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MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2009

<u>Call to Order</u>	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>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. Chirag Krishna, Paly, Student Board Representative Mr. Phil Park, Gunn, Student Board Representative <p>Staff present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent Dr. Scott Bowers, Assistant Superintendent Mrs. Ginni Davis, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Scott Laurence, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert Golton, Chief Business Officer Mrs. Cathy Mak, Chief Business Officer Ms. Marie Scigliano, Director Mrs. Susan Charles, Principal <p>Others present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Lori Alvarez, O'Connor Construction Management Mr. Tom Hodges, O'Connor Construction Management Mr. Chris Duncan, Gelfand Partners Ms. Lisa Gelfand, Gelfand Partners
<u>Closed Session</u>	The Board adjourned to closed session for Conference with Labor Negotiator, Dr. Scott Bowers, regarding PAEA, CSEA, and non-represented groups pursuant to Government Code 54961.
<u>Reconvene in Open Session</u>	The Board reconvened in regular session at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Mitchell announced that no action was taken and that the Board would be returning to closed session after this open session.
<u>Approval of Agenda Order</u>	MOTION: Baten Caswell moved to approve the agenda order. Tom seconded. Motion carried 5-0.
<u>Staff and Student Successes</u>	Lois Garland, PAPIE Chair, presented a check for \$2.57 million, representing funds raised by the group. She said these funds will be allocated evenly across the District and mentioned some specific areas where the money was to be spent. She then described the fundraising experience, including the challenges due to the economy. A Leadership Circle has also been formed to recognize donors of \$2,500 or more.
	Mitchell, who is the Board's PAPIE Liaison, commended the work done by the PAPIE Board, Principals, volunteers, reps, donors, and more. She also thanked Muneerah Merchant, and everyone at PAPIE, for all their hard work.
	Skelly recognized Esther Wojicki, a teacher at Palo Alto High School, for receiving the Gold Key of the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for 2009.
<u>Information</u> Student Board Representative Reports	Chirag Krishna, of Paly, discussed the Sadie Hawkins Dance and the various speakers coming to talk to students this month. Phil Park, of Gunn, discussed the Sadie Hawkins Dance and the Drug and Alcohol Assembly.
<u>Information</u> Superintendent's Report	Skelly said district comments on high speed rail would be made in the near future, as Palo Alto High School would be affected. He also said the March 12 parent math adoption meeting at Nixon has been changed to March 11.
<u>Action</u> Approval of Consent Calendar	Mitchell recommended pulling Certificated Personnel actions and Minutes from the consent calendar.

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2009

Action

Certificated and Classified Personnel Items.

MOTION: Townsend moved to pull the Certificated and Classified Personnel Actions and minutes, and to approve the remaining item: Change to Funding Source for Gilbane Building Company Contract. Baten Caswell seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Bowers said an updated version of the documents was being presented at this meeting.

MOTION: Tom moved to approve the amended Certificated and Classified Personnel actions. Baten Caswell seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Hodges presented a construction update on Gunn athletic facilities. Skelly said the Industrial Arts building would continue on its current timeline.

Board member comments included appreciation for the staff support of the Gunn Robotics Club during preparations for the most recent competition.

Due to technical issues, there was a slight delay in presenting the Second Interim Report, so the Board agreed to present their reports and operations items.

Board Members'

Reports/Correspondence/Board Operations/Recognition

Board Members' Reports

Townsend reported on the most recent School City Liaison Committee meeting, which covered topics such as traffic safety and the addition of Trader Joe's at Town & Country shopping center. In addition, the group reviewed a number of City/School collaborations that benefited the community's children. Baten Caswell said there was much City interest on other ways to provide recreational opportunities.

Baten Caswell said she and Tom attended the Drug and Alcohol Committee's report and suggested the report be brought to a future Board meeting as well. This information was also on their website. Tom added that most students in this district did not engage in high risk behavior.

Board Operations

Skelly said discussions were occurring about forming a separate JPA (Joint Powers Authority) with Mountain View-Los Altos High School District and Fremont Union High School District for ROP (Regional Occupational Program). He suggested having a special Board meeting on Friday, March 6, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss this item.

Board member comments included budget, length of the Friday meeting, and timeline.

Discussion

Second Interim Financial Report

Mak presented the District's Second Interim report, with highlights following:

- Budget development calendar
- 17 month state budget
- Tax increases
- Borrowing
- Expenditure reductions
- Impact to PAUSD
- Highlights
- Revenue changes from the first interim budget
- Expenditure changes from the first interim budget
- Net changes (ignoring local income to schools)
- Change in property tax revenue
- Change in enrollment
- Change in property tax revenue per student
- Unknowns/variables

Board member comments included time lag of property taxes, impact of the small reduction in Special Education funding, software expense, Adult Education budget, and state reduction to categorical funding.

Skelly said his Council had been meeting to discuss the reductions in relation to program priorities.

Board member comments continued, including the importance of having a reliable budget, appreciation for staff work, technology funding, and possible trade-offs.

Information

Strategic Plan Update

Skelly said that in May 2008 the Board approved the Strategic Plan to direct staff in their work moving forward. He then gave a presentation focusing on:

- Academic excellence and learning
 - Recap of strategic plan work
 - Work reported or completed so far this year
 - Upcoming efforts/reports this year

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2009

- Other efforts
- Future tasks
- Staff recruitment and retention
 - Online applications
 - Tenure decisions
 - Evaluation procedures/feedback
 - To be done
- Budget trends and infrastructure
 - Thank you to community
 - Stewardship in unprecedented times
 - Retiree health benefits
 - Careful staffing and class size work at elementary level
 - Medical savings
 - Enrollment study and implications
 - Construction
 - To be done
- Governance and communication
 - Board/Superintendent relationship
 - Stretching to communicate
 - Reporting to the Board
 - Online enrollment and summer school registration
 - Work with neighbors and community on facilities
 - Student achievement reports
 - To be done

Board member and student representative comments included the importance of reflecting on the good work being done, World Language department changes, college readiness awareness, middle school literacy, work done with this active community, future budget cuts, professional development implementation, using the strategic plan as a living document, the importance of communicating the process, community support, including efforts to support under-performing students in future reports, the hope for more academic items on future Board agendas, the difficulty of balancing both focus and breadth, governance, and communication.

Open Forum

Jeremy Sakakihara, CSEA (California School Employees Association) Chapter President, suggested the District present its budget situation in a way that will help it continue to recruit and retain the most qualified staff, since its budget was more positive than all the other districts in this area. He also stated that the bargaining unit looked forward to continuing negotiations in keeping with the true spirit of the tentative agreement.

Discussion

Approval of Ohlone Elementary School New Classroom Building Conceptual Design

Golton said this was a recommended plan. Charles discussed priorities at Ohlone, including honoring students and incorporating the farm. Gelfand presented the recommended concept for a two-story building. Charles thanked the Ohlone community for its support.

Board member comments included the benefit of shared spaces, student density, the farm, maintaining flexibility for the future, Ohlone's relationship with its neighbors, the natural play area and the need for areas like this, the level of detail the Board will be asked to approve at the next meeting, the conceptual process, effect on the budget of future changes, CHPS standards and possible use of solar panels, sustainability of the plan, parking spaces, natural ventilation, and upkeep of the building.

Action

Budgets at the Elementary School Level for the Measure A – Strong Schools Bond

Golton gave a presentation focusing on:

- Allocations
- Definitions
- Original allocation
- Draws by the three projects
 - Teaching wall allocation
 - Ohlone allocation
 - Garland
- MODFLEX (modernization and flex rooms)
- PPC (portables to permanent conversion)
- NEWCG (New classrooms)
- LIB (library expansion)
- Remaining balance summary

Board member comments included library size at Garland in comparison to other schools in the District, budgeting for the other three libraries, funds remaining for accommodating enrollment growth, flexibility of funds, and reporting funding committed to date on the website for the sake of transparency.

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2009

- MOTION: Tom moved to:
1. Direct staff to budget the \$98.5 million in elementary funds as follows:
 - a. The MODFLEX funds in the amount of \$42.1 million to be used as a district K-5 pool of funds for modernization and flex rooms. The commitment here is that these funds will be used to provide equivalent modernization scope at each campus and a flex room at each campus.
 - b. The PPC funds in the amount of \$39.6 million, to be used for conversion of portables to permanents, classrooms for enrollment growth, multi-purpose rooms, and other improvements at sites. It is recommended that these funds be utilized flexibly based on enrollment patterns and site-by-site construction needs.
 - c. The NEWCG funds in the amount of \$10.3 million to be used for creating additional classroom capacity to accommodate K-5 enrollment growth, based on the ability of the site to accommodate the additional enrollment and the location of expected growth.
 - d. The LIB funds in the amount of \$6.5 million to be used as designated on the Working Draft Spreadsheet for specific schools.

Townsend seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

- MOTION Tom moved to:
2. Continue to authorize the Measure A budget of \$11,089,151 for Ohlone Elementary School and augment that amount by \$578,814, bringing the new total to \$11,667,965, with the funding as shown on the Working Draft Spreadsheet augmented by \$2,765,005 from NEWCG funds and \$578,814 from PPC funds.
 3. Continue to authorize the Measure A budget of \$18,957,750 for Garland Elementary School and augment that amount by \$3,220,794, bringing the new total to \$22,178,544, with the funding as shown on the Working Draft Spreadsheet augmented by \$7,311,262 from PPC funds and \$3,750,311 from NEWCG funds.

Townsend seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion
Measure A Purchases for
Technology

Golton said this would be a major step toward bringing technology up to date at the schools. This item also included infrastructure and other equipment, which was allowed by this Prop 39 bond election.

MOTION: Klausner moved to extend the meeting to 10:15 p.m. Tom seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Board member comments included the method for determining allocation of money, the importance of moving toward comparability, how this work fits into the rest of the education plan, and classroom digital projectors.

The Board agreed to place this item on the consent calendar for the next meeting.

Recess to Closed Session

The Board adjourned from open session and returned to closed session at 10:08 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 11:45 p.m. Mitchell reported no action had been taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m.

Secretary to the Board