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### MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 12, 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"> <li>Ms. Barb Mitchell, President</li> <li>Ms. Barbara Klausner, Vice President</li> <li>Ms. Melissa Baten Caswell</li> <li>Mr. Dana Tom</li> <li>Ms. Camille Townsend</li> <li>Mr. Chirag Krishna, Paly, Student Board Representative</li> <li>Mr. Phil Park, Gunn, Student Board Representative</li> </ul> <p>Staff present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent</li> <li>Dr. Scott Bowers, Assistant Superintendent</li> <li>Ms. Ginni Davis, Assistant Superintendent</li> <li>Mr. Scott Laurence, Assistant Superintendent</li> <li>Dr. Robert Golton, Chief Business Officer</li> <li>Ms. Cathy Mak, Chief Business Officer</li> </ul>
<p><u>Closed Session</u></p>	<p>The Board adjourned to closed session for Employee Evaluation pursuant to Government Code 54957 regarding the Superintendent; for Employee Appointment pursuant to Government Code 54957 regarding the Assistant Superintendent; for Conference with Labor Negotiator, Dr. Scott Bowers, regarding PAEA, CSEA, and Non-represented groups pursuant to Government Code 54957.6; and for Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to Government Code 54956.8, Negotiator Bob Golton, CBO, regarding Garland School, 870 N. California Ave.</p>
<p><u>Reconvene in Open Session</u></p>	<p>The Board reconvened in regular session at 6:33 p.m. in the Board Room. Mitchell announced the Board took no action during closed session. The Board will adjourn to closed session following open session to complete its business as noted above.</p>
<p><u>Approval of Agenda Order</u></p>	<p>MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Baten Caswell, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the agenda order.</p>
<p><u>Staff and Student Successes</u></p>	<p>Skelly asked for a moment of silence in recognition of the recent loss of a teacher and a student. Skelly congratulated Paly student who placed third in a national math competition, Terman students who placed first in a math competition, ninth in another math competition, and nineteenth in a geography bee. He also congratulated Terman student teams that competed in the Annual Tech Challenge at the Tech Museum. Briones and Jordan also had student teams competing and placing in this competition.</p> <p>Dan Dykwel, PTA Council President, presented information covering the PTA Mission and PTA Goals: advocate for, promote, and support student social/emotional/physical health; promote educational excellence for all students; maintain and enhance a strong, effective Palo Alto PTA; advocate for all children by using PTA local, state, and national advocacy networks. He also reviewed the new PTA web site, volunteer hours, funding and where it is spent; parent and student education; community-building events; and communications. Dykwel thanked everyone for their support. It was noted the annual service awards luncheon would be held June 5.</p> <p>The Board thanked the PTA for their volunteerism, for being an integral part of the district, and Dykwel for his personal contributions to the organization over the past two years. The Board discussed that it was difficult to put a price on the hours given to the district, thanked Dykwel for keeping it fun, noted it was unimaginable not to have the activities provided for the community, appreciated the presence of the leadership; appreciated the cutting edge use of the technology, and thanked the PTA for the breadth and depth of the contributions from those contributing to those who receive. Skelly thanked Dykwel for the time he spent meeting individually and with the PTA presidents and executive council.</p> <p>Chirag Krishna, of Paly, noted elections have been finalized; the last chance dance is this week, they are looking for speakers for graduation and baccalaureate events, AP testing is ongoing, and STAR testing started the following day.</p> <p>Phil Park, of Gunn, noted the tall tree festival was next week, spoke of the work with YCS, noted the last dance is to be held this</p>

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week at Gunn as well, and student self-directed, one-acts will be performed over the next few weeks.

### Action

Approval of Consent Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Klausner, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the consent calendar as follows: certificated personnel actions, classified personnel actions; warrants for April 2009; minutes of April 14, 2009; amendment to agreement with VBN Architects for additional services; and ratification of representatives to the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Central Coast Section (CCS) League.

### Information

College Bound Mid-Year Review

Skelly spoke about the establishment of this pilot program. Data is incomplete as the year is not finished. Davis, introduced Sharareh McDaniel, teacher, and Cathy Howard, Barron Park principal. Howard spoke about the research done in looking for programs that worked and what could be done at their school. A key to the program is to believe that all children can learn and that outside influences can be neutralized so students can focus on learning. High expectations are necessary. It will be August before STAR testing results are available. School consists of longer days and a longer year. Howard also explained enrollment for the coming school year: 16 at third; 15 at fourth; 17 at fifth.

McDaniel reviewed her experiences as a fifth grade teacher and how quickly learning moves, but this program targets the group that is somewhat behind. Other teachers are noticing the positive changes in the students in their learning and attitudes. High school students who are meeting the challenge and succeeding were invited to speak to the fifth grade students. McDaniel is excited to do this next year after a year of changing her own mindset.

The Board discussed whether there was a longer term plan beyond next year; whether it can be expanded beyond one school; whether other models have been researched, like Promise Academy; the makeup of the full classroom; how the class gelled and whether all students are taking the assessments; how this affects the teacher and the possibility for sustaining it long term or in more schools; how students are performing from Danae Gray's, professional development and curriculum support, perspective; the transformative effect; how the district can use the methods in a broader perspective; whether staff is assessing the impact of the different elements for what will work and fit elsewhere in the district; other ways to use the earliest part of the day to focus learning for certain students, how this can be done at other schools; whether the district is in the position to look at other schools and their students; what the costs are for this program and where the funding comes from; a snapshot of the program and how long the pilot will run at the expanded level of three classes; having a document stating the plans moving forward with this pilot, including the budget; that the document should include means for judging its success and how all children in the program are performing; what is captured in the program that hasn't been seen elsewhere and what will be left out as the program changes for next year with fewer longer days; asked when the Board could expect a follow up report and information requested; whether the budget needed Board approval of the amount being spent; and whether the superintendent has spoken to other principals about this program.

Staff will report back in the fall about testing results and other results from this year's pilot.

### Discussion

Adoption and Standards  
Alignment Certification of Spanish  
Language Instructional Materials –  
Levels I and II

Burton Cohen, director of secondary curriculum, introduced members of the steering committee. Teachers present included Norm Masuda, Kevin Duffy, Anne Jensen, and Danae Cohen. This adoption is out of sequence from the California cycle, but current materials and consumables were published in 1997 and are no longer in print. Funding is available from district lottery money. The materials chosen meet requirements for content area standards and frameworks. Students expressed interest in a strong technological link. Level I will be implemented this fall; Level II will be implemented the following year.

The board discussed the piloting process, how it was conducted, and how the technology was used; the publisher and their background as opposed to the larger publishers; the transition from middle school to high school and keeping materials fresh; the comparative costs with that of other publishers; the costs of online services for students; Board members thanked the teachers for opening the world to students through language; asked about the funding and the state lists and whether IMFRP could have been used with a different text recommendation; and asked for a link to the content standards.

### Public Comment

Faith Brigel thanked the committee for involving students in choosing the textbook. She noted how her child's input was appreciated by the committee.

The Board discussed students who do not have access to the technology at home and whether students are made aware there is access in the schools; suggested asking PTAs for help with acquiring laptops at the middle school level.

Skelly noted the retirement of Masuda at the end of this school year.

The Board agreed to place this item on the consent calendar for May 26.

### Open Forum

There were no requests to speak.

### Discussion

Contracts for Legal Services for  
2009-10: (1) Lozano Smith; (2)  
Fagan Friedman and Fulfroost; and  
(3) Miller Brown and Dannis

Skelly noted the work done by the three firms.

The Board discussed whether this was the first year were using Fagan Friedman and Fulfroost; and noted the amount listed is what is being approved, not necessarily what will be spent.

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	<p>The Board agreed to place this on the consent calendar for May 26.</p>
<p><u>Discussion</u> Authorization to Extend Awarded Contract for Unleaded and Diesel Fuel</p>	<p>The Board discussed when this was last presented to them.</p> <p>The Board agreed to place this on the consent calendar for May 26.</p>
<p><u>Discussion</u> Proposed Regular and Work Session Board Meetings 2009-10 School Year</p>	<p>The Board discussed dates for their annual retreat, Tom noted dates he would be away.</p> <p>This item will return for action on the next agenda.</p>
<p><u>Action</u> Authorization to Bid Summer Maintenance Projects</p>	<p>Golton noted this was discussed at the last meeting.</p> <p>The Board discussed the Gunn track and when Paly would be done; the sad state of the field at Addison; and whether the Paly cracks in the entrance sidewalks are handled through regular maintenance.</p> <p>MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Baten Caswell, and motion carried 5-0 to authorize staff to solicit bids for the summer maintenance projects: replace the northern playground at Escondido, repair the main play area at Walter Hays, repair and slurry the northern bike path at Gunn, replace the track surface at Gunn, replace the tennis court paving and fencing at Paly, replace the air handlers in the District Staff Development Center, and replace carpet/VCT flooring in selected rooms at various schools.</p>
<p><u>Discussion</u> Authorization to Close out Budget for Gunn High School AD-2 Renovation Project</p>	<p>Golton explained that the AD-2 building was planned, but the prioritization changed and the budget needs to be closed out. Should it change, staff will return with a new budget request. This returns \$3,236,931 to the Gunn master plan fund.</p> <p>The Board asked if services provided can be reused if the item comes back.</p>
<p><u>Board Members' Reports/Correspondence/Board Operations/Recognition</u></p>	<p><u>Reports</u> Tom will be at a CSBA delegate assembly meeting over the weekend. There is a reform movement for the state budget and CSBA will look at how they can participate. He noted student art will be on display beginning Wednesday evening at the Art Center.</p> <p>Baten Caswell noted the Art Center is hosting a children's author on Saturday regarding language arts and math. It will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium.</p> <p><u>Recognition</u> Mitchell presented Tom with the gavel for his service as president the previous year.</p>
<p><u>Adjournment</u></p>	<p>The Board adjourned to closed session at 9:20 p.m. Mitchell noted no action was taken.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.</p>
	<p>_____ Secretary to the Board</p>