

CITY/SCHOOL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
February 16, 2012

The City/School Liaison Committee held a Regular Meeting at the City of Palo Alto, 250 Hamilton Avenue, 1st Floor, Council Conference Room, Palo Alto. Chair Klein called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m.

Present: City of Palo Alto Representatives
Chair Larry Klein
Council Member Yiaway Yeh
Deputy City Manager Steve Emslie

Palo Alto Unified School District Representatives
Mellisa Baten Caswell, Board Member
Cathy Mak, Chief Business Officer

Absent: Barbara Klausner, Board Member
Bob Golton, District Facilities and Bond Program Manager

1. Oral Communications

None

2. Review of Recent City Council/PAUSD Board Meetings

Board Member, Baten Caswell stated that a new course was added to the Palo Alto High School curriculum entitled: *Core Conceptual Physics* to help improve the achievement gap in obtaining sufficient credit for lab sciences class. The Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) received an updated Technology Infrastructure Report. A substantial decrease in cost allowed the District to invest in class technology for students and teachers to interact with. She said she would provide the Committee with a copy of the report.

Council Member Yiaway Yeh, spoke about a Planning and Transportation Commission (P&TC) recommendation to not build additional housing in the San Antonio/East Meadow Circle area, which was relevant to the School District. A feasibility study had been done because of prior zoning that allowed housing even in industrial areas through 2006. The area lacked space for parks, a library, and room for innovation and the City was financially unable to meet these demands.

Deputy City Manager, Steve Emslie said the Ronald McDonald House had approached the City to request a land use expansion by 50 percent to accommodate 68 additional units, which would require the Council's approval. The request was initiated because of the Stanford Children's Hospital's expansion. Estimated time for occupancy would be 18-months to 2 years. Ms. Baten Caswell asked Mak if they would be served by the

hospital school and what schools the siblings would attend. Mak said she would find out and report back.

The Tree House project opened on February 15, 2012 and consisted of 33 studio apartments and two one-bedroom apartments.

3. Discussion of 2012 Agenda Topics

Chair Larry Klein stated that some topics were removed from last year's agenda to allow discussions on Cubberley during the meetings in April, May, August and October. City School topics would be discussed during the other 6 to 7 meetings. The City's negotiating team for Cubberley consists of Council Members Yeh, Shepherd, and Klein. The PAUSD Cubberley negotiation side consisted of Board Members Barbara Klausner and Ms. Baten Caswell would not attend the City School Liaison meetings when Cubberley was discussed. Ms. Baten Caswell said conversations regarding budget, technology infrastructure development and zoning update would not be discussed during those meetings. She was concerned that because the Board had assigned other members to the Cubberley negotiating team, using the City School meeting times for Cubberley meetings would impact the Board. Ms. Baten Caswell wanted to take the item back to the Board to get direction before agreeing to this.

The District was scheduled to have an enrollment study session on February 28 to include placement of students. Stanford housing would impact enrollment. In 2016, 70 Below Market Rate (BMR) 3-bedroom units located north of Mayfield would be ready. All tenants would have children. It will be challenging to see which schools the children would be attending. There were pockets of kids that the District did not expect. The question was raised if Teen Mental Health would be discussed at every meeting. The suggestion was made to change the title to Youth Wellbeing because the focus was not only on teens. Budget and facility updates would be good to discuss on regular bases but would not require an entire report; only changes. Should the topic regarding technology infrastructure be added and to keep transportation as a topic since Sacramento had many proposals regarding transportation funding. A place holder could be placed for the September meeting to talk about transportation in the event something happened in Sacramento. An update on school transportation budget could be provided in June. The question was raised if the City's Summer Programs would have impacts this year. Discussions could take place in September to determine what programs would look like for the following year.

4. Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission Report (IBRC)

Deputy City Manager, Steve Emslie provided the Committee with an Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Commission Report (IBRC) chart. The Infrastructure Blue Ribbon Committee (IBRC) was appointed by the Council in late 2010 and held meetings through 2011. A report was release at the end of 2011 and could be accessed on-line. Council received the report in January 2012 and devoted the better part of the Council's Retreat in January discussing infrastructure needs. The fundamental chapters in the report would be discussed in a few more meetings. The City was still in the data collection stage to see the connection on the various issues and not close to making any decisions. The Chart

quantified the Blue Ribbon task force's characterization of the infrastructure needs. The "catch-up" column showed facilities that needed to be brought up to standards. The gap from 2012 to 2036 had a deficit of \$41.5 million which needed to be spent over those years too get the infrastructure to an acceptable level. The "keep-up" column was an additional gap that needed to be spent each year from 2012-2036 to maintain the entire infrastructure. Mr. Emslie gave a summary of City's facilities that needed new or replacement projects. Amount needed for the projects was \$210.7 million.

Ms. Baten Caswell asked how the Utilities User's Tax (UUT) applied to Cubberley. The UUT flowed into the General Fund and was not earmarked for legislative use. The "keep-up" number included contingencies that IBRC had identified for unexpected projects. A question was raised regarding the City taking possession of the United States Postal Service (USPS) Building. Council Member Yeh said the USPS required a Public Hearing and was scheduled for February 21. The federal government was required to go through a process and would be explained at the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing would be the first discussion the Council would have regarding the building.

The Council was scheduled to have three more Retreats before June 30 to discuss new and replacement projects. Retreats were regular Council Meetings and scheduled for March 26, April 30, and June 7, all starting at 5 p.m. Topics would be pieces of the IBRC report. Ms. Baten Caswell asked if Cubberley would be discussed at these Retreats.

Council affirmed that Cubberley was a separate process and that the public was aware the Council had defined the process with potentials for things to flow into it. There would not be a lot of discussion during March and April unless it was with the Technical Advisory Committee. Ms. Baten Caswell encouraged the Committee to use the PTA newsletters that is distributed weekly throughout the District. The Council could use this as an extra form of communications. There were rumors that the City would occupy a portion of the building being built where the Shell gas station was previously located on Alma Street. Mr. Emslie noted that the topic would be discussed at a Council meeting in March. Ms. Baten Caswell said she would like to have this information shared with the District as well as to hear about land and building uses.

5. Future Meetings and Agendas

The next meeting: March 15, 2012 at 8:15 a.m.

Agenda:

- Library Updates
- SEA Report and Presentation by City Auditor
- Sustainability

Adjournment: 9:41 a.m.