking about the District getting direction from the City on how to reduce the carbon footprint by 5%. He said one question was whether there is alignment between the District and City in policy. Another question was whether there is alignment in targeted goals.

Ms. Baten Caswell said the District has not committed to reducing its carbon footprint by 5%. There has been no board discussion about it.

Council Member Burt said he thought it would be ideal to see if the District and the City have alignment on what it is that they are trying to achieve. With the City's efforts and citizen participation, the City can help the District achieve what gets adopted.

Ms. Townsend said the first and foremost goal is to educate the children and education about sustainability started with a group of volunteers. There is a policy for all staff to be trained so there is an institutional memory. The District needs to heighten the awareness and volunteers help them do that. She said she would like to have a discussion with Mr. Golton and the Sustainability Committee about alignments in policy. She suggested the City School Liaison Committee be the formal place to do a rough analysis and see the overlaps or gaps in policies.

Ms. Townsend said people in the know need to be brought back to the table to continue discussions on this topic. She suggested the District should bring a report back to the Committee like the City presented at its last meeting. She said she would ask Mr. Golton when he would be ready to present this to the Committee.

4. Update on School Bond Measure

Ms. Baten Caswell shared with the Committee that the District has approved placing Measure A for \$378,000,000 in infrastructure improvements on the June ballot. There were 3 main reasons for doing it:

- Building facilities worthy of the promise and talents of students and the community
- Adding facilities to address the needs of growing students (getting 300 new students per year)
- Setting an amount and structure for the bond such that it will not increase tax rates that PAUSD residents presently pay toward school bonds

Ms. Baten Caswell said it was important for the City and Community to be aware this bond would be put in place without raising the amount of taxes people are paying today.

Ms. Townsend said that in September of 2007, the community gave PAUSD the strongest rating they have ever had with an 82% excellent rating. It has gone up every year for the last 5 years.

Council Member Burt asked if the survey was given to the community as a whole and Ms. Townsend answered it was given to registered voters in PAUSD.

Ms. Baten Caswell spoke about the timeline and where PAUSD was right now. She said the Board already approved the resolution and there is a citizen committee called Strong Schools for Strong Community – Measure A.

Ms. Townsend said that the Chamber of Commerce Governmental Action Committee already voted to recommend support of the bond.

Ms. Baten Caswell said it is a Prop 39 bond and it needs 55% to pass. Because it is a Prop 39 bond, the projects need to be specifically identified.

Ms. Baten Caswell said some of the projects include new science classrooms, classroom wings at high school and middle schools, multi-purpose room enlargement, an aquatics facility at Gunn as well as some of the sustainability projects already talked about. \$22 million will be allocated for maintenance because the bonds will be over a 10 year period.

Ms. Morariu asked for clarification that Prop 39 bond funds can be used for maintenance costs. Ms. Baten Caswell said yes for scheduled replacements.

Ms. Baten Caswell said there is \$17.5 million in funding for technology for laptops, maintenance, and regular maintenance for the network.

Council Member Burt asked what the escalator for the cost of construction is. Ms. Mak answered it was built in but didn't have that information available.

Ms. Morariu asked if the City could get the numbers for the construction costs. Ms. Mak said yes.

Ms. Townsend asked when Mr. Golton should come back to do a presentation on the District's policies on environmental sustainability. Ms. Morariu said the April 23 meeting was scheduled for the update on joint library programs and a presentation on library facility needs. She said that the agenda made a very full meeting and suggested having Mr. Golton come at a later date.

Ms. Townsend asked who would be presenting about the libraries. Ms. Morariu said it would be the Library Director and the school/library liaison, Maya Spector. Ms. Townsend said she would see if Rachel Kellerman had any input.

Council Member Burt asked if Linda Lenoir was the point person for the emergency preparedness meeting and Ms. Morariu said it was Victoria Geen-Lew from the District.

Ms. Townsend said she would like to see a 3 or 4 page document that pulls together both the City and PAUSD policies on environmental sustainability.

Council Member Burt said there is some overlap by individuals on CEAP, the Green Ribbon Task Force, Sustainable Schools Committee and staff. He asked if, on a preliminary basis, people could begin a discussion of the City and PAUSD sharing goal setting.

Ms. Morariu said she would talk with Ms. Harrison and Nancy Nagel about what conversations have already taken place. This would probably come back as part of a future presentation by Mr. Golton.

Ms. Townsend said the point person on policies is Scott Lawrence and she would email him to discuss further.

5. Future Meetings and Agendas

Council Member Burt said the next meeting is April 23. Ms. Morariu said the update on library facility needs could also include “and school bond measure” so it can be talked about at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40am.