

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Attachment: Action

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PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date:

11.17.09

TO: Kevin Skelly, Superintendent

FROM: Ginni Davis, Assistant Superintendent - Educational Services

PREPARED BY: Barbara Lançon, Educational Services Coordinator

SUBJECT: Proposal for the 2010 High School Summer School Program

*Changes made to this item since its presentation at the November 10, 2009, meeting are noted in italics.*

### STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE

Academic Excellence and Learning

### BACKGROUND

For summer school 2010, we are proposing a new schedule of classes that will expand and enhance the academic options and support for our high school students and will provide greater access to the requisite academic skills required for college/post-secondary success. Students will be able to enroll for a full year, 10 credit class, or 1 or 2 one-semester classes for 5 credits each. This will allow students to make up *a-g* course credits or *allow for special circumstances such as students who are new to PAUSD and have been taught with a different course sequence.*

### PROPOSAL

Instead of the current four-week high school summer session, where students are able to take only one 5 credit class, we are planning on 2 three-week sessions, at five hours a day. Summer Session I will run from June 21-July 9, and Summer Session II will continue from July 12-July 30. As in the past, these classes will be fee based. The proposed tuition for a one-semester class would be \$515, and for both semesters (either 1 full year class, or 2 one-semester classes) the tuition would be \$850. Financial aid will be available to all students who qualify. A class will be offered if enough students register and pay the fee to allow us to cover the costs of the class.

In past years, a number of students have paid to attend private schools, often taking courses with the same class title but without our academic rigor. We also have students who in the past could make up units at the Sequoia Union High School District, but due to budget cuts, as of last summer Sequoia is no longer allowing our students to attend their summer program.

### DESCRIPTION

These full year high school classes will be in various subject areas, as developed by the collaboration of high school staffs and district administrators, including the two high school principals, Jacquie McEvoy and Noreen Likins; Assistant Superintendent Linda Commons; Director of Secondary Education Burton Cohen; and Summer School Coordinator Barbara Lançon. They will work to determine the needs of the students and which classes to offer to best meet these

needs. In addition, the curriculum for these classes will be developed by the Instructional Supervisors through the Steering Committees. They have already begun planning for this work, based upon Board approval. The courses must be identified by early January to be included in course catalogs, to enable students to plan their schedules, and the curriculum would need to be developed in late winter and early spring so teachers can prepare for this instruction.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This item was discussed at the November 10, 2009, Board meeting. It is recommended the Board of Education approve the proposal *to expand to a six-week session year-long course credit or two three-week semester options and the aligned fees* for the 2010 High School Summer School Program.