

Complete tape recordings of most High School Task Force meetings are available at 25 Churchill Avenue.  
 Many of the materials handed out at these meetings can be found online at:  
<http://pausd.org/community/HighSchoolTaskForce/index.shtml>

MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF OCTOBER 24, 2007

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present:

- Suzanne Attenborough, Palo Alto High School – Parent/PTSA/Site Council
- Kristen Brockmann, Palo Alto High School – Teacher
- Kristina Gossard, Gunn High School – Teacher
- Joan Jacobus, Gunn High School – Parent/PTSA
- Max Keeler, Gunn High School - Student
- Marion Krause, Greendell – PAEA
- Scott Laurence - Asst. Supt.
- Corey Levens, Gunn High School –Parent/Site Council
- Noreen Likins, Gunn High School – Principal
- Jackie McEvoy, Palo Alto High School – Principal
- Malati Murthy, Palo Alto High School – CSEA
- Elaine Ray, Parent Network Students of Color
- Martin Stone, Palo Alto High School – Parent/PTSA/Site Council
- Todd Summers, Gunn High School – Teacher

- Sandi Urabe, Foothill College – Dean (Retired)
- Ron Williamson, Palo Alto High School – Teacher

PAUSD District Staff Resources Present:

- Kara Rosenberg - Principal, Adult Education
- Ron Smith – PAUSD Facilities
- Carol Zepecki, Dir., Student Support Serv.
- Carmen Giedt, Terman – Principal

Guest:

- Michael Wilson, Middle College Program – Faculty Coordinator
- Denise Swett, Foothill College – Dean of Middlefield Campus

Co-Facilitators Present:

- Burton Cohen, Dir., Secondary Education
- Sandra Pearson, Palo Alto High School Principal, retired

Welcomes and Procedures

Minutes for the meeting of October 17, 2007 were reviewed and approved.

Presentation of Program Collaboration Thoughts

Urabe introduced Swett and Wilson. She then gave a presentation on the Middle College program, where 72 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders currently get one-half day high school work and one-half day college work.

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### Presentation of Survey Results – Middle College

Laurence presented the results of the High School Growth survey administered to 26 Middle College students. A few highlights follow:

- The most important thing about being at Gunn or Paly is elective classes, with diversity of student interests and variety of extracurricular choices coming in second and third.
- 14 students said a smaller school would definitely suit their needs better.
- When it came to the choice of a specialty school, visual and performing arts was first, international studies was second, and virtual high school was third.
- 18 students would definitely attend a specialty school in the field they chose.

Laurence and a small group of Task Force members attended a site visit to Alta Vista earlier in the week. Highlights follow:

- It is a small, intimate program.
- Demographics are very different from Middle College.
- Attendance is at about 93%.
- 50% of students work full or part time.
- Class size is 20-25.
- 155 students are currently enrolled, although each year over 300 students usually pass through Alta Vista.
- 12-15 students per year stay for a fifth year if they are on track to graduate.
- Graduates receive Alta Vista and PAUSD diplomas, and have the opportunity to graduate at their home school.
- As most students are credit-deficient rather than low performers, there is not a large achievement gap.
- Students are not given F's, but rather are encouraged to keep working until they reach C-level work.
- There are some co-ed sports, and the male-female ratio is 60%/40%.
- There are no semesters or quarters.
- There is a full time police officer, and the campus is very calm, with virtually no fights.
- 155 students are in the program, with 32 from PAUSD.
- Growing this program is not an option, as the quality of the program will be lost.
- 10% of students are Special Education students.
- They are leasing the land for \$1 per year for 40 years from the City of Mountain View, and the facility was built with Mountain View-Los Altos (MVLA) impact fees.
- 80% of students register for college prior to graduation.
- Having key non-teaching staff in any program is very important.

### Growth Perspectives from the PAUSD High School Principals

Likins gave the group copies of the Gunn campus map and the school profile brochure. Highlights of her presentation follow:

What is done well at Gunn:

- College prep and elective programs are strong.
- The athletic program is successful, with nearly half of all Gunn students on a team.
- The campus atmosphere is positive.
- There are nearly 60 clubs on campus.
- A large amount of direct support comes from parents.

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- Over 90% of Gunn graduates go on to college.

What Gunn staff wish they had or could do:

- Traditional education program does not benefit all students.
- Kids need more opportunities to learn creatively.
- Students are not provided with opportunities to use the technology they have grown up with.
- More flexibility in scheduling and programs is needed.

What it would take to improve:

- Flexible space
- Flexible staff
- More experts
- Teachers who could track and monitor progress
- Flexible work hours for teachers

Obstacles:

- Existing requirements for university admission
- Change is difficult to implement
- Credentialing requirements, and No Child Left Behind requirements
- Lack of autonomy at the individual school level

McEvoy handed out copies of Palo Alto High School's profile and campus map, as well as a draft of the proposed projects under the bond, the school-wide action plan, and an example of how the 900 Building might be rebuilt in a cluster format. Highlights of her presentation follow:

- There is high academic performance, with 70-80% of students going on to college.
- Only 20% of underrepresented minority students graduating from Paly met A-G university requirements (UC).
- WASC plans will address school growth based on the work of this Task Force.
- Paly has a block schedule two days per week, allowing students to work on special projects.
- 70-75 students are assigned to each teacher advisor.
- Instructional Supervisors bring a rich, dynamic component to instruction at PAUSD high schools.
- Career Technical Education at Paly allows education to be approached very differently from traditional high school courses. McEvoy would like to grow this area, because it is so in demand in the Silicon Valley, and WASC may suggest this type of visioning to occur.
- Having two high schools that are meeting student needs in different ways is very important. The population needs are different at each school.
- Spaces need to be looked at in a more flexible way.
- Build on the strengths of the programs Paly already has. There is also money available (grants, state funding initiatives) to bolster the career technical program.

### Public Comment

Triona Gogarty asked if the district could receive Perkins and CTE funding. McEvoy said this was already occurring. She added that Prop 1D money also paid for equipment, and that bond money could match Prop 1D money. Likins said Perkins money is available in the vocational education area.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.