

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF March 18, 2011

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 8:20 a.m.

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

Palo Alto Unified School District Representatives:

Dana Tom, Board Member, Committee Chair (Absent)
 Barbara Klausner, Board Member
 Bob Golton, Co-CBO and Bond Program Manager (Absent)
 Cathy Mak, Co-CBO
 Amy Drolette, Student Services Coordinator

City of Palo Alto Representatives:

Nancy Shepherd, Council Member
 Yiaway Yeh, Council Member
 Steve Emslie, Deputy City Manager
 Rob De Geus, Community Services Division Manager of Recreation
 David Ramberg, Assistant Director of Administrative Services

Oral Communications

Teen Mental Health: Terry Godfrey asked the Committee to please continue to support PSN and be involved in the decision making process.

Approval of Minutes – February 16, 2011

MOTION: Shepherd moved to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2011, meeting. Yeh seconded. Minutes were approved 3-0.

Teen Mental Health

De Geus and Drolette gave a presentation on what they are trying to accomplish with the Project Safety Net (PSN) effort. De Geus said they have an overview, strategic next steps, and programmatic next steps. Their work started in 2009 and their mission is to implement a community based mental health plan for overall youth well-being. There are many members/partners. Drolette said Project Cornerstone will be presented to the Board on March 22. De Geus said there are five community action steps that come from developmental assets to engage an entire community for youth well-being. PSN is a network that tries to untangle or better align all efforts in our community to support youth/teens. Drolette said in October they officially moved the PSN website from the City over to its own site. On the site are all the partners within the community, their commitment, and their partnership with PSN. She said they reflected on the last 18 months in accomplishments and the outcomes of PSN. De Geus said they had a PSN meeting yesterday, brought up by Christine Dunn w/Caltrain and they have been pushing the media to be a partner in this and what some of the dangers are of reporting on this. They brought together all the editors from local newspapers to discuss how they can partner on this and how they help with the prevention efforts.

De Geus said they are currently in a transition and they need to think about building a strategic plan around the work. The Santa Clara County Mental Health Department is part of the PSN network; they attend our meetings and are very interested in their grass roots around suicide prevention. The County has committed \$30,000 to help them create a strategic plan. Their main interest is to have a blueprint or case study of how Palo Alto responded to a crisis that can be shared with other communities within the County and beyond. He said they will build the strategic plan in the next 3 ½ months, and the goal is to come back in June to this Committee and share a longer term plan on how to keep this network together. The team that would be on this strategic plan effort would be the PSN Executive Committee, 2 or more school staff members from Gunn or Paly, a Board member, a Council member, and a member from the public that has a fundraising background. De Geus and

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF March 18, 2011

Drolette have met with the consultant that Santa Clara has hired to talk about what the scope might be. They would have 4-5 meetings a month, Mondays 2-4, at end they will come back with a product for everyone to consider. De Geus said there are people who call saying they would like to donate money and they are trying to figure out how to accept the money. How they have handled it up until now, they created an MOU that ties all the different agencies together. They provide them with a menu of options of where they would like their funding to be applied. He said they would like to define a fiscal agent; they would like clarity on priorities, timelines and metrics of pre-stated PSN goals, and mission clarity. Drolette said in their next steps they have the developmental assets initiative; in January PSN identified their 5 top priorities: Sources of Strength, Gatekeeper training, leveraging social media, intramural sports for high school students, and the PA Youth Forum.

De Geus said they will have the PA Youth Forum on May 21. Drolette said they would like greater collaboration with Stanford's Challenge Success, to strengthen collaboration with private schools, and community education to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health.

Yeh asked how many private schools are engaged at the moment and at what level? De Geus said they have had conversations with them, but they are not a part of PSN and they mainly middle and high schools.

Shepherd asked how can the Committee help navigate this so that they can be a little more strategic and directive? De Geus said their recommendation is for a Council member and a Board member to be part of this team that puts together this strategic planning. Shepherd asked what the Council and Board role would be? De Geus said they want the elected officials to be engaged in what is created. Townsend asked if PA University is a part of PSN? Drolette said they are, not consistently but they are. Shepherd would like to bring this back to next month's meeting.

Summary on March 8th Study Session Facilities Capacity & Enrollment Growth

Mak said they had a study session on March 8. Staff provided information on enrollment growth and facilities. There were nine sections in the Study Session; first section was a review of the board policy on school size. The second and third sections were on enrollment, current enrollment and the forecast for the next five years. Staff recommends using the high enrollment projection for facilities planning. The Board asked staff to include the transitional kindergarten program which will add another 225 students to the elementary enrollment growth. The fourth section is on current capacity, and right now they have ten rooms available throughout their existing campuses, ten additional rooms that are already planned for or under construction at Ohlone, Fairmeadow and Duveneck. Using a projected growth of 568 students for the next five years and planned capacity at 95% usage, they would need 40 rooms. Therefore, they need to plan for 20 more. The fifth section is on the bond, they currently have 65 million that is not committed. The next two sections are on what are the District's options; they can expand their existing campuses and briefly discussed their surplus sites. Garland's lease is up in 2015. The last section discussed next steps/timeline. Staff recommendations were to suspend any commitments on projects that do not increase capacity, give Garland a three year notice, staff to return in May to identify the sites to increase capacity, and for staff to create a cycle to report out information that would affect their facilities planning. Emslie said ABAG numbers are extremely high and show incredible amount of housing growth in Palo Alto, about 12,000. The target date is 2025. Yeh said no one on Council was pleased with these numbers. Shepherd said they have already accounted for the 2,800 that they asked the City to put into their housing component now so it's in addition to that. Yeh said this is the first time that ABAG and CTC have worked together on housing allocation; the goal was to respond to sustainable communities and the initiative, that was passed by Earl Steinberg State Senator, on how they can implement sustainable communities and one of their primary goals is greenhouse gas reduction. Some of the discussion at City Council has been that if that is the true objective, then that should be the focus, to achieve it. Shepherd said Palo Alto wants to do a strategic plan on their own accomplishments to try to match what their interests are in sustainable communities. Klausner asked what the timeline is on responding to ABAG numbers? Emslie said the City has always engaged in an appeal and it generally takes about a year. Shepherd said they did bring the topic of public facility zones and Ventura to Council and they would like a better definition of that activity on this Committee. Klausner said she does intend to initiate a conversation at Tuesday's Board meeting regarding this particular topic. She said at their Study Session the focus was not at all on properties beyond our bounds, the

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF March 18, 2011

City of Palo Alto Budget

focus was on trying to figure out what are the shared values and assumptions that they are going to use for planning.

Ramberg presented a preliminary preview of the City's 2011-12 budget. Major revenues are sales tax, property tax, transient occupancy tax, utility user's tax, and documentary transfer tax. They are seeing continued dramatic expense in benefits. Expenses are really being driven by public safety and largely there they are looking at pension expense. They see this across all units in the City. Citywide health care expense is the second expense to pension. The concern here is they are going into fewer active employees and supporting a growing overall retiree expense. City Council has already taken steps to rein in future retiree health costs by making the threshold to vest for retiree medical higher. In 2009, they had a gap in the general fund of \$8 million, then \$10 million in 2010, and a \$6 million in mid-year 2010 so the real gap was \$16 million in 2010. In 2011 it is slightly better, but still a very large gap and in 2012 they start seeing some leveling off. The bottom line is balancing the budget so they will have a budget for City Council's consideration for 2012 as well. The general fund long range financial forecast was reviewed by Council this past week. They're not seeing as drastic cuts as last year. They will come forward to Council on May 2 for the overall budget presentation and then it will be forwarded to the Finance Committee. A few of their continued challenges will be the increasing pension expense; they have \$4 million in additional pension expense in 2012, miscellaneous will increase about 4%, and safety rates about 6%. Some good news is CalPERS voted not to change the discount rate.

Future Meetings and Agendas

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21st at 8:15 a.m.

Agenda includes:

Status Report on Project Safety Net and Teen Mental Health
Cubberley
City/School Budget

Potential Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

Bike Routes and Bike Paths (This could be a part of Safe Routes to School)
Cubberley
City/School Budget Items
PSN
Energy Efficiency and Renewals
Emergency Preparedness
Information Technology (City Utilities contract with the District for Dark Fiber)
Environmental Sustainability

Adjournment

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