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MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2010

Call to Order

The Board of Education of Palo Alto Unified School District held a Special Session Meeting in the Room A at 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Barbara Klausner, President, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members present:

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

Staff present:

Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent
 Dr. Linda Common, Assistant Superintendent
 Dr. Burton Cohen, Director
 Kathleen Ruegsegger, Administrative Assistant

STUDY SESSION

Adoption of Legally Aligned District Policies

Skelly outlined the plan for the study session. Cohen addressed the goals for the Board Policy Review Committee (BPRC).

The group began by working through the list of suggested changes to policies that were minor (Attachment A).

Mitchell asked about providing redlined copies for the public. Ruegsegger will put those policies that had added language online before the evening meeting. Mitchell asked for clarity on which staff members are reviewing policies and administrative regulations. Staff members will have access online. Cohen noted all staff is part of the process for reviewing and issues may come up through implementation. Skelly indicated reviewers will initial or indicate their review.

Townsend asked for clarification on the 2/3 and 4/5 concern in the board by laws. It was determined the policy asking for a 4/5 vote of the board was required only for extending meetings. Townsend expressed concern about moving from old to new. Ruegsegger noted that policies to be reviewed by the BPRC are online in a separate folder.

Further discussion among board members addressed legal compliance and process for who tackles policies requiring change. It was generally agreed that requests can come from staff, the community, the board, and BPRC. Not all need go through BPRC. Community input occurs throughout the process; agendas for board meetings and BPRC must be posted.

Baten Caswell asked about legal review. Skelly noted there will be legal review for any policy that is changed prior to board approval. She requested policies with historical dates have language reflect it was prior work. Baten Caswell asked about report cards at the elementary level. Ruegsegger indicated the policy can reflect the district exceeds the K-3 requirement.

Tom addressed the proposed tree policy, which has not been reviewed by the board. Ruegsegger indicated it would not be up for adoption by the board at this time.

Baten Caswell asked about state graduation requirements. Ruegsegger noted the policy now reflects only PAUSD graduation requirements, which are greater than those of the state. Skelly noted should requirements be reduced, policy will have to change and cannot be less than what the state requires.

Mitchell noted the communication policy indicates "shall" in sections for what the superintendent will do. It was agreed to change the language to "may" to reflect what PAUSD is doing.

Board members discussed the civics policy and environmental education policy, asking that "shall" be changed to "may" to reflect practice.

Tom indicated his concern about adopting policies that unintentionally encumber the district further. Townsend concerned about losing the inclusion of the community in the education of its children. Tom would like language in the motion to indicate the board's intention with this wholesale adoption. Ruegsegger will write a motion and email it to the board before the evening meeting for their consideration.

Skelly introduced the next portion of the meeting, Attachment B, policies to go to the BPRC for review. Looking to give

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Townsend and Tom additional feedback for this committee's work. Baten Caswell noted the committee will be doing the footwork for the board and that is reflected in Attachment C, charge to the BPRC. Supporting documentation will be important part of these meetings. Skelly noted not all policies will need to go through the BPRC process.

Board members discussed what policies the BPRC should review; putting proposed policies through legal review; not having every suggestion go through the committee, slowing the process; getting the right charge to the committee, letting the committee define its role; commented the short term goal is to clean up board policies; noted some policies on attachment can be handled by staff without the BPRC. Townsend and Tom will meet with Cohen to do a triage on the recommended policies. Tom noted he foresees a time when the work of the BPRC will be on an as needed basis.

Klausner suggested using the triage process to determine which policies have a major impact on school operations or community. Tom noted his first goal is to go through the entire list. Baten Caswell suggested policies needing staff review be pulled before going to the committee.

Skelly noted the new law regarding choice for families with children in the lowest performing schools. Board members agreed current policy (5111.2 and 5116) and regulation will remain in place, with the two policies 5116.1 and 5117 being deleted from the adoption. Skelly indicated staff will work on this issue to ensure the policies are legal and in place before implementation of the law in April 2010. He noted this will be a challenge for all districts.

Public Comment

A community member expressed concern about policies addressing bullying and cyberbullying.

Mitchell asked about administrative regulations and which would be in place with the adoption of the new policies. She suggested using current administrative regulations until the new ones are reviewed by staff. Skelly will work with council to determine best method for having staff review the administrative regulations.

Staff will work to load policies and to propose a motion for the evening meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2.47 p.m.

Secretary to the Board

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MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2010

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 5:30 p.m.

Members present:

Ms. Barbara Klausner, President
 Ms. Melissa Baten Caswell, Vice President
 Ms. Barb Mitchell
 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 (absent)
 Dr. Burton Cohen, Director

Approval of Agenda Order

The Board met in open session at 6:34 p.m. Klausner announced the board took no reportable action in closed session.

MOTION: It was moved by Mitchell; seconded by Tom; and motion carried 5-0 to approve the agenda order. Townsend pointed out that students would be attending for one of the construction items and she would like to move the item when they arrived.

Staff and Student Successes

Skelly noted recent recognitions for staff members Elinor Slack, Ann Dunkin, and Bob Golton.

Student Board Representatives

Zhou of Paly spoke about upcoming finals week and the stress relievers used in the current week; looking into a spring fling this year; big basketball game next week.

Willick noted the winter formal was canceled; planning for a dedication for teacher Arlene Camm in the library; looking at vehicles for input to ASB from students.

Superintendent Report

Skelly spoke about the assignment free winter break; Bowers will conduct a survey to test feelings for the outcome of the break; a budget update was sent to staff based on the first interim report; district is currently not pursuing the Race to the Top MOU; following the issue of open enrollment legislation and its financial impact.

Consent Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Mitchell, seconded by Tom, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the consent calendar which included certificated and classified personnel actions; minutes of December 8 and 15, 2009; and the Uniform Complaint Quarterly Report.

Public Hearing

Parcel Tax Resolution
 #2009-10.08

Klausner opened the public hearing.

Roberta Stone spoke about the significant burden on low income residents of this proposal. The city works to include affordable housing, but she felt these same people cannot afford this tax. She asked for an exemption beyond senior citizens.

Klausner closed the public hearing.

Action

Parcel Tax Resolution 2009-10.08

Skelly noted this item has been discussed at other meetings and turned it over to Golton. Golton noted revisions, including a new election date of May 4, 2010, instead of April 2010. He noted government code provides for two exemptions; seniors over 65 and those who qualify under SSI disabilities. Skelly noted finding the balance between the poor economy and the needs of the district is difficult, but polling data found this was the best way to structure the proposal for a vote. Golton responded about exemptions being annual rather than for the term of the tax explaining the district would not know if the

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person with the exemption had moved. He further explained that should someone forget to file, exemptions could be filed with the county or a refund could be issued by the district. Townsend pointed out the language in the recommendation is incorrect. Golton explained the miscommunication, and the recommendation is for action to pass the resolution to place a measure on the May 4, 2010, ballot.

Public Comment

Triona Gogarty, president of the teachers' union, noted PAEA endorsed the measure and what enhancements the parcel tax have added to the district's programs. She pointed to the state take backs and growing enrollment that is stretching even current funding.

Tracy Stevens commented she was one of three co-chairs for the campaign and noted her background. She is supporting the tax because it is the right thing to do for education. She felt it would unite the community and will provide a predictable source of income.

Al Yuen also is a co-chair and spoke about his background. He felt a need to give back to the community. The campaign will include all the latest high tech communication tools like Twitter and a web site. supportpaloaltoschools2010.org

Anna Thayer is the third co-chair. She noted her background and commented this is a critical campaign. The community is ready to support this tax, the children, and the legacy of the city. She pointed out this is an all mail-in ballot. She is looking forward to working on the campaign.

Board member comments included appreciation for the work of staff and the co-chairs; noted the ballot language is 75 words, but there are hundreds of words in the resolution that are part of the proposal; asked the community to extend the support it had given for nine years while the district continues to reduce costs; noted areas where the funds were spent last year, which is the equivalent of about 98 teachers; noted those who move to Palo Alto list schools as the single most important reason; noted it is not just those with children who support the schools; state funds are dwindling; property tax growth is dwindling; there was currently a soft freeze on hiring; looking forward to supporting the measure; noted people who move here for their children, often stay when the children leave because of the type of community it is; noted growing enrollment is not supported with additional funds; noted costs are rising; current tax is not longer covering what was promised due to increased costs and decreased property taxes; thanked the co-chairs for volunteering and their enthusiasm; read parts of the parcel tax language; noted 100% of the funds go into the schools; the drive in Palo Alto on behalf of children is unique; thanked the co-chairs for the hundreds of hours this effort will take. Zhou noted he also moved with his family for the schools. Willick noted he too moved with his family for the schools; honored the community will put this kind of effort into education. Additional Board member comments included the research done for other exemptions and the two-thirds vote required for passage.

MOTION: It was moved by Mitchell, seconded by Tom, and motion carried 5-0 to approve Resolution 2009-10.08 proposing renewal and extension of the District's expiring parcel tax and establishing specification of the election order for the May 4, 2010, ballot.

Information

Report on Governor's Proposed Budget

Golton explained the COLA is -.38% - resulting in a loss of \$24 per student. \$1.5 billion cut targeted to district administration resulting in the loss of \$201 per student. Assumes \$6.9 billion in federal funds and triggers automatic major cuts in health/social services if these are not realized. K-12 is at serious risk if the \$6.9 billion is not realized. Federal and state code changes proposed to certificated layoffs, seniority, and dismissal. Continues to use very doubtful revenue and expenditure tricks. The budget will be adopted either on time or late.

Action

Student Discipline

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Klausner, and motion carried 5-0, based on the Board's review of the Finding of Fact and recommendations submitted regarding Student Discipline Case 04-0910, to ratify the recommendation for stipulated suspended expulsion through and including the second semester of the 2009-10 school year.

Bond and Facility Items

Discussion

Approval of Schematic Design for Group 1 Projects at Palo Alto High School

Golton noted teachers; Jacquie McEvoy, principal; DLM staff; and others were in attendance. Erwin Lee reviewed presentations for Paly covering the media arts building and the math and social sciences building and then reviewed next steps.

Board members asked clarifying questions about the landscaping and how tree removals will be mitigated

McEvoy introduced the staff, parents, and students present and their enthusiasm for this project.

Board members comments included the refinement work to incorporate the feel of Paly; applauded the collaboration and noted appreciation for the work and the 3D renderings; noted the communication has improved in reaching the community; clarified the landscaping plan for the trees; commented on the balance in the schematics between historical and new design; clarified where the overhangs will be placed for protection from rain; commented on the Embarcadero gateway; clarified how it works with the theater; clarified when the Board will see additional plans as the project continues; asked about having seating under cover; and clarified that a landscape plan will be brought to the Board.

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Teachers commented on their priorities being met for white space and lighting, private office space, a shower, movable walls, classroom flexibility, interview rooms, bathrooms, and appreciated that staff had been included in the process, noting the design is reflective of the core values of the staff.

Board members thanked the community for providing the funding through a bond to accomplish this modernization of structures for student learning.

This will return as an action item at the next meeting.

Open Forum

Nabeel Sami spoke about portables noting 18:2 vote for the two year plan by ASB. He addressed the memorial garden being moved next to the tower building; new areas will be found for students to gather; do not want portables to be in the parking lot; prefer the central campus approach.

George Brown commented that moving the portables for two years and keeping the Paly community for two years will work out well. He supported moving portables into the quad.

William D. Ross spoke about recent suspensions and the approach of staff regarding the Paly egg wars and the impact of this discipline in the university application process. He asked for expungement of student records. He asked the Board to consider doing this before there is legal action against the district.

Action

Authorization to Bid the Site Work and Relocation of Modularity Building to Accommodate Construction at Palo Alto High School

Golton reviewed the history of this item, including other meetings and discussions. Skelly noted comments from the community have been received that do not agree with this proposal, but he noted there has been a process and staff still strongly recommends action this evening.

Paul Kandell, teacher, addressed the process and noted there was broad support for the shorter construction time line.

Kara Rosenberg, adult education principal, appreciated the added input from students and the community. It was important that the core campus be maintained. The memorial garden will be mitigated, as will meeting spaces for students.

Board member comments included this was the best of the imperfect choices; thorough job of listening; noted access to the new buildings in this manner brings them on line three years sooner; convinced the committee looked for the best alternative; looked for reasonable alternatives for students to gather; felt PTA was not included early enough; can't notify stakeholders early enough; noted everyone wanted the buildings built as quickly as possible; and asked about using student murals or planters to make the space inviting;

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried 5-0 to authorize staff to bid the site work and relocation of modular buildings at Palo Alto High School.

Discussion

Approval of Schematic Design for Group 1 Projects at Gunn

Erwin Lee presented information for the Gymnasium, Math and English building, and World Languages building.

Noreen Likins, principal, introduced staff members and parents present. Likins noted how excited staff is about the new facilities and noted DLM has been very responsive.

Board members comments included admiration for the work of DLM; thanked the Gunn team for staying late; thanked everyone for moving the project forward; clarified issues of security from theft; appreciate encompassing the campus feel; clarified where security systems are in place; clarified how potential flooding would be mitigated; clarified there is no air conditioning in the gymnasiums; clarified how natural daylight will be controlled; clarified whether the movable walls would have acoustic technology; clarified which buildings would have air conditioning, old and new; clarified seating in the gymnasium would be 1,900; and clarified the usage of large covered spaces.

Staff members commented on having foreign language classrooms centrally located; flexibility helps address the future methods of learning; office space will provide privacy for discussion with students; able to plan for the future; facilities will allow for rainy day activities; and the new weight room will be a real room. Skelly noted that the lack of tennis courts while construction occurs was being addressed. It was noted all the campus changes are welcome and exciting. The collaboration and collegiality has been exciting and productive. Staff thanked the community for supporting these projects.

Board member comments included appreciation for the vision that has been applied to these buildings.

MOTION: It was moved by Townsend, seconded by Tom, and motion carried 5-0 to extend the meeting to 10:30 p.m.

Zhou also expressed excitement about these projects and noted student input had been well received and used. He asked about the muddy areas near the amphitheater and how that can be addressed. Staff noted much is caused by over watering; concrete paving will also be added as an access point.

Board member comments included asking about security for the media building at Paly.

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2010

Action

Adoption of Legally Aligned Board Policies

Klausner noted there was a study session earlier in the day. Skelly referred to the discussion at the study session noting updates that were accomplished after that discussion. The current enrollment policies will remain in place; the tree policy will go back to staff. He noted existing ARs will remain in place for the time being. Skelly was very pleased with the work accomplished in the study session. He thanked the Board, Cohen, and Ruegsegger for their work.

Ruegsegger and Skelly responded to questions regarding quick fixes noted in attachment A.

Board member comments included acknowledgement of how many changes are being made and a preference for the motion includes that caveat; noted it is to align the policies legally; this was to be an ongoing process moving from this point.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried 5-0, with the understanding that it is not the Board's intention to commit the district to new discretionary policies nor is it the Board's intention to omit past philosophy and practices that embraces inclusion of and communication with the community, to adopt the legally aligned Board policies, including changes as presented in Attachment A. This adoption excludes: BP 7150.1, Tree Policy; BP 5116.1, Intradistrict Open Enrollment; and BP 5117, Interdistrict Attendance. Policies currently in place, BP 5111.2 (reassigned as BP 5111.21) Non-Resident Attendance, and BP 5116 (reassigned as BP 5116.2), Enrollment Provisions, and their associated administrative regulations are to remain in place until revised based on recent legislation.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Klausner, and motion carried to extend the meeting to 10:40 p.m.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried to approve changes to Board Policies 5030, 6146.1, 3270, 6174, 4112.41 et al, 3550, 4127 et al, 5121, and 1100 as noted in Attachment A.

It was noted Townsend would chair and Tom is also a Board representative to the Board Policy Review Committee. They will work with Cohen to do assess policies set for review as listed on Attachment B.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Townsend, and motion carried to extend the meeting to 10:50 p.m.

Discussion

Authorization to Enter into Master Agreements for Commissioning Agent Services with Enovity and Test Marc

Golton explained the CHPS requirements as adopted by the Board. Tom Hodges, O'Connor, explained commissioning provides costs benefits to the district; only loyalty is to get the project right; which ensures sustainability.

Board member comments included clarification of contracted amounts and clarified whether there would be a cost benefit in this investment.

This item will return on the consent calendar on the next agenda.

Board Members' Reports

Townsend asked that agenda items that will clearly have community input be placed early on the agenda during meetings for agenda setting.

Caswell noted the TAG committee has extended its work to December 2010. She is the current representative and will remain in this seat in order to complete the work.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

Secretary to the Board

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MINUTES FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2010

Call to Order

The Board of Education of Palo Alto Unified School District held a Special Session Meeting in the Room A at 25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto, California. Barbara Klausner, President, called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

Members present:

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

Staff present:

- Dr. Kevin Skelly, Superintendent
- Dr. Linda Common, Assistant Superintendent
- Dr. Burton Cohen, Director
- Ms. Ginni Davis, Assistant Superintendent
- Noreen Likins, Principal
- Jacque McEvoy, Principal

Discussion
Review of High School Level
Single Plans for Student
Achievement

Klausner thanked staff for taking time for this study session and asked the principals to thank their staffs for their work. She explained the WASC self study process, who participated, and the amount of time it took.

Common explained each school would take about 20 minutes to cover highlights of their reports, starting with Paly. Reports would be followed by Board member questions.

McEvoy explained how goals were developed and with whom they worked to develop them. She noted the three defined goals. (1) Curriculum alignment horizontally and vertically, through each grade level, across the grade levels, and with Gunn. (2) College readiness, using a-g requirements and course content, which includes character and citizenship. (3) Providing support for all students, both academically and socially/emotionally.

For goal one, work was being done with each department and McEvoy explained what some of that work looked like. This included aligning assessments and instructional strategies. For goal two, staff was using Naviance, an online program that helps students preparing for college, which also provides data to the high schools. Also looking at electronic transcripts. McEvoy explained how each grade level is preparing during the school day to take the SAT. Part of their work was on reducing truancy. The bell schedule has been part of the conversation all year. For goal three, AVID, an English Language Teacher on Special Assignment, and methods of communication with parents are all areas being addressed. It's been a very collaborative two years.

Likins provided a progress report to Board members. She addressed the professional learning communities for staff. Teams work across departments, which are led by teachers. The plan does cover through 2015. Working on common vision, common purpose. Student social emotional support component has been a big focus this year. AVID has seven sections and provides a great service to students. College pathway work began last year; adjustments were made this year. College for Every Student (CFES) was begun this year.

Project Cornerstone has provided training and is helping staff and students. Staff will spend some time on identifying students who are not connected in some way with staff and the school. Likins mentioned the support of PTSA has maximized the efforts for student support. She addressed the work of the counseling department. Likins spoke about curriculum and the work of staff, students, and support from PAPIE. Gunn is looking at an International Baccalaureate program.

Mitchell commented on the level of work being accomplished by the principals and their schools, noting how challenging the times are. Mitchell asked about science and whether the schools are headed in different directions. Likins commented on the decision to put freshman into college level lab in biology at Gunn through to chemistry and physics. McEvoy noted their concern is whether to lane students. Both schools offer AP courses. McEvoy spoke about the powerful conversations between the two schools – steering committees, break out days, curricular mapping, and comparing assessments. Mitchell asked about increasing enrollment and the participation levels of four years of science. McEvoy noted they are not aligned on pre-requisites; not sure that is fair to students. The goal is to encourage four years of science. Wide open field in

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college. High level participation at Gunn and Paly. Bill Garrison offered to find this data.

Townsend commented on the tasks being undertaken at these large high schools. Appreciated the efforts to maintain connections with students. Noted the work to create teacher leaders. Common explained what is being done at the schools to identify professional development needs. Townsend asked about guidance and outreach. Likins confirmed both high schools use Naviance. Likins noted the college guide has not been compiled for two years, but Naviance does provide all the data. Townsend asked about evaluating college rankings. Likins noted the focus on top tier schools is not always healthy; not all students will fit in at those schools and the number of students applying means not everyone can get in. They encourage students to apply, but also to be able to accept going to other universities. McEvoy noted there are groups of students who try to go to school together. Klausner asked about course offerings preparing students for going to universities. Likins said overall both schools provide what is needed.

Tom appreciated the information provided in the reports. He complimented each school on particular areas such as homework and social/emotional support, and collaboration. He asked for clarification of an IB program. Likins explained it can be run as a school within a school and that IB courses do not eliminate AP courses. Baten Caswell asked what it would look like and whether it would be a pilot that Paly could look at. McEvoy noted it takes a core group of teachers willing to move the program forward.

Baten Caswell echoed other board member comments on the work accomplished. She asked what their most urgent endeavors were. McEvoy noted collaboration time is important for teachers. Likins agreed time is critical.

Klausner agreed with other general board comments. She asked about scheduling at each school and what it means at all levels. McEvoy noted they have the earliest start time. She didn't believe students would get more sleep, but they would be able to use the morning time differently, even if it's 20 minutes. McEvoy explained what a four-day block would look like, noting it's a different teaching strategy. Likins explained their rotating block schedule. Tom noted studies indicated that a shift to a later start time resulted in most of the time going into additional sleep for students rather than a later bedtime. Townsend asked about work schedules. Likins noted neighboring elementary or middle school start times are an issue for traffic flow. Klausner asked about the number of classes students are taking. Likins noted most students are six or more. McEvoy talked about sporting events and scheduling.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Secretary to the Board

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MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2010

Call to Order

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Members present:

Ms. Barbara Klausner, President
 Ms. Melissa Baten Caswell, Vice President
 Ms. Barb Mitchell
 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 Closed Session

The Board adjourned to closed session pursuant to Government Code 54957.6 for Conference with Labor Negotiator, Dr. Scott Bowers, regarding PAEA, CSEA, and pursuant to Government Code 54957 for Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release.

Approval of Agenda Order

The Board met in open session at 6:33 p.m. Klausner announced the board took no reportable action in closed session.

MOTION: It was moved by Mitchell; seconded by Baten Caswell; and motion carried 5-0 to approve the agenda order.

Staff and Student Successes

Skelly noted recent recognitions for Gunn High School band students and for Kara Rosenberg who received her doctorate. He spoke of Bob Golton's recognition by Canopy, a Palo Alto group concerned with the care of the community's trees.

Student Board Representatives

Zhou commented on final's week and the success of the donut feed, they had a Martin Luther King assembly; and the students are discussing the planned visit by Westboro Baptist Church and their negative messages.

Willick also spoke of Westboro. He commented on plans for a dance, a new intramural sports league starting during lunch, black history month, and he also spoke about finals week.

Superintendent Report

Skelly spoke about the recent suicide of a former student. He applauded the work of Track Watch. The district is continuing work about signs of and erasing the stigma of mental illness. He noted high schools presented their SPSA reports earlier that day to the Board. Skelly is proud of students who are fundraising for Haiti. He spoke of recent retirements and Dr. McEvoy's resignation at the end of the year. He noted that Barron Park Principal Cathy Howard is out with health concerns; Magdalena Fittoria will fill in for Howard through the end of the school year. The leadership team reviewed the budget update and the input from all stakeholders earlier in the day. There will be a board study session on February 9 regarding the budget. Skelly attended Senator Simitian's forum on the state budget. He spoke about the plans of Westboro Baptist Church and the civics lesson it affords about the balance of freedom of speech and assembly.

Willick spoke about having Fittoria as a teacher and it being a good experience.

Consent Calendar

MOTION: It was moved by Baten Caswell, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the consent calendar which included certificated and classified personnel actions; December 2009 warrants; and master agreements for commissioning agent services with Enovity and Test Marc.

MOTION: It was moved by Townsend, seconded by Baten Caswell, and motion carried 5-0 to adopt Resolution 2009-10.19 – Read Across America Day, March 3, noting the change from the March 2 date presented in the packet.

Approved:

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2010

Information

2008-09 Annual Independent
Audit Report

Mak explained the requirements for annual audits. Joyce Peters presented her report from Vavrinek, Trine, Day, & Co. She noted there were no adjustments. For state compliance, there was a qualified opinion on attendance for Gunn because signed reports are required. The district is now required to meet GASB 45 requirements for benefit liabilities; the district is short on this requirement by about \$900,000.

The Board clarified that GASB 45 contributions must be noted as a liability whether the money is set aside in a special reserve or not; thanked staff for the hard work to have a clean report; and clarified the district needs to apply for an exemption on electronic attendance reporting.

Information

Mid-year Progress Report on
Focused Goals

Skelly noted Golton had a photo presentation to cover the past month. Golton showed photos of students who are now moved into the Gunn's Industrial Arts building, a Duveneck bake sale, his Canopy award, and a student broadcast. Skelly then addressed focused goals update covering:

- The mission
- Strategic Plan Areas, including urgent issues for the second semester
- Academic Excellence and Learning
 - Social-emotional support for students
 - Community Conversations
 - Living Skills
 - Sleep and K-12 Coordination of social-emotional teaching and learning
 - College readiness, graduation requirements, and maintaining excellence at secondary schools
 - Improve math instruction and support for new math materials K-12
- Staff Recruitment and Development
 - Improved staff development for all employees
- Budget Trends and Infrastructure
 - Act as careful stewards of district fiscal resources
 - Renewing the parcel tax
- Governance and Communication
 - Complete review and revamping of district Board Policies
- Strategic Plan Review
- Activities Around Focused Goals

Board member comments included appreciation for noting the budget restraints being faced; thanked staff for their help on holding back benefit costs; appreciated the progress being made on some of the goals; appreciated the work with the City and others on social-emotional work; noted the joint efforts on Project Safety Net; liked the Living Skills class and innovation in online learning methods; felt sleep is an important topic to address; noted the connection with the community on *Everyday Math* implementation; looking forward to the survey; wondered about trade-offs in focusing on this one adoption; spoke of how the parcel tax is using a three-pronged approach with reserves, reductions, and a parcel tax; looking forward to Strategic Plan review; noted how meaningful the work becomes with this kind of focus; conversation with high schools earlier in the day was inspiring; thanked McKinsey for their support; appreciated the openness of the process and review; noted the expectation is not to bat 1,000—no team does; noted the importance of professional development; hoped work would include looking within for new leaders. Student board members appreciated the social emotional support, particularly around sleep; and were concerned the online class wouldn't provide social emotional support. Skelly noted the class would not be strictly online; seat time is involved.

Discussion

Authorization to Solicit Bids for the
Palo Alto High School Multi-use
Fields

Golton noted Arnold Teton, Tom Hodges, and Derek Keith were also in attendance. He reviewed the timeline for the project. Keith reviewed the design, including dry wells, bio-swales, and landscaping. Skelly talked about progressive equity between the two high schools.

Board member comments included clarifying that other campus drainage problems will be addressed; clarified when the improvements will be made; asked about the variance in the grade; confirmed they have been reviewed by the facilities committee; clarified that water is not being reused; discussed the cost of the tank this would require and where in the process this would need to be defined if water reuse was desired; clarified whether the landscape committee has reviewed the plan; asked if the processes used at Stanford were being used at Paly; confirmed that the tree removal is being reviewed by the landscaping committee; confirmed plantings can move based on actual site work at the time and the location of other trees and utilities; asked about netting around the softball fields; noted the progressive parity is important; and asked about the bid alternates. Student board members felt the plans looked good.

The item will return on the regular agenda.

Action

Approval of Schematic Design for
Group 1 Projects at Gunn High
School

Skelly noted this item was discussed on January 12. Golton indicated the timeline. Hodges commented on security plans. Board member comments included securing technology equipment; and clarified that work could begin early if there were approval by DSA;

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the schematic design of the Math/English and World Languages classroom buildings and new gymnasium at Gunn High School and to authorize staff to proceed with design development and construction documents for these projects.

Approved:

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2010

Action

Approval of Schematic Design for Group 1 Projects at Palo Alto High School

This item was discussed on January 12.

Public Comment

Kirsten Essenmacher spoke about the loss of open space, views; and land use. She was concerned about the size of the building's footprint.

Hodges noted security is being addressed. Board members comments included an appreciation for the input from the community and that it needs to be done early in the process; noted students and others had input throughout the process; noted the building is glass walled on one side; shared concern for how televisions will be used; and thanked everyone involved in the process.

MOTION: It was moved by Townsend, seconded by Tom, and motion carried 5-0 to approve the schematic design of the new Math and History/Social Sciences classroom building and Media Arts Center projects at Palo Alto High School, and to authorize staff to proceed with design development and construction documents for these projects.

Open Forum

Anat Admati addressed the Track Watch efforts. She noted physical barriers and lighting are needed. She commented these are most often impulsive acts. She believed they have helped others and saved lives. She asked for support via endorsement of the project and in getting a message out to parents.

Discussion

Appropriation of Measure A Funds for Computers at All District Schools

Golton introduced Ann Dunkin, director of IT. Golton explained the budget plan using Measure A bond funds. Dunkin indicated she spent a lot of time at the schools learning about their needs. Her presentation covered:

- Staff Computers – four year refresh
- Student Use Computers – one computer per four students with a four year refresh
- Fund allocations assumptions
- Other considerations in meeting commitments

Golton noted it is difficult to know what technology and instruction will look like in eight years. He felt e-books will be available for all books in the future.

Board member comments included appreciation of how computers will be allocated; clarified what flexibility sites will have in choosing technology purchases; felt it was a fair plan and appreciated shifting this to ongoing funding rather than one time funds; asked what piloted tools become identified as essential to instruction; clarified whether there will be limitations in selections based on the abilities of those choosing the technology; confirmed the money cannot be used for staffing; appreciated the support that will be provided; clarified the Paly amount; asked that projectors are provided to teachers particularly at the secondary level; concerned about lab carts not always being available; noted the Kindel is already revolutionizing reading; and thanked residents for passing the bond that made this possible.

This item will return on the consent calendar.

Discussion

Authorization to Issue a Contract in an Amount Not to Exceed \$355,000 for a District Student Information System

Golton explained SASI has been around since 1995 and its deletion was planned. Dunkin's presentation covered:

- What a student information system is
- Why it needs to be replaced
- The selection process
- The selection team
- The selection criteria
- The decision and key differentiators
- Infinite Campus benefits
- Costs
- Implementation Timeline
- Choices

Board member comments included how clear the presentation was; appreciated the analysis; clarified that InClass eventually would be replaced; clarified what redundancy will provide; noted parents are looking for a way to access information about their children's class time; noted there is a concern about schools accessing the data cleanly at the beginning of the year; noted high functionality cannot be expected from fifteen year old software; don't want an application to be a barrier to people doing their work; and asked for a timeline of the functionality.

This item will return on the consent calendar.

Discussion

Variable Term Waiver for ROP Automotive Mechanics Teacher

Bowers explained this can occur several times during the course of the year.

Board member comments included noting this was a popular teacher.

This will return on the consent calendar.

Approved:

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2010

Action

Board Policies Review Committee (BPRC) – Changes to Charge Statement

Dr. Burton Cohen, director, explained the change to the charge.

Board member comments included an explanation of the triage process, noting it tightened the role of the committee; suggested there should be a policy on how policies are formed; appreciated the work; clarified this meeting did not need to be posted; and clarified the board may wish to refer a policy to the BPRC.

MOTION: It was moved by Mitchell, seconded by Klausner, and motion carried to adopt the proposed changes to the BPRC Charge Statement.

Discussion

Authorization to Issue Addendum No. 5 to Deems Lewis McKinley Architecture

Golton explained the need for the addendum. Hodges broke down the scope of work.

This item will return on the consent calendar.

Discussion

Agreement Between the Palo Alto Unified School District and the City of Palo Alto Concerning the Public Use, Brokering, and Maintenance of District-owned Athletic Fields, Tennis Courts, and Basketball Courts Jointly Used by School Students and the General Public

Golton noted this was approved at the City the previous night.

Board member comments clarified the change in share from 50/50 to 60/40 has to do with the city capturing its increased fees; clarified the gap between the maintenance costs and fees and how competitive they are; clarified the district was not able to take on this expense more competitively; appreciated the partnerships with the City; appreciated the favorable rates for youth leagues; clarified how the sprinklers are monitored and controlled; and clarified the district pays for the water.

MOTION: It was moved by Tom, seconded by Klausner, and motion carried 5-0 to extend the meeting to 10:10 p.m.

This item will be on the consent calendar.

Board Members' Reports

Tom attended the PiE meeting where they discussed the search for a new executive director. He was pleased to see the teacher grant program now supports collaboration. Skelly will follow up to thank PiE. Klausner asked for a copy of who received the grants.

Townsend noted she and Tom would be at City School Liaison meeting in the morning

Klausner noted the city has named a plaza after ?. She would like a resolution to recognize this naming.

Baten Caswell noted attendance at the TAG meeting and the areas identified for more housing in Palo Alto. She also noted there was an art evening at the district office the next evening.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Secretary to the Board