



School/City Liaison Committee Minutes Final



School/City Liaison Committee Meeting Wednesday, September 27, 2006

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

Larry Klein, City Councilmember, Chair
Steve Emslie, Director of Planning and Community Environment
Emily Harrison, Assistant City Manager
Kelly Morariu, Assistant to the City Manager
Gayle Likens, Transportation Manager
Kathy Durham, Manager of Coordination Transportations Systems
Virginia Waik, Utilities Marketing Engineering
Bruce Lesch, Utilities Key Accounting Rep
Wendy Hediger, Public Works Recycling Coordinator
Sgt. Steve Herrera, Police Department

Palo Alto Unified School District

Jerry Matranga, Deputy Superintendent
Barb Mitchell, Board Member
Gail Price, Board Member
Kathy Durkin, Manager, Auxiliary Services
Rich Swent, _____
Walt Hays, Chair of Sustainable Schools Committee
Penny Ellson, _____

Handouts: PowerPoint Presentation

Meeting convened at 8:20 a.m.

Roll Call: Council Member Mossar Absent

1. Oral Communications: None

2. Status Update on Environmental Stewardship:

Mr. Matranga passed out a PowerPoint presentation titled City School Liaison Environmental Stewardship: Joint Efforts, September 27, 2006.

Mr. Matranga read through the Contributors, Purpose and Partners pages on the PowerPoint before introducing Walt Hayes to talk about the achievements.

Mr. Hayes, Chair of Sustainable Schools Committee, introduced the founder of the group, Marianna Grossman Keller. The committee is always looking for new opportunities such as:

- CHPS (collaborative for high performing schools) non profit agency at the state level that develops standards for energy efficiency and sustainability in general. The committee negotiated a resolution that the board could adopt saying they would comply with the minimum of standard of CHPS on construction.

- Salas O'Brian: working to reduce energy and water use and become more efficient, saving the School District money, 50K annual grant for science curricula

- Escondido PV System: After the Governor reinstated the program, the District reapplied for grant funding and was given 70%. The other 30% was raised by the committee and the parents. It has great software that is displayed in the office that shows how much energy is being used and that information is posted to the web for other schools to view.

Mr. Hayes said that El Carmelo was a pioneer for a program called the Energy Patrol. The District gives the school an incentive to participate by splitting the energy savings 50-50.

Mr. Hayes asked Wendy Hediger if every school in the District is recycling and she answered yes.

Mr. Hayes told the Committee that Ohlone has a pioneer worm composting program. Ohlone also has a pilot program using plastic lunch trays instead of Styrofoam.

Mr. Hayes said that Nick Kester of Gunn High School got Gunn certified as a Green Business. It is the first school to be certified.

Mr. Matranga said that in the last year, 8 maintenance workers have gone through training to be certified as building operators. It is a 6 month rigorous training. There are big cost savings in this area.

Mr. Hayes introduced Lisa Benatar and Rachel Jordan, to speak about grants and funding.

Ms. Jordan spoke about the annual 50k grant from City of Palo Alto Utilities. The first was awarded in 2002 and each year the attempt to increase the number of

students and teachers this grant reaches is made. This has become a key piece of the science program. It addresses water conservation, energy conservation, and renewable energy.

Ms. Benatar said the money from the grant has helped with the science program and materials. An example of one of the projects is a generator. Each of the students gets to bring a mini generator home.

Ms. Benatar changed the second bullet to the PowerPoint presentation page 13. She said the savings is very high. It should really say Energy club and PV system.

Mr. Matranga said Gunn High School has been very involved in the recycling effort and solid waste reduction. He spoke about the audit, the vision and what students could do to put money back into the energy management system.

Mr. Matranga introduced Wendy Hediger, Virginia, Bruce and Ted.

Ms. Hediger said there are school assemblies presented to grades K-8. The presentations are tailored to the age of the audience. Along with the assemblies, recycled content give aways are also given to the school for each child. This is offered to the school at no cost.

Mr. Matranga said one of the members of the Sustainable School Committee was telling parents not to buy the school lunches because they use Styrofoam. A trip to the Sunnyvale School District was made to examine their use of reusable trays. PAUSD does not have the facility to wash them so everyday when the truck comes from JLS where the cooking is done; the trays are picked up, washed and brought back. Ohlone is going to be joining the pilot program.

Mr. Matranga said a new science resource center facility; (a modular facility at JLS) will be built. It will be environmentally friendly. If the new bond passes from the state, there will be the opportunity for partnerships.

Mr. Matranga pointed out that on pages 18 -22 of the PowerPoint presentation are examples of what children learn at each grade level about environmental stewardship.

Mr. Matranga introduced Virginia Waik to speak about benchmarking.

Ms. Waik said there is a state wide effort to do some loading order on most efficient energy first and then go to more expensive energy. One of the first is looking at operations and maintenance. With the simple turning off the energy over the summer, 800,000 lbs of carbon emissions per year are saved. The idea of renewable is good, and O&M is good but there is not enough public awareness about what can be done through facilities, supporting staff training and implementing those projects.

Ms. Price said in the facilities plan she would like to talk as a School Board about incorporating these principles and as a directive as it relates to the completion of the

facilities plan. She said she was delighted to see this and the examples are very compelling and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Ms. Waik said there is another acronym that should be on the presentation. It is RCX- retro commissioning. It is an audit that takes the same material as a standard audit and puts it in a format the building operators can use. The first test of this concept will be a small site, Greendale.

Mr. Mendoza said this information will be a reference guide and working manual, not stored on a shelf.

Mr. Matranga said the vision is: "Students Living What They Are Learning."

Chair Klein said he was very excited about the program and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Ms. Harrison introduced Mr. Bruce Lesch to make sure he was recognized for his work on this project.

3. Report from Safe Routes to School Task Force:

Ms. Likens began by informing the committee about the completion of the Charleston/Arastradero Corridor before school began. It included the reconfiguration of Charleston, the restriping of the road from Fabian to El Camino. The other main component of the project was to reconfigure the Gunn High intersection with the new dedicated right turn lane. There was a lot of cooperation from the administration at Gunn High on the first day including having the Assistant Principal out on a bullhorn encouraging drivers who were not familiar with the change, to turn right. It has been very well received from the community. There are some issues to work on. One is a concern at Hoover that there is slower flow of traffic. The next steps in the project are to reconvene the stakeholders group and discuss what they observed in the last month since school opened. Looking forward, the task force needs to focus on phase 2 of the project which is resurfacing of Arastradero and what lane configuration is appropriate for that corridor.

Sergeant Herrera said the education put out to the public prior to the opening of school regarding the new right turn lane was phenomenal. The biggest problem seen was at Hoover. It was education first and now it is being enforced.

Ms. Durham said there is not a back up at Terman now there is a Gunn turn lane.

Ms. Durham presented information about fall activities. There was an article about Safe Routes to School in City Pages informing the public about what has been worked on in the last year. There was a letter from the Police Chief with safety tips. Before school started this year, at the bike to school event for the first time, the safety inspection and licensing was at Gunn. One of the materials passed out was 10 reasons to bike to school.

Mr. Swent presented some preliminary numbers to the Committee about the bike count. The numbers are increasing slightly comparing 2004, 2005 and 2006. The high schools are really increasing. At middle schools, the numbers are also increasing.

Ms. Ellson said newsletter articles are run year round about traffic safety, and bicycle/walking health benefits. Walk to school day reinforces this. This year's program has all 12 elementary schools participating. The program is October 9-13. The theme is "How Far Can Your Feet Take You?"

Ms. Durkin spoke about the PAUSD J bus route. A pilot program is being started for the community of Stanford West to take the students over to Gunn. The afternoon bus is sold out and the morning route is coming along. The program begins October 4.

Ms. Crichton gave an update on the Safe Routes to School web site. The content is getting loaded. The goal is to bring the content live in the next 3 weeks. The web site is being edited and monitored by a group of volunteers. All feedback is appreciated.

4. Future Meetings and Agenda Items:

There will not be an October meeting. The next meeting will be November 29. The topics will be a progress check on security and school fields.

Next Meeting: November 29.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45