

**SCHOOL/CITY LIAISON COMMITTEE
PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CITY OF PALO ALTO**

DATE: March 29, 2013

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF March 29, 2013

Opening

The School/City Committee held a special meeting in the District Conference Room A at 25 Churchill Ave, Palo Alto. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

* All handouts can be viewed in the Business Services Office 25 Churchill Ave.

Palo Alto Unified School District Representatives:

Melissa Baten Caswell, Board Member, Committee Chair

Heidi Emberling, Board Member

Cathy Mak, Chief Business Officer

City of Palo Alto Representatives:

Gail Price, Council Member

Liz Kniss, Council Member - Absent

Pamela Antil, Assistant City Manager - Absent

Oral Communications

Winter Delabach lives in the Barron Park area and is neighbor to the Buena Vista Park. The owner of Buena Vista Park has filed to close the park and there are plans of to build upscale apartments. There are almost 400 residents there, 125 are children, and 103 are current PAUSD students. She is on the Friends of Buena Vista group that includes individuals and community groups all over Palo Alto who support the residents. If Buena Vista should close, it would result in the greatest dislocation of residents. 108 units of affordable living units, all efforts will be set back on affordable housing stock. She would like the Committee to engage in this process and have this on a future agenda.

Sue Elridge is the Co-Chair PTA Council Advocacy Committee and a parent. In the fall, the PTA formed the Buena Vista Advocacy Committee to explore how the PTA Council and PTAs across the City could get involved in providing support for the 103 students that are facing the threat of losing their homes. The Palo Alto PTA Executive Council unanimously passed a motion to supports efforts to keep the children of Buena Vista Mobile Home Park in Palo Alto schools by supporting efforts to find them affordable housing within PAUSD. This motion was also ratified by the PTA Council which includes all 17 PTAs in PAUSD.

Dolores Cobrubias is a Buena Vista Park resident and a parent of three PAUSD students. She would like her children to finish their education in PAUSD. She does not want to lose her home at Buena Vista and does not believe she can afford rent in another area in Palo Alto. She would like the City and District to help in any way they can.

Armando Padilla is a resident of Palo Alto and a professor of developmental and psychological science at Stanford. There are a number of civic activities he has been involved in Palo Alto over the years, including serving on the school board from 1993-1997 and continues his involvement with the schools since that time. In January of this year, he and Dr. Don Bar offered a seminar with the simple goal of knowing who the Buena Vista Park residents are. He visited with families in their homes, spoke to teens that attend Gunn High School, attended a community meeting of park residents, and met with the Barron Park Elementary School principal. Mr. Padilla shared three stories of students attending Gunn High School that would like to finish their education in the Palo Alto Unified School District. He hopes these students can continue at PAUSD.

Caswell said they will discuss placing this on a future agenda.

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Nadia Nike with Racing Hearts a non-profit organization that is working to get defibrillators for District and City. She will be updating the City on April 15. She has been advocating for the City of Palo Alto to get AEDs since there are none in their buildings. The Finance Committee has agreed to finance 10 units in the police cars. Police and Fire are working together on a long term plan. Secondly, they are working with District staff to install AEDs that PTA purchased and those are being installed at Gunn and Paly. Working on a long term program to get AEDs at the middle and elementary schools. She would like the City and the District to consider purchasing the AEDs together since they will pay less per unit. Price asked if there is a professional that will be helping the City and the District with information and installation? Nadia said yes, a resident of Palo Alto that is in the AED business and offered her free services. She will be walking the school sites with District staff to figure out the best location. Another person that works with the Fremont Unified School District and they have just deployed AED units throughout. He has shared the whole manual on policies and procedures with Charles Young and Linda Lenoir. PTA is trying to get parents to help with funding. Caswell suggested having this as an item under their Emergency Prep item on May agenda. Mak said Paly and Gunn are scheduled for training on AEDs.

Approval of Minutes – March 29, 2013

MOTION: Caswell moved to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2013, meeting. Seconded. Minutes were approved 3-0.

Review of Recent City Council/PAUSD Board Meetings

City Council: Price said they attended the Cubberley discussion and reviewed reports produced by the community group. It was a very informative presentation with a lot of good recommendations. City Council has not taken formal action. They also applied for a few transportation OBAG grants through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. One is the Palo Alto Shuttle transportation grant, the OBAG grants (PA Community shuttle program) require matching grants, several traffic signal upgrades, the magical bridge, within this there is interest and ongoing support of the safe routes to school program. These were submitted on March 5 and they should be hearing back in the next 2-3 months. Caswell asked how the Palo Alto community shuttle is funded? Price said City money and they have received some grant funding in the past. She said she recalls PAUSD, for a number of years, provided \$50k a year but believes that funding stopped. Mak will look into it. Gail will look into traffic signals upgrade and whether the Paly/Town & Country traffic light is included. Caswell said once the theatre is built in 2014 there will be events and it could become a big issue that needs to be addressed. Gail will get back to the Committee on that. Caswell asked if there are any new developments that have come forward? Price is not of aware of any but will look into it and will make it a routine update to the Committee.

District: Emberling said Gunn and Paly reported back on improving the guidance programs at both schools. The Gunn Advisory Committee met for about six months with a facilitator and toured different high schools. They put together 40 recommendations on how Gunn could improve their guidance models for more key contacts with adults on campus. Paly added an outreach coordinator, more support, more instruction and advisory around college preparation. Both schools are working around this. Gunn staff came forward with a one year recommendation on five to six of the 40 recommendations. Caswell said the Board asked Gunn to come back with a plan with priorities and explain why those priorities. Jacobowsky sends out an update every week on guidance, issues, and important information to parents. He also sent to the Board a survey that was done by the guidance department that showed responses to key questions this year and last year and there seems to be some dramatic improvement to key areas parents and students were concerned about. This was presented to the Board at the March 19 meeting. Emberling said they mentioned at the last meeting about the donation to Paly for a new gym. There was an update on the conceptual design at the last Board meeting. Caswell said they will make a connector that will connect the old gym and new gym. The new gym will be ready in 2015. The design will match the current Paly design. Emberling said they also discussed a new science addition. Price asked about a donation policy update? Caswell said the policy was update right before she started on the Board but does not believe it has been

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updated since.

Caswell said the Board is working very hard on new bullying policies and all things that touch into that topic.

City Council 2013 Priorities

Price said the retreat identified three priority areas: infrastructure, future of downtown and California Avenue, and the Connected City. On the infrastructure item they are looking at a strong possibility of going to the voters a bond measure; 2014 is the target. They have engaged a polling firm to assess the viability of the several projects that have been identified. The infrastructure emphasis is a result of the Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission. The Mayor has established an Ad Hoc Committee to get a clear understanding of receptivity of the public on a potential bond measure. Caswell asked who from Council is sitting on that Committee? Price said Shars, Klein, Shepherd, and Berman. Caswell asked what items are being considered? Price will take a look at the notes and ask Antil to send over to Mak. The future of downtown and California Avenue there are urban design, parking issues, mobility issues, access issues, and transportation issues. All of this is within the context of economic viability and operation of these important corridors. It's very comprehensive and ambitious goal. City Council is working on several items, the downtown cap, the overall master planning between downtown and University Avenue, and California Avenue concept plan and trying to look at it more holistically and strategically. Caswell said they are looking at opening a new elementary at Garland or Greendell. She feels that the plans on downtown may affect their decision on which to open first. Price said the housing element has gone to the State for certification and is still in the process. Price will look at the planning and development list and get back to the Committee. Caswell asked that any potential developments that could affect the District enrollment planning be shared with the Committee.

Price asked what is the timing on the opening of an elementary school? Caswell said sometime in the next five years. Caswell said Greendell and 525 San Antonio would be combined to make an elementary. Price said the decision cannot be made without considering what is happening with Cubberley. The Connected City includes fiber to the premises, other enhancements of other connectivity to the City. Caswell asked who the City is the IT Director? Price said Jonathan Rachensal. The City received an award for some of its innovative practices. The IT director is creating a strategic plan related to technology. There was another Ad Hoc Committee established that will be related to fiber to the premises. The strategic plan will come to Council in April. Price said she is the new Youth Council liaison and they are interested in focusing some of their efforts around their priorities. Caswell asked how big the Youth Council is? Price said there are about 9 students, primarily from Gunn and Paly but also other schools. Jessica Lewis is the staff member that works with their Youth Council. Price will ask Lewis to send the minutes from the meetings to the school Board representatives or they could be sent to Mak and she will ensure they receive them.

District Budget Update

Mak presented a presentation on the latest District's budget approved earlier this month that included information on the following slides:

- \$2.6 Million Additional Funding
- Governor's Proposed Budget
- 2012-13 March Budget Update
- Update on District Financial Situation
- Sources of General Funds
- Change in Property Tax Revenue
- Change in Enrollment # of Students and Percentage
- Change in Property Tax Revenue Per Student Amount and Percentage
- Revenue Trends
- Revenue Trends – Per Student Funding
- Additional Resource Allocation
- Governor's 2013-14 Proposed School Funding Reform

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- LCFF Impact on PAUSD
- Assumptions in 2013-14 to 2017-18 Multi-Year Projections
- Uncertainties
- 2012-13 PAUSD Certificated Staffing Standards

Caswell pointed out that the chart on the Change in Property Tax Revenue Per Student slide looks good but does not tell the whole story since they are still well below where they were in 2007-08. Price asked what is the driving force for this? Mak said state revenue and enrollment growth, and property taxes. Caswell said the future for state funding does not look good.

Price asked what is considered a large school? Mak said any schools with four strands and more.

Caswell said California as a whole is horribly funded. Price asked if the new local control funding formula (LCFF) change the distinction between community funded and revenue limit? Caswell said no, things will still be funded the same way. Price asked about the implementation of the LCFF? Mak said the state has a targeted base plan amount and the plan is to move toward that target goal each year. The state would appropriate additional monies to bring District funding to that target amount in seven years. Price asked if these funds would be considered indexed? Mak said no, it would be what is available in the state budget. Mak said PTA did a nice presentation on this formula and will forward the link.

Price asked if anyone within the education community on the regional differentiation point? Caswell said there are individual groups who think this is wrong but it has not gained any traction.

2013 School City Agendas

Mak will contact Pam about bundling all tours on non-meeting dates.

Tour plan for the year on the April agenda.

Future Meetings and Agendas Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.