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MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2009

Call to Order

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. Barbara Klausner, President, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Members present:

Ms. Barbara Klausner, President
 Ms. Melissa Baten Caswell, Vice President
 Ms. Barb Mitchell, President
 Mr. Dana Tom
 Ms. Camille Townsend
 Mr. Steve Zhou, Student Board Rep, Gunn
 Mr. Jason Willick, Student Board Rep, Paly

Staff present:

Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent
 Dr. Linda Common, Assistant Superintendent
 Mrs. Ginni Davis, Assistant Superintendent
 Dr. Scott Bowers, Assistant Superintendent
 Dr. Robert Golton, Co Chief Business Official
 Mrs. Cathy Mak, Co Chief Business Official

Approval of Agenda Order

MOTION: It was moved by Mitchell; seconded by Baten Caswell; and motion carried 5-0 to approve the agenda order noting item 15, 2010 Board of Education Committee Assignments, should state it is an action item. The last committee listed, Santa Clara County Committee representative, was voted on separately in the consent calendar.

Staff and Student Successes

Skelly noted there are seniors receiving their early college acceptances. He spoke about the recent accomplishments of students and staff members and his attendance at the Madrigal dinner and tea at Palo Alto High School.

Student Board Representatives

Willick, of Palo Alto High School, reported on club activity day, Not In Our School Week, prom, and reported the stop light on Middlefield is being fixed before the end of the year. He noted students are looking forward to the homework free break.

Zhou, of Gunn High School, reported on the choir show, speed friending, and student surveys.

Superintendent Report

Skelly spoke about Race to the Top and a request regarding a Memorandum of Understanding. His recommendation was to pass on this opportunity as the future legislation is currently unclear and not in the district's best interest at this time.

Golton presented photos on the Industrial Arts Building at Gunn High School.

Skelly noted there is a dispute about when the district can run a mail in election. The date of April 6 is not one of the allowable dates, so the next opportunity is May 4, 2010. He asked that the public hearing being postponed until January 12, 2010.

Consent Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Townsend, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the consent calendar which included certificated and classified personnel actions; the warrants of November 2009; the MOU with Los Altos School District; call for nominations for CSBA Delegate Assembly; close-out Amendment to Agreement between PAUSD and the Jewish Community Center regarding the Greendell Site; construction change orders, Career Technical Education Facilities Program grant for Palo Alto High School; increase of project budgets for High School Master Plans; Amendment No. 2 to AEDIS Architecture and Planning; and naming the Board Representative for the County Committee.

Public Hearing Parcel Tax Resolution #2009-10.08

Skelly noted the item was discussed on December 8.

Tom asked to make a motion regarding tabling the public hearing.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried 5-0 to remove the public hearing from the agenda order until the January 12, 2010, meeting.

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Action

First Interim Financial Report

Mak confirmed criteria and standards and the district is in compliance.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Townsend, and motion carried 5-0, to give a positive certification to the County Superintendent that the District can meet its financial obligations through the end of the fiscal year and for the subsequent two years and to approve the budget revisions listed in the projected year totals.

Action

Parcel Tax Resolution
#2009-10.08

Skelly reiterated the issue facing the district for an April 6 mail in election. He pointed out the final language for the ballot is in the package. The item will return on January 12, 2010.

Board member comments included noting the mail in votes was a state decision interpreted differently by individual counties. Staff noted there are conflicts in the code and Santa Clara County restricts when the elections may occur. Board member comments included clarifying that other counties can have elections on April 6; Los Angeles County and San Mateo are two examples of counties that interpret the law differently; clarified that staff does not recommend fighting this short delay from April to May; clarified that various parent group presidents have reviewed the final language; and noted the language is on line for the public to review.

Public Comment

Triona Gogarty, PAEA President, commented PAEA supports the effort for the parcel tax. She noted the history of the parcel tax over the past ten years. She expressed concerns about maintaining the programs that make PAUSD unique and a leading educational institution in the nation.

Roberta Stone asked that those who will find this tax a hardship be considered. She asked for low income homeowners to be allowed an exemption from the parcel tax. Skelly state staff would explore this possibility.

Board member comments included whether additional information can be provided when the item returns for action in January.

Action

2010 Board of Education
Committee Assignments

Klausner reported the assignments were done in collaboration with the Board members. Klausner also noted the BPRC is a new sub-committee of the Board and again that the County Committee was voted on as part of the consent calendar earlier on the agenda.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Baten Caswell, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the committee assignments as presented for the 2010 calendar year.

Bond and Facility Items

Discussion

Authorization to Purchase
Computers for Gunn High School
and JLS Middle School

Golton explained the new Director of IT, Ann Dunkin, is working with the sites on how to spend their technology funds from Measure A. He asked that the Board waive its two meeting rule for Gunn and JLS.

Board member comments included equity for all schools; asked about this portion of the total allocation for each site from Measure A; asked for clarification of where these computers will be used; and noted they would like to have a more complete plan. Skelly stated staff will provide information on technology spending at the sites. A baseline for all schools is a district goal. Golton state staff will provide information on the total amount of Measure A funds dedicated to technology and for this year's allocation.

MOTION: It was moved by Mitchell, seconded by Tom, and motion carried 5-0 to waive the two meeting rule.

MOTION: It was moved by Mitchell, seconded by Baten Caswell, and motion carried 5-0 to authorize an order totaling a not to exceed amount of \$139,000 for computers at Gunn High School and JLS Middle School.

Action

Authorization to Bid the Site Work
and Relocation of Modular
Buildings to Accommodate
Construction at Gunn High School

Golton noted this was discussed at the December 8 meeting.

Board member comments included noting how nice the campus looks; clarified the cost of moving utilities is not the larger portion of the budget; clarified the modulars are being moved to accommodate new construction; clarified the time frame is from the summer of 2010 until 2013; clarified that Miranda parking will be available until 2011; and clarified the limited loss of parking for staff and students.

Skelly noted the purpose of this particular action and clarified the possible impact to the tennis courts. Board member comments included clarifying the reconfiguration of the tennis courts in the long-term process.

MOTION: It was moved by Townsend, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried 5-0 to approve bidding the site work and relocation of modular buildings at Gunn High School.

Action

Authorization to Bid the Site Work
and Relocation of Modular
Buildings to Accommodate

Golton was joined by Arnold Teton, Gilbane; Tom Hodges, O'Connor Construction; and Jacquie McEvoy, principal at Palo Alto High School. Golton noted concerns have been raised since the last report in regard to the placement of the portables. Golton reviewed the two-year plan that includes moving 16 portables for the construction of two new buildings. The construction timeframe is only 65 days and takes advantage of the summer while waiting for DSA approval of the new

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Construction at Palo Alto High School

buildings. Golton also reviewed the four-year plan and the costs of the longer delay in dollars and for students/staff. He noted this is a necessity in order to improve the campus. He noted the facilities steering committee plans to move the memorial garden in the short term and was discussing its eventual permanent relocation. Golton addressed a suggestion to put the portables on the corner of El Camino Real and Middlefield. Issues with this placement were it placed those students and staff out of the flow of the main campus and in the path of moving cars when trying going through the parking lot.

Board member comments clarified the differences in the two drawings being used; clarified where the modulares are being moved from; clarified when the issues were discussed in the facilities steering committee, site council, students, Ed Council, and with the community; and clarified there was a second community meeting.

Willick noted the students did support the two year plan.

Board member comments included confirmation for a preference to finish as soon as possible; clarified what other projects are ahead that may require modulares; noted there is a concern about growing enrollment in a reduced amount of campus space; clarified exactly what defines the quad area; clarified the need for security and where students will go during their break times; suggested using the area nearer the Tower Building instead and reconfiguring the remaining parking; clarified what will happen to the landscaping; appreciated willingness to be transparent about the process and decisions; requested that the PTSA be included in the discussion; clarified that the drainage will be addressed; clarified the intention for the memorial garden to be moved, not removed; clarified the costs to move the modulares into the parking lot; appreciated the inclusion of additional information and responses to the community; verified the modulares will moved in 2010 and be in place through 2013; asked that places for students to congregate be identified; noted there are no solutions without drawbacks; and commented on the need to enable input from all stakeholders efficiently. Skelly noted some issues don't surface until they reach the Board agendas. In this case, there can be three meetings of the Board instead of two to allow additional comment and input.

This item will return to the January 12, 2010, agenda.

Open Forum

Bertha Cervantes expressed concern about the lack of help from the administration for an issue with her child.

Action

Authorization to Bid the Procurement and Relocation of Modular Buildings to Accommodate Construction and Growth at Ohlone Elementary School

Skelly noted this item was discussed at the December 8 meeting. Golton noted costs were included.

MOTION: It was moved by Townsend, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried to authorize staff to bid the installation and lease of modular classroom buildings at Ohlone Elementary School.

Board Members' Reports

Reports

Townsend noted she and Baten Caswell would attend the City School Liaison meeting on Wednesday morning. She commended city and district staff for their work.

Baten Caswell commented the uniqueness of discussing matters of interest to both the city and the district. She reviewed planned agenda items. Golton noted it is a very collegial group and a pleasure to work with.

Klausner commented on the PTA Council and their work in the area of social-emotion health of students. They also are putting together a parent survey about the budget.

Baten Caswell spoke about the work of the PTA at the state level. She encouraged people to become members.

Operations

Townsend suggested the Chamber Political Action Committee become a formal rotating role for a board representative.

Tom suggested Skelly follow his recommendation regarding the Race to the Top deadline. Baten Caswell concurred.

Townsend wished everyone happy holidays.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Secretary to the Board