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MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 25, 2009

<p><u>Call to Order</u></p>	<p>The Board of Education of Palo Alto Unified School District held a Regular Meeting in the Board Room at 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Barb Mitchell, President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Members present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Barb Mitchell, President Ms. Barbara Klausner, Vice President Ms. Melissa Baten Caswell Mr. Dana Tom Ms. Camille Townsend Mr. Steve Zhou, Student Board Rep, Gunn (Arrived at 7:00 p.m.) Mr. Jason Willick, Student Board Rep, Paly <p>Staff present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent Dr. Scott Bowers, Assistant Superintendent Ms. Ginni Davis, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Linda Common, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert Golton, Chief Business Officer Ms. Cathy Mak, Chief Business Officer Mr. David Hoshiwara, Director <p>Others present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Tom Hodges, O'Connor Construction Management Mr. Arnold Teton, Gilbane Construction
<p><u>Closed Session</u></p>	<p>The Board adjourned to closed session for Employee Appointment pursuant to Government Code 54957 – Principal; Liability Claims pursuant to Government Code 54961 – Wang vs. PAUSD; Conference with Labor Negotiator, Dr. Scott Bowers, regarding PAEA, CSEA, and Non-represented groups pursuant to Government Code 54957.6; Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to Government Code 94956 – Dr. Bob Golton, CBO – Garland School, 870 N. California Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303; and Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release pursuant to Government Code 54957.</p>
<p><u>Reconvene in Open Session</u></p>	<p>The Board reconvened in regular session at 6:34 p.m. in the Board Room. Mitchell welcomed everyone back to the school year, and introduced Jason Willick, the new Student Board Rep for Paly. She announced that during closed session, the following actions were taken with the following motions:</p> <p>MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Klausner, and motion carried 5-0 to reject the liability claim</p> <p>MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Townsend, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the waiver allowing one student to successfully pass the High School Exit Exam with modifications for students with disabilities.</p>
<p><u>Approval of Agenda Order</u></p>	<p>MOTION: Townsend moved to approve the agenda order. Baten Caswell seconded. Motion carried 5-0.</p>
<p><u>Staff and Student Successes</u></p>	<p>Skelly recognized: Kara Rosenberg for being appointed to the Association of California School Administrators Adult Education Council. He also thanked Jeff Willner and 78 students for providing music at the annual "Chow Down" which celebrated the kickoff of the new school year. He then introduced Matt Nagle, the new principal of Briones Elementary School. Nagle thanked administrators for selecting him, saying he was eager to get started at Briones.</p>
<p><u>Student Board Representatives</u></p>	<p>Jason Willick, of Palo Alto High School, commented on the first day of school, including the fire drill and the need for schedule changes of many students, ASB representative meeting, a rally to be held before the football game on Friday, work being done to help better integrate freshmen into the student body, and the ASB t-shirt fundraiser.</p>
<p><u>Information</u> Superintendent's Report</p>	<p>Skelly said Board members and administrators had visited every school during the day, and then he showed a slide presentation depicting their experiences. He said it was remarkable how well the first day of school went in terms of teachers, busing, lunch, and learning. He also thanked parent volunteers who helped integrate students. He said some slight enrollment growth at the elementary level was expected, and more would be known after the eleventh day of enrollment. In addition, enrollment at Paly was growing. He remarked briefly on California Standards and AP test results, saying they would be discussed in depth at a Board meeting in September.</p>

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Golton gave a slide presentation depicting progress in the building program over the summer, featuring the following projects:

- Gunn bike path
- Gunn track
- Gunn aquatic center
- Gunn IA building
- Paly tennis courts
- Paly exit onto Embarcadero
- El Camino fields
- Escondido playground
- Walter Hays playground
- Hoover/Hays flooring
- Ohlone, JLS, and Jordan portables
- Teaching walls at Duveneck and Escondido
- Briones Green Team

Steve Zhou, Student Board representative for Gunn, commented on the positive atmosphere at Gunn in spite of the recent tragedy, costumes worn by many students, and the lack of hazing.

Action
Approval of Consent Calendar

MOTION: Townsend moved to approve Certificated and Classified Personnel Items, warrants for June and July 2009, minutes for two meetings on June 23, and for July 21, and August 3, 4, and 5, 2009; and Resolutions 2009-10.02 and 2009-10.03 – Child Development Contracts 2009-10 and Resolution 2009-10.04 – Authorizing Signatures. Baten Caswell seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion
2009-10 District Focused Goals

Skelly gave a presentation focusing on:

- Mission
- Strategic plan areas
 - Academic excellence and learning
 - Staff recruitment and development
 - Budget trends and infrastructure
 - Governance and communication
- Timeline for decision on focused goals

Board member comments included the strength of the focused goals, the importance socio-emotional support for students, efforts to improve math education, goal-related staff development, the two day leadership retreat which included discussions on maintaining and increasing excellence in the high schools, financing goal work, avoiding drama in discussions, soliciting feedback early in the process, the importance of staff recruitment and development, the need to renew the parcel tax and the lack of a cost of living adjustment in the current tax, the importance of getting enough sleep for students, appreciation for the organization of the goals within the strategic plan, adding a bullet point to the goal list about the inclusion of mental health education in the Living Skills class, collaborating with other local organizations involved in student health, adding a bullet point about a February progress check-in, college readiness, the initiation of a focus on staff wellness, a request for an update of the goals and measurements mentioned in the strategic plan, creation and maintenance of consistency throughout the District, inclusion of a parent community component in the implementation of the new elementary math materials, recognition and support of initiatives taken by staff, learning about creative ways to provide healthcare security and conserve funds, presentation of a report on the success of last year's goals in September or October, and integration of other disciplines in math at the secondary level.

Public Comment

Sara Woodham said she liked the focused goals and asked if actions would be taken to address the achievement gap.

Kathleen Blanchard said she applauded the Superintendent and District for addressing the goal of improving student socio-emotional health, adding that there was a sense of urgency and students need support right now. She recognized that there is no single solution, but she appreciated the District's efforts to help children who are in pain. She said adults need to listen to students more.

Marielena Goona-Mendoza said problems often started before high school and built over time. She said something needed to be done, rather than just being discussed among adults. In addition, the stigma needed to be reduced. Students also need to be told by professionals that community college is acceptable, rather than just pressing themselves to go to ivy league schools.

Skelly said he and Golton would contact the Board to arrange a study session to discuss the parcel tax. In addition, McKinsey would do follow up interviews on strategic plan progress, and there would be a study session to discuss results.

Information
State Budget Update for 2009-10

Skelly said this would be a short report, and that more information would be presented at a subsequent meeting.

Mak discussed the recent revisions made to close the budget gap. The most significant revision involves the basic aid "fair

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share" reduction, with this year's reduction being \$2.6 million and next year's being \$4.4 million. This year's reduction is believed to be a one-time reduction and can be covered with other funding. Next year, a \$3 – 4 million problem may occur. Further information would be available at the next meeting.

Board member comments included certainty of Mak's projected reductions for PAUSD based on current assumptions and revision of projections based on upcoming County numbers.

Action

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

Golton said the decision not to open Garland as an additional elementary school would save the District about \$1.4 million annually in foregone lease revenue and operating costs. He said it was believed the state budget problem had been solved for now, but not for the long term. He also reviewed enrollment projections from Lapkoff & Gobalet's December 2008 report, as well as enrollment capacities at the schools. Golton presented a contingency plan for elementary enrollment growth, which focused on:

- Revised class size
- Increased capacity at Ohlone
- Begin plans for full fourth strand at Fairmeadow
- Place students at Greendell

Board member comments included expansion of kindergarten classrooms to Greendell, addition of a fourth strand at Fairmeadow, drop of birthrate during depression/recession times and the effect on enrollment projections, Ohlone expansion, clarification of this year's elementary enrollment compared to medium projections, and likelihood of future enrollment years coming in lower than Lapkoff & Gobalet medium projections.

Public Comment

Kerry Kenny said the Greendell solution was not ideal because kindergarteners would not be integrated; however, the Fairmeadow solution appeared promising and ought to be elevated on the proposed list.

Further Board member comments included natural fluctuation in enrollment and funding, the challenge of using funds most effectively, difficulty of deciding not to open a new school after all, keeping schools safe, increase of class size and the belief there will not be noticeable effects on classroom experiences due to quality teaching staff, huge economic commitment connected to the opening of a new school, considering the extension of this lease a delay rather than cancellation of opening another school, use of continuing lease income toward staffing, costs associated with increasing class size, potential negative impact to the classroom experience and community feel with increased class size, long-term negative impact of this decision due to continued growth, loss of quality with increased student to teacher ratio, discomfort with the financial analysis, cost of alternatives, continued growth this year in spite of decreased home sales, and the creation of spaces where students do not live by the contingency plan.

MOTION: Townsend moved to approve the second amendment to the lease agreement for the Garland Site between Palo Alto Unified School District and Stratford School, Inc., a California Corporation. Baten Caswell seconded. Motion carried 4-1 (Mitchell voting No).

Open Forum

Lourdes Jimenez is still waiting for the transfer after a number of postponements. She asked that the Board and staff work on this issue.

Discussion

Variable Term Waivers for Library Media Teacher and Spanish Immersion Teacher

Bowers said this waiver was for well qualified teachers who did not have needed credentials. Both of these teachers are currently in certification programs.

Board member comments included clarification that the Mandarin Immersion teacher would be at Ohlone.

It was agreed this item could return on the consent calendar at the next meeting.

Discussion

Authorization to Teach a Single Subject Class upon Meeting Course Work Requirements

Bowers said this item came to the Board each year, but Karlene Elder had retired, and could be deleted from this list for 2009-10.

It was agreed this item could return on the consent calendar at the next meeting.

Discussion

Authorization to Issue Addendum No. 3 to Deems Lewis McKinley Architecture

Golton and Hodges described the addendum, including design fees based on revised numbers of portables and the deferral of science renovation project scope.

It was agreed this item could return on the consent calendar at the next meeting.

Discussion

Furnishings and Equipment Budget for Gunn High School – Industrial Arts Building

Golton said this reflected the need for specialized equipment for the new Gunn IA building.

It was agreed this item could return on the consent calendar at the next meeting.

Discussion

Formation of Regional

Board member comments included: lack of additional costs caused by this JPA and prior discussion of this item in March and changes reflected in this report.

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Occupational Program Joint Powers Agreement (ROP JPA)

MOTION: Tom moved to waive the two meeting rule. Baten Caswell seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

MOTION: Baten Caswell moved to approve the amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as presented. Tom seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Members' Reports/Correspondence/Board Operations/Recognition

Reports

Baten Caswell visited the Barron Park College Bound open house and said the enthusiasm was great, then suggested other Board members meet the parents involved.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Secretary to the Board