

City of Palo Alto

Date: April 28, 2010

**MINUTES FOR MEETING OF April 28, 2010**Opening

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 7<sup>th</sup> Floor 250 Hamilton Ave.

**City of Palo Alto Representatives Present:**

Greg Schmid, Chair of Committee, Council Member  
 Nancy Shepherd, Council Member  
 James Keene, City Manager  
 Steve Emslie, Deputy City Manager  
 Rob De Geus, Community Services Division Manager of Recreation  
 Jim Fleming, Management Specialist for Utilities  
 Katie Whitley, Administrative Assistant

**Palo Alto Unified School District Representatives Present:**

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

Oral Communications

There were no oral communications.

Approval of Minutes –  
March 24, 2010

MOTION: Townsend moved to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2010 meeting. Tom seconded. Minutes were approved 4-0

Review of Recent City  
Council/PAUSD Board  
Meetings

Chair Schmid said there were two major items going on with Council right now.

- High Speed Rail
- City Budget Outlines

Emslie said there are a few major things happening in HSR.

1. The recirculated draft EIR comment period closed on Monday, April 26, 2010. There were numerous comments submitted by various group as well as individuals but there is little expectation on the effect the comments will have.
2. April 9, 2010 the Alternatives Analysis was released and is now being circulated for public comment. There is a 60 day comment period and early June is when that time is up.
3. There was a HSR community meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 by the Peninsula Rail Program (under the umbrella of Caltrain) that presented different alternatives such as vertical separation, tunneling, grade crossings and aerial aero ducts.

Shepherd said anything short of tunneling may result in taking land from Paly.

Golton said the District submitted comments on Monday. He will send a copy to the City this week.

Townsend asked if land would be taken on Alma side. Emslie said it was a possibility.

Chair Schmid then asked Jim Keene, City Manager to report out on the second major issue, the budget outline.

Keene said the City is facing challenging times. We put out a preview budget in early April and on May 3, 2010 Council will be presented with the proposed budget. The Finance Committee directed

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the City Manger to cut more than was needed to close the gap so there are \$2.5- \$3 million in proposed cuts above what is needed to close the gap. 75 FTE's will be eliminated which equals 50 permanent employees and 18 temporary employees as part of the proposal. It is about an 8% work force reduction. To get to the proposal the departments focused on what services the City could provide but at a reduced cost and are there cost shifts that can be made to other entities. Keene said there are some proposed cuts that directly impact PAUSD that include cutting the crossing guards, cutting the resource officer and the reduction of the cross town midday shuttle. He said some of the cuts to Community Services may indirectly affect them as well.

Chair Schmid asked if the City outsources field maintenance will that impact the schools. De Geus answered that there is a 50-50 cost sharing on the contract so it will save the District money if we decide to outsource.

Keene said the proposed budget will go to the entire Council and then be referred to the Finance Committee. They are hoping that they can do wrap up in early June to have the Council Public Hearing and adopt the budget by July 1. Keene said he was doing a community wide budget outreach meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> and scheduling a series of smaller meetings that he would get the dates out for this week.

Tom asked if Keene had made contact with the PTA. Keene said he would be doing that this week.

Townsend asked how the proposed cuts ranked against each other. Keene said each department had a target and looked at it in terms of least impactful to most impactful.

Chair Schmid said there are established public meetings, Finance Committee meetings so if PAUSD has any issues to discuss there is a venue to do that. He said on May 6 the general transmittal will go to Finance Committee at 7pm in Council Chambers. On May 18 the Police Department budget hearing that will include the crossing guards and the resource officer positions. The shuttle program will be with the Planning Department on May 11 Finance Committee agenda.

Keene said he wanted to give a brief update on Cubberley. He will be meeting with the Chancellor and the Superintendent and staff this week to discuss scheduling a joint meeting to discuss future negotiations.

Golton passed out the agenda from the Board meeting from April 27, 2010.

Tom said the mitigated negative declaration for Gunn went last night.

Mak gave an update on the budget for the District. They have a \$7 million reduction to make and are taking a 3 prong approach.

- Additional Parcel Tax = \$1.8 million
- Cut from General Fund = \$3.8 million
- Reserves = approximately \$2 million

### Update on Teen Mental Health

Zepecki said they finally received a \$50k serve grant from federal. They will be able to bill against from the start of the year and have until October to use it. She said they are also going to apply for an extension of serve grant for \$250k that will require them to send in a skeleton proposal and will be notified if they are in the running to receive the grant they will need to complete a much more expansive proposal.

De Geus said the youth forums were great. He said project safety net is working on a gate keeper program that will be on May 6. May 5 marks the anniversary of the first suicide so track watch efforts

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are being stepped up. He said project safety net will be preparing a report to go to PAUSD and City Council for direction on recommendations to sustain the program. They will go to the Board on May 25 but no date has been scheduled with Council yet.

Townsend said the County is presenting a preliminary suicide plan tonight at Valley Medical Center and Linda Lenoire would be there.

Chair Schmid said he was very impressed with the long term opportunities for solutions being created rather than a short term fix.

I-Net

Item number 6 on the agenda was moved to number 5.

Jim Fleming, Utilities Management Specialist, said his role in the City of Palo Alto Utilities Department (CPAU) is to work on the Fiber to the Home (FTTH) project. Part of his work involves the future of the I-Net as it relates to the Palo Alto Unified School District. The Comcast franchise contract expires in July 2010 and CPAU has been exploring with PAUSD in the last few months the feasibility of providing dark fiber to the 20 district locations in Palo Alto, including placement of node cabinets on school properties that could be used in the future if the fiber system was ever expanded for the purposes of fiber-to-the-home. CPAU is working out preliminary cost estimates.

Ann Duncan, IT Manager from PAUSD, said the last meeting held with Comcast was in December of 2009 and they have still not provided pricing for fiber, just for managed service.

Townsend asked what would happen when the contract ends in July. Duncan said she didn't think Comcast would cut off access. They could always fall back on T1 lines during the summer but it would be problematic when school resumes.

Chair Schmid asked if the school district currently gets their I-Net fiber connections for no financial cost from Comcast Fleming said that was correct. Chair Schmid asked if the node cabinets would be located on school properties. Fleming said yes or possibly in the public right of way. Chair Schmid asked if there was some exchange of value that would take place and Fleming said yes.

Shepherd asked what Stanford is on or has. Fleming said he doesn't know but it is worth looking at.

Townsend asked if there was any cost estimate that could be given to the Committee right now. Duncan said the worst case scenario was \$250K.

Mitchell Park Library Update

Emslie said he wanted to use this as a chance to update each other and that he and Golton had been talking. He said Mitchell Park Library/Community Center is fairly close to beginning construction and will likely be in late summer or early fall. The Library is getting ready to close for the move over to Cubberley and the last day is June 12. It has occurred to staff that this is an opportunity to coordinate projects with JLS and Fairmeadow

Golton said that as of April 6 PAUSD has an architect under contract for schematic design. JLS has had conceptual design approved and the schematic design will be scheduled for May. The construction teams are meeting.

Tom said in addition to JLS and Fairmeadow Hoover will also be under construction and the design/construction could be looked at as holistically.

Chair Schmid asked if the schools will be closed during construction. Golton said no.

Shepherd said she heard that bids were coming in at half price. Emslie said they were coming in at 30-50% below which is very favorable. He said there has been an increase in pulled permit activity

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for housing but not much commercially yet.

Future Meetings and  
Agendas

Tom asked if the City and PAUSD are working together. Emslie said yes, even at the design level. Townsend said on the agenda for the May 26, 2010 meeting there would be a presentation of the SEA Report from the City Auditor. She said the Board was very interested in hearing this presentation to the point that they will be noticing the meeting. She asked if the City would do the same. Emslie said yes.

It was suggested to have the meeting at 25 Churchill to make it easier for the Board Members to attend and the Committee agreed. Chair Schmid said the SEA Report would be placed first on the agenda.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.