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MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 27, 2008

Opening

The Board of Education of Palo Alto Unified School District held a Regular in the Board Room at 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Dana Tom, President, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Members present:

Mr. Dana Tom, President
 Ms. Barb Mitchell, Vice President
 Ms. Melissa Baten Caswell
 Ms. Barbara Klausner
 Ms. Camille Townsend

Others present:

Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent
 Dr. Marilyn Cook, Associate Superintendent
 Dr. Scott Bowers, Assistant Superintendent
 Mr. Scott Laurence, Assistant Superintendent
 Dr. Robert Golton, Interim CBO
 Mrs. Cathy Mak, Interim CBO

Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session for Employee Evaluation pursuant to Government Code §54957 – Superintendent; Conference with Labor Negotiator, Dr. Scott Bowers, regarding PAEA, CSEA, and Non-represented groups pursuant to Government Code §54957.6; and Student Discipline.

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board convened in open session at 6:37 p.m. Tom announced during closed session, the Board voted to expel student #02-0708 for violation of Education Code 48900 Section C for the balance of the 2007-08 school year. He said the Board would reconvene in closed session following this open session.

Also in attendance:

Mr. Andrew Tesler, Student Member, Gunn
 Ms. Kairen Wong, Student Member, Paly

Approval of Agenda Order

MOTION: Townsend moved to approve the agenda order. Baten Caswell seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Student Board Member Reports

Tesler reported on topics such as sports awards night, open mic, Gunn Dance Film Festival, AP exams, Physics Day, Carnival, One Acts, Gunn dance, student body elections, finals and final projects, graduation, baccalaureate, choir, and grad night party.

Wong reported on topics such as school publications, elections, Paly's last dance, tryouts for graduation speakers and performers, yearbooks, fire drill, and band and orchestra performances.

Superintendent's Report

Skelly highlighted Gunn's carnival, campus visits, Ride Your Bike to Work Day, meetings with administrators to review the year, and the status of construction projects at the sites.

Approval of Consent Calendar

MOTION: Baten Caswell moved to approve the consent calendar. Items approved included Certificated and Classified personnel actions; minutes of April 22 and May 7 and 9, 2008; and Authorization to Accept Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act Funds. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Public Hearing

Sunshine CSEA to PAUSD

Tom opened the public hearing.

There was no public comment.

The public hearing was closed.

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Public Hearing
PAUSD to CSEA

Tom opened the public hearing.
There was no public comment.
The public hearing was closed.

Public Hearing
Sunshine PAEA to PAUSD

Tom opened the public hearing.
There was no public comment.
The public hearing was closed.

Public Hearing
PAUSD to PAEA

Tom opened the public hearing.
There was no public comment.
The public hearing was closed.

Public Hearing
Deferred Maintenance Plan

Tom opened the public hearing.
There was no public comment.
The public hearing was closed.

Action
Strategic Plan Approval

Skelly thanked Julie Williams, parent volunteer, for her assistance in proofreading the document and Kathleen Ruegsegger, his administrative assistant, for reworking the document from a slide presentation to a prose document. He then described substantive changes and additions to the plan as well as the process used to create this plan.

Public Comment

Dan Dykwel thanked the Board and Superintendent for all their hard work and for making the effort to gather input from parents and students.

Board discussion included a few friendly amendments and the mention of some additional community input.

MOTION: Townsend moved to approve the Strategic Plan. All Board members including student members, seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Information
Report on Governor's May Revise for 2008-09 Budget and Update on Property Tax Revenue

Mak gave a presentation which focused on the following:

- May revision features for K-12
- Revenue limit
- Special education and flexibility options
- Categorical programs and flexibility options
- Impact to PAUSD General Fund – Net Reduction from 2007-08 budget
- Property tax revenue for 2007-08 and 2008-09

Board discussion included clarifications, discussion of the budget at the CSBA Delegate Assembly, Prop 98, special education funding, and revision of the county-wide reserve.

Action
Proposed Student Nutrition Services Plan for 2008-09

Board discussion included Board policies regarding this topic, movement toward cost neutrality, inclusion of a vegetarian option in the new elementary lunch menu, and communication of these changes to the parent community.

MOTION: Mitchell moved to approve the proposed program changes, proposed budget, and proposed staffing plan for the Student Nutrition Services Program for 2008-09. Townsend seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion
Resolution 2007-08.16 for Classified Reduction in Services

Bowers said this resolution reflected the reduction in classified staff resulting from the approved changes in the Student Nutrition program.

Board discussion included timing of the approval of this item and the commitment by the district and the union to find other positions for the staff affected by this resolution.

It was agreed this item would return on the consent calendar at the meeting of June 3, 2008.

Information
Establishment of the Stellar Coaches Fund

Skelly introduced Celeste and Kevin Ford, the donors who funded the Stellar Coaches Fund, then described the purpose of the Fund, which would support coaching at both high schools.

Approved:

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Discussion

The Application for 2008-09 Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Funding

Board discussion included the importance of adults in students' lives, the Board's appreciation for the generous gift, strategic plan goals, and the importance of having adults with whom students can connect.

Skelly described this item and its relation to the newly-approved strategic plan. Barbara Lançon, GATE Coordinator; and Becki Cohn-Vargas, Director of Elementary Education, gave further details and formatting guidelines.

Board discussion included alignment with the strategic plan, distribution of funding, the process for reviewing the GATE program, determination of the funding amount, and identification of GATE students.

Open Forum

Dan Dykwel reminded the Board that all district PTAs had voted to endorse Measure A. He said that on June 4, the day after the election, he wanted to know that all the improvements in the list of projects for the bond would be undertaken in order to meet the needs of all students at all sites.

Information

Increasing Academic Achievement and Developing College Readiness for Students of Color

Skelly introduced the item, and Cohn-Vargas went into further review of the report presented. She said that by next year, it was hoped test scores could be used to report progress in this area.

Board discussion included strategic plan goal metrics for students of color, use of CST scores to reflect progress in the future, schools chosen for pilots and how the program will branch out next year, the need for more statistics, the Minority Student Achievement Network, better use of available data, professional development, early intervention, models with proven success either in this district or others, and how committee members came together.

Discussion

Initial Proposals of California Service Employees Association (CSEA) for Negotiations with the Board of Education

There were no comments on this item.

It was agreed this item would return on the consent calendar at the meeting of June 3, 2008.

Discussion

Initial Proposals of the Board of Education for Negotiations with California Service Employees Association (CSEA)

There were no comments on this item.

It was agreed this item would return on the consent calendar at the meeting of June 3, 2008.

Discussion

Initial Proposals of Palo Alto Educators Association (PAEA) for Negotiations with the Board of Education

There were no comments on this item.

It was agreed this item would return on the consent calendar at the meeting of June 3, 2008.

Discussion

Initial Proposals of the Board of Education for Negotiations with Palo Alto Educators Association (PAEA)

There were no comments on this item.

It was agreed this item would return on the consent calendar at the meeting of June 3, 2008.

Discussion

Deferred Maintenance Plan Update

There were no comments on this item.

It was agreed this item would return on the consent calendar at the meeting of June 3, 2008.

Discussion

Proposed Board Meeting Calendar for the 2008-09 School Year

Board discussion included the possibility of having two meetings for the elementary SPSAs in order to spend more time on each school's report, the value of having all principals together, the separation of high schools and middle schools for this year's SPSAs due to the high school WASCs, and having more specific meeting objectives for the SPSA meetings.

Board Members' Reports / Correspondence / Board Operations / Recognition

Reports

Mitchell reported that she, Tom, and Cook attended a Children's Hospital's staff meeting, at which Cook was honored.

Klausner attended State Senator Joe Simitian's Education Update, which was very informative and entertaining.

Baten Caswell, Klausner, Tom, and Skelly attended the VTP (Voluntary Transfer Program) dinner. Baten Caswell also attended the PTA Presidents Council Incoming/Outgoing meeting. She then encouraged the Board and administration to welcome the newcomers. The following day, she and Klausner would be sharing the newly-approved strategic plan with the School City Liaison Committee. City budget issues affecting bicycle safety would also be discussed.

Townsend discussed Measure A with parents at Ohlone and would be going to the JLS exit interviews in a week.

Tom spoke to the Terman PTA about Measure A. He also attended his first CSBA Delegate Assembly where policy goals, budget, and tax principles were discussed. In addition, a legislative action conference was held.

Approved:

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Recess to Closed Session

The Board recessed to closed session at 9:48 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

The Board reconvened in open session at 12:00 a.m. Tom announced that no action had been taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

Secretary to the Board

Approved: