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MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 4, 2009

<u>Call to Order</u>	<p>The Board of Education of Palo Alto Unified School District held a Special Meeting at the University Club, 3277 Miranda Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Barb Mitchell, President, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.</p> <p>Members present: Ms. Barb Mitchell, President Ms. Barbara Klausner, Vice President Ms. Melissa Baten Caswell Mr. Dana Tom Ms. Camille Townsend</p> <p>Staff present: Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent</p> <p>Others present: Ms. Rene Townsend, Leadership Associates</p>
<u>Workshop</u> Board and Superintendent Workshop	<p>The Board and Superintendent met for a second day with facilitator Townsend to discuss issues, planning, and potential goals for the coming school year. The group adjourned for lunch at noon with members of senior staff, including:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Dr. Scott Bowers, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Linda Common, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ginni Davis, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Bob Golton, CBO Ms. Cathy Mak, CBO</p> <p>Following lunch, the group adjourned to closed session at 1:00 p.m.</p>
<u>Closed Session</u>	<p>The Board met with senior staff to consider Liability Claims pursuant to Government Code 54961, Wang vs PAUSD; and for Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to Government Code 54956 – Property: Garland, 870 N. California Ave., Palo Alto, Negotiators: Robert Golton.</p> <p>Mitchell announced no action was taken in closed session.</p> <p>The Board reconvened with staff in open session at 2:00 p.m. on the following items. It was agreed to change the agenda order to discuss Item B, Item C, and Item A.</p>
<u>Discussion</u> Resolution 2009-10.01 – Authorizing the Completion and Submission of an Application for Qualified School Construction Bond Allocation from the California Department of Education	<p>Golton explained that applying for these funds will benefit the district if qualifications are met.</p> <p>Board members commented on use of staff time in writing the application and whether the district qualifies for federal funds under cash for clunkers program.</p> <p>This item will return for possible action at the August 5, 2009, special meeting.</p>
<u>Discussion</u> Establishment of Tax Rate for District Bonds for the 2009-10 Fiscal Year	<p>Golton detailed bonds and levies agreed to by voters. Agreed amount is \$44.50 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. District is currently at \$40.30 and suggested there will be a need to adjust up to the \$44.50 for the coming year to build reserve. It can be adjusted annually as needed. A reserve would provide a cushion against a drop in assessed value growth.</p> <p>Board members commented on pros and cons of the decision, planning for subsequent years of rates drifting lower, when the bonds will be paid, whether the county faces the same vulnerability, the explanation to the community the costliness of waiting and raising the assessed value over \$44.50 versus creating a reserve in advance.</p> <p>This item will return for possible action at the August 5, 2009, special meeting.</p>

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Discussion

Second Amendment to Lease Agreement for the Garland Site between Palo Alto Unified School District and Stratford School, Inc., a California Corporation

Golton reviewed the proposed changes to the lease with this second amendment. Clay Stringham, Stratford Schools, also was in attendance.

Board members commented on using changes to class size rules allowing flexibility rather than opening a new school as enrollment slows, what will be done to accommodate student growth if enrollment increases in 2012 to 2015, whether additional portables are part of the plan, the financial upsides of not opening another school at this time, the much greater difficulty of closing schools should enrollment drop, current economic and enrollment situations warrant a cautious approach, empathy for current tenant as trends change the decisions being made, growth is at two percent with final numbers not known until September, 30 year trend is not volatile, the north cluster is at a pinch point, a lot of elementary portables and grappling with Addison as a four strand school, concern about an overflow plan for the north and the disruption to families that are overflowed, adding to Fairmeadow and capturing the overhead of another school, the loss of lease revenue, concern for the high school facilities, the higher value in highly qualified teachers and programs, added pilot program and space at Ohlone and whether there is additional capacity at that location, further discussion at August 25 regular meeting, making decisions for the entire district, updating enrollment and plan to show community on August 25, the decisions are business based rather than political, clarity on changing direction as economic rather than enrollment, space availability does not match where attendance areas and enrollment growth occur, and the need to discuss values and the trade offs.

Stringham thanked the Board members and noted he appreciates the difficulty of the decision. He noted he is looking forward to an answer on the termination notice.

This item will return for possible action at the August 25, 2009, regular meeting.

Workshop

Board and Superintendent Workshop

The Board continued its workshop with the superintendent and senior staff members

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Secretary to the Board