

City of Palo Alto

Date: January 27, 2010

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2010Opening

The City/School Committee held a meeting in the Council Conference Room at 250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

* All handouts can be viewed in the City Manager's Office 7th Floor 250 Hamilton Ave.

City of Palo Alto Representatives Present:

Greg Schmid, Chair of Committee, Council Member
Nancy Shepherd, Council Member
Steve Emslie, Deputy City Manager
Rob DeGeus, Recreation and Golf Director
Katie Whitley, Administrative Assistant

Palo Alto Unified School District Representatives Present:

Camille Townsend, Board Member
Dana Tom, Board Member
Bob Golton, CBO and Bond Manager
Cathy Mack, CBO
Carol Zepecki, Student Services Director

Oral Communications

There were no oral communications.

Approval of Minutes –
December 16, 2009

MOTION: Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2009 meeting. Chair Schmid seconded. Minutes were approved 4-0

Update on Student Mental
Health

Zepecki said she and DeGeus met at Gunn over the weekend because of the suicide on Friday to make sure the families had counseling as needed.

She informed the Committee that 14 staff attended a workshop where Rich Liberman from San Jose State and Steven Brock from Sacramento State, both psychologists were the instructors. She announced they thought Palo Alto was doing what they should be doing. She said the focus needs to be on supporting families and the most in need at the moment.

Townsend asked if minutes could be provided from that meeting. Zepeckie said once she received the electronic copy, she would forward them on. She then passed out copies of the Los Angeles Unified School District Student Mental Health Suicide Prevention Services General Guidelines for Teachers and Staff. She said the Task Force is identifying forms like that from Los Angeles, which are applicable to Palo Alto and will be creating a formal manual for staff.

Zepecki said February 11 is a staff development day for PAUSD and will be hosting two events. One will be in the morning from 8:30-10:00. It is a breakfast to gather all the volunteers in the mental health support field who have volunteered to work for the district to talk about how to assist in a structured way. There has been a system in place for the last 15 years that three sessions are provided per family at the cost of \$50 per session. She hopes the sessions can be expanded beyond the three by adding new volunteers to the list at perhaps a less expensive or free rate per session. The second event that day will be in the afternoon and it is the Questioning Probing Response (QPR) Training for teachers and PAUSD staff. There will be additional training in April and by fall she hopes all staff will be trained. The training is to recognize signs of depression and anxiety and to make appropriate referrals.

Shepherd asked if teachers would have anything coming off their plate with the training coming on.

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Townsend said teachers want to know what to do and the district is trying to make it part of staff development.

DeGeus said everyone was saddened by the suicide over the weekend and they remain resolved as a task force. He encouraged everyone to check out the website at www.cityofpaloalto.org/safetynet. He said the task force has 22 strategies that fall in three categories namely Education, Prevention and Intervention. One of the strategies is the reduction of lethal means which includes changing the appearance of the space that the suicides have occurred and adding security measures. He said staff was out at the tracks with Caltrain to examine the fences this week. If problems are identified, they will be fixed immediately. He said identifying teens that are suffering from mental health problems and getting them help remains our primary strategy. He said a guard is posted at the tracks on Meadow for the entire time the train is running.

DeGeus passed out an invitation for the upcoming youth forums. There will be 3 sessions each focusing on a different area.

Session 1 – Saturday, Feb. 6 – 2-4:30 pm, City Hall: Open to all high school students in Palo Alto, youth will engage in facilitated discussions organized around the 3 areas of concern. Social event with refreshments and entertainment will follow. **SESSION GOAL:** The process will lead students to identify key issues, ideas and proposals that emerge from their discussions, which will then serve as the foundation for discussion with the community's adult leadership in session 2 and 3.

Session 2 – Saturday, February 27th from 2 – 5 pm, Mitchell Park Community Center: Adult leadership from PAPD, PAUSD (schools and district admin, school board), City Council, media, Chamber of Commerce, City of Palo Alto, PTA Council, Non-profits, and others will meet with youth leaders for a presentation of the issues, ideas and proposals that emerged from Session 1. Facilitated conversation among students and adults will follow. **SESSION GOALS:** Authentic conversation among youth and adult leaders, along with exchange of ideas and viewpoints is made possible by the process; youth and adult leaders feel heard. Adults commit to investigate a set of potential actions and report progress back to youth in session 3.

Session 3 – Saturday, April 3rd from 2 – 5 pm, Mitchell Park Community Center: Adult and youth leaders meet to hear progress adult leadership has made on action items. **SESSION GOAL:** Irrespective of outcomes on the action steps under investigation, students experience that adult leaders care, are committed to listening and taking action to support Palo Alto youth. (Ideally, adult leaders will be able to implement some of the youth proposals)

Tom said there are a group of students that would like to gather at the site at Meadow and mourn. He said he knows this poses a problem for Caltrain in addition to the contagion issues. He asked how the students would get an explanation of why they cannot gather there.

De Geus said Kara and local non profit grief counseling services organization are represented on the Task Force and are available to support the students. Zepecki will make sure the students connect with a Kara representative,

Townsend said the faith community should be at the forefront of all of these discussions and asked if they were part of the Task Force. De Geus said it was a very large group and finding a way to plug them in in a meaningful way was challenging. Zepecki said they need to identify a spokesperson for the faith group and look at how to be more involved.

Tom asked if the Task Force has clear roles and responsibilities. De Geus said there are 22 strategies and there is a lead agency and individual form most of the strategies. There is also an executive committee comprised of 8 individuals guiding the Task Force. The Executive Committee is listed below:

PAUSD - Carol Zepecki (Co-Chair)

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City Recreation - Rob de Geus (Co-Chair)

PAUSD - Wes Cedros

PAUSD - Linda Lenoir

Adolescent Counseling Services - Dr. Philippe Rey

Lucile Packard CH - Shashank V. Joshi, MD

Kara - Cyndy Ainsworth

Parent Representative - Pat Markevitch

Teen Representative - Palo Alto Youth Council

PTA Council - Terry Godfrey

Palo Alto Medical Foundation - Becky Beacom

City Police - Ken Dueker

Greg Hermann – City Managers Office

Zepecki said the Task Force may do a piece in the weekly within the next month that would talk about the positive side of the Youth Forum.

PAUSD Parcel Tax Election

Golton passed out the report that went to the Board on 1.12.10. After Board approval it goes to the registrar of voters to be placed on the ballot. Between now and May 4 there is a campaign committee not associated with PAUSD. They are asking voters to increase the parcel tax by \$96 dollars the term remaining the same – six years. There is a 2% escalation factor not associated with a cost of living because enrollment is going up 2 % and utilities are going up higher than 2% a year and this is not related to the cost of living index.

HSR

Tom said the campaign is underway. There is a website and 3 co-chairs. He has not heard of any organized opposition yet. The ballots will be mailed out about a month before. Chair Schmid said the ballots are due on May 4. He also said he'd heard that Foothill/DeAnza was considering doing a Parcel Tax in June. Golton said he would check into that.

Emslie said he wanted to provide the Committee with an update to the activities along the Caltrain corridor from San Jose to San Francisco. He said the Peninsula Cities Consortium (PCC) was formed from members of Palo Alto, Burlingame, Menlo Park, Belmont and Atherton and they meet twice a month. They are working on policy issues and dealing with comments and concerns regarding the process that has been incorporated by high speed rail. There is a verbal commitment to incorporate community input early but that hasn't happened yet even though progress is continuing to be made. In March the Alternatives Analysis will be released to the public. Prior to that the teams will be reaching out to cities along the corridor. It is fairly significant piece of work because it will ultimately become part of the EIR. This is the part of the EIR that looks at different alternative and how they address identified impacts.

Townsend wanted to know if schools were mentioned in the analysis. Emslie said yes because there could be an impact on property that lies adjacent to the tracks, noise and adequacy of the width of the right of way. There could be an issue with eminent domain if additional space is needed. High speed rail cannot share tracks, it needs it own right of way.

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Shepherd wanted to clarify that Caltrain and High Speed Rail need to be grade separated. They cannot run at the same height.

The study will be released in early March and those issues would be addressed in the study. The EIR is planned to be released in early 2011 only dealing with the SJ to SF link.

Update on
Charleston/Arastradero
Traffic Issues

Tom asked if Golton had been in touch with the City regarding eminent domain and Golton said yes. Emslie wanted to brief the new City/School Liaison Committee members on the Charleston/Arastradero corridor and have a more in depth conversation at a later meeting. Charleston/Arastradero from Fabian to Miranda has been under study since 2003. Phase I of the safety improvement project was completed in 2006. Phase II is under way but a little more difficult because it runs along El Camino. They have been working with all the schools along the way and District and they have been very helpful by giving guidance for implementing improvements on campus by getting vehicles off the corridor and into a drop off cue. They would like to begin implementing the trial of phase II to coincide with the repaving and surfacing on Arastradero over the summer.

Chair Schmid asked what the assessment from the fall now that phase I is complete. Emslie answered the desired result was achieved and there are no longer vehicles stacking along the road.

Tom asked if projection for enrollment growth was built in. Emslie said yes, it is very much part of the assumption. Emslie said more detail on this issue would be discussed at a later meeting but just wanted to touch briefly on the topic at this meeting.

2010 City School Calendar
of Meetings

Chair Schmid suggested going around the table and for each member to identify what topics they would like to bring to the meetings during this year.

Shepherd

Ongoing updates on teen mental health
City Shuttle as it relates to budget cuts

Townsend

Teen mental health
Budget update from City and PAUSD
Traffic updates
11th day enrollment numbers
Demographer report and housing element

Tom

Enrollment projections
Housing Element
City approving projects that increase enrollment and how to respond as a Board Member

Schmid

Stanford development agreement- impact of Hospital expansion
Housing Element
Media Center – I-NET
Budget

Golton

Library and IT

Shepherd wanted to make sure the Board Members received copies of the Auditor's Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) report prior to any discussion about enrollment. Whitley said she would mail copies of the report over to Tom and Townsend.

Golton said he would email Emslie the demography report for Emslie to distribute to Council and Staff.

Townsend said it was nice during the meetings last year when different faces came to the meetings like Jim Keene and Kevin Skelly. She said she would like that to continue this year.

Cathy Mack said the PAUSD would be able to have the budget discussion at the March City/School

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meeting.

Chair Schmid said he would like to make reviewing priorities and assigning dates the first discussion item on the February agenda.

Townsend said she would like to add an update on the Paly/Town and Country signal to the February agenda.

In addition to priorities and meeting dates and Paly signal, update on teen mental health and enrollment projections/housing element will be on February's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Adjournment