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MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2009

<u>Call to Order</u>	<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 6:32 p.m.</p> <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 (absent) Ms. Camille Townsend Mr. Steve Zhou, Student Board Rep, Gunn Mr. Jason Willick, Student Board Rep, Paly <p>Staff present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Dr. Burton Cohen, Director Dr. William Garrison, Director
<u>Approval of Agenda Order</u>	<p>Mitchell noted that Tom was absent and that Skelly and Common were en route.</p> <p>MOTION: It was moved by Townsend; seconded by Baten Caswell; and motion carried 4-0 to approve the agenda order.</p>
<u>Student Board Representatives</u>	<p>Zhou, of Palo Alto High School, reported ASB had planned their spirit week themes, unexcused absences were down due to new policy, and the next day there would be testing at all grade levels.</p> <p>Willick, of Gunn High School, reported today was day two of homecoming, club day was successful with 400 sign ups, and senior activities and testing were occurring the next day.</p>
<u>Staff and Student Successes</u>	<p>Bowers noted three students from Gunn had been awarded the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards in Writing; a second grade teacher has published a book about her husband receiving Nobel Prize in Physics, and a district and city employee are working on a pilot at two schools for a recycling program.</p> <p>Klausner commented on the testing at the high schools. Mitchell thanked PAFD for the fundraiser they put together for the benefit of the high school sports program.</p>
<u>Consent Calendar</u>	<p>MOTION: It was moved by Klausner, seconded by Mitchell, and motion carried 4-0 to approve the consent calendar including certificated personnel actions, minutes of September 22, 2009, and Resolution 2009-10.06—Adoption of Appropriation Limits for 2008-09 and 2009-10. The classified personnel actions were pulled to add a revision.</p> <p>Bowers explained the revised classified personnel document had an addition for Ann Dunkin to the vacant IT director position. Board members asked if Dunkin was present and when she would begin her duties.</p> <p>MOTION: It was moved by Baten Caswell; seconded by Klausner, and motion carried 4-0 to approve the revised classified personnel document.</p>
<u>Information</u> Strategic Plan Goals and Accountability Results	<p>Davis initiated the discussion about assessment. Garrison reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, noting it is the first of two reports. This report addressed progress on the K-8 academic achievement goals of the strategic Plan, the API and AYP accountability results for 2009, and the spring 2009 California Standards Test results. The presentation covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85% of PAUSD students scored Advanced or Proficient in ELA and Math in grades 2-8

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- Over 50% scored advanced year-over-year
- Reduced percentage scoring Basic and below from 21% to 15% in five years for CST ELA in grades 2-8
- Students continue to show gains and to rank among the top four K-12 school districts in the state
- There is progress with specific populations, but much remains to be accomplished
- Progress toward Goal 1: 86.5% of all students in grades 3-8 are on grade level as measured by the CSTs in ELA and 84.5% in math
- Progress toward Goal 2: of all students in grades 3-8, 81.4% show a year's progress or more as measured by the CSTs in ELA and 79% for math
- Progress toward Goal 3: there has been a 7% reduction in the percentage of students in grades 4-8 who are not-yet-proficient on the CSTs in ELA and a 4.6% reduction in math
- Breakdown for students making progress in the not-yet-proficient category in grades 4-8:
 - EL & RFEP population making progress are 72% in ELA and 74% in math
 - IEPs population making progress are 58% in ELA and 54% in math
 - Low income population making progress are 50% in ELA and 45% in math
 - Hispanic population making progress are 56% in ELA and 54% in math
 - African American population making progress are 59% in ELA and 44% in math
- API Scores were reviewed over several slides for school results, district results, and broken down by ethnicity in comparison with several districts
- CST results were reviewed over several slides for elementary and middle school levels
- AYP results were reviewed over several slides for numerically significant subgroups, participation rate, proficiency rate, ethnicity, and by school

Board and student members asked about statistical significance; thanked teachers, parents, and staff for the work they are doing to improve results; asked about scores in CSTs now that AP students are required to take the test; expressed concern about whether the testing is taken seriously; asked that staff explain how the data is used by the principals to inform instruction; spoke with delight about the growth in the last five years; noted how difficult it is to make that continued growth when you are already near the top; would like to see what the progress is over five years for the sub-groups; asked about the goal for a year's progress and what other measures can be used for the sub-groups; asked how to make sure students are being challenged at their own levels; asked how to achieve the next 10% of growth and how to use the data to reach the 95% proficiency goal; expressed interest in hearing from the principals; noted the 95% was considered a reach goal when it was set; commented that the goal should be attainable; and commented they would like to be looking for kid-by--kid, site-by-site approaches to reach the goal,

Public Comments

Bryan Ford asked why Hispanic and African American students perform better in San Ramon and Manhattan Beach.

Golton noted this was discussed at the September 22, 2009, regular meeting, and is brought back to the Board for action.

Public Comments

Mary Gordon commended staff for looking at the whole site for landscape master plans for both high school campuses. She felt it is a responsibility of the schools to contribute to livability and sustainability for the entire community.

Board members asked if the landscape architect had visited the sites, asked what the goals of the landscape architect are, asked if the landscape architect met with the community, asked if the community will be invited to future meetings and be allowed to speak, noted the PTA is helping to get the dates of community meetings out, asked if the landscape architect is attending the sustainability meetings, and asked the landscape architect to walk the campuses on a rainy day.

MOTION: It was moved by Townsend; seconded by Baten Caswell; and motion carried 4-0 to authorize staff to execute Addendum No. 4 with DLM Architecture in the amount of \$62,000.

Action

Authorization to Issue Addendum No. 4 to DLM Architecture

Open Forum

Public Comment

Roni Habib, PAEA, addressed negotiations, benefits, and reserves asking for \$.78 million from the reserves for benefits.

John Fredrich, Gunn teacher, spoke about benefits, previous givebacks, and waiting for the national decision on health care.

Mitchell noted negotiations are open in this district, which is rare.

Discussion

Approval of Project to Install Bleachers at Palo Alto High School

Golton noted this was the first read on design of home and visitor bleachers for Palo Alto High School. Planning attempted to mitigate the loss of trees for this project. Both sets of bleachers are non-ADA compliant. The design attempts to meet requirements, to add seats, and to mitigate loss of trees.

Dr. Jacqueline McEvoy, principal, and Earl Hansen, coach, addressed the designs for the bleachers and meeting the needs of the students, noting they are used year round for multiple sporting events.

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Public Comments

Mary Gordon asked that neighborhood impact be considered as well as conservation of existing mature trees.

Penny Proctor spoke about losing the aesthetic appearance and balance of the current trees.

Ruth Gordon asked that the plan for the bleachers be postponed until the landscape architect has put together a master plan.

Kirsten Essenmacher spoke against taking down the trees in the entrance to the school from Churchill Ave. There are alternatives for students such as sitting on the ground or bringing lawn chairs. There is also a question of security with the addition of more people at the games.

Rega Wood asked that the sycamore trees be saved for their aesthetic value and symmetry.

Board members asked if there was another spot to place the bleachers; asked how a different setting for the bleachers would work for the students; asked if a chain link fence is in fact part of the plan to replace the sycamores; asked if the visitor bleachers could be done first and the home bleachers done with the landscape master planning; asked about the number of seats needed and alternate locations for expansion, uses of the bleachers, and asked for three dimensional plans to view. Board members commented on using the new landscape architect in this process; expressed regrets for the decision on the palm trees for creating the El Camino field; noted waiting to make the right decision is a good idea; commented on limited campus space and multi-use of facilities; would like to see a plan for other locations for the bleachers; again asked for visuals for the plans, including the 3D of the evaluation; asked for plans for elongating the home team seats; noted priorities for inside the fence are program, outside priorities are different; and acknowledged the work of Verde Design as landscape architects.

Discussion

Springboard to Kindergarten

MOTION: It was moved by Baten Caswell, seconded by Klausner, and motion carried 4-0 to extend the meeting to 10:50 p.m.

Davis and Sharon Keplinger, Coordinator, used a PowerPoint presentation to review the proposed plan for a pre-kindergarten program. The presentation addressed the Strategic Plan, structural quality, process quality, prevention, basic building blocks of readiness, major Springboard dimensions, timeline, partnership, proposed budget, and 3-year goals and milestones. Liz Simons and Joanne Reed of the Heising-Simons Foundation spoke about the partnership with the district. Keplinger and Simons explained the difference between Young Fives and Springboard.

Board members thanked Simons and Reed for their proposal and generosity. Board members asked about the relation to the College Bound program and county programs; asked who the targeted students would be; noted the importance of a quality program; commented on the value of early intervention; asked how teachers would be hired; asked about having a comparison group; asked about the evaluation program to choose the students; commented on the benefit of early intervention; expressed how well targeted and well prepared this proposal is; asked where the classrooms will be; asked how it related to the pre-kindergarten program; and asked how families will manage transportation and the rest of their day.

Action

District Board Policies Adoption Process

Cohen clarified the process for choosing policies for the BPRC to consider for updating by the full Board.

Board members asked about clarifying wording in non-priority changes, asked about choosing of other members of the BPRC, expressed concern about lack of sufficient parent representation, asked for clarification that the BPRC will not supersede the Board, suggested the Board reps advise the Board about the process after a year, and asked about facilitation,

MOTION: It was moved by Baten Caswell; seconded by Klausner; and motion carried 4-0 to approve the amended process timeline: the amended Board Policy Review Committee Charge Statement, inclusive of the BPRC structure and operations in line with other Board committees, adding that the staff member will serve as support to the committee; the two Board member representatives to the BPRC (Townsend and Tom); and to form the BPRC, with parent representatives chosen by the superintendent and discussed with PTA, and representatives from PAEA, PAMA, and CSEA.

Discussion

Budget Reduction Plan

Skelly explained the plan for the process for addressing the budget challenges for the 2010-2011 school year. Bowers explained the budget reduction process forms presented. This item is for information and will not return to the Board.

Board members commented on providing methodical communication, asked if budget information will be provided to the stakeholders, asked how program will be decided, asked when the second interim will be reported, asked when the county updates will be provided on property tax growth, and asked how consistency will be maintained site by site in these discussions.

MOTION: It was moved by Baten Caswell, seconded by Townsend, and motion carried 4-0 to extend the meeting to 11:25 p.m.

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<u>Discussion</u> Authorization to Issue Addendum No. 3 to Gelfand Partners	Golton explained this item for pre-design at Fairmeadow. Board members asked about planning for enrollment capacity. The Board agreed to put this item on consent.
<u>Discussion</u> Authorization to Issue Addendum No. 4 to Gelfand Partners	Staff explained the plan for modulars at Ohlone. Board asked if this was a change to the original plan. The Board agreed to put this item on consent.
<u>Discussion</u> Authorization to Issue Addendum No. 5 to Gelfand Partners	Staff explained the plan for sprinklers at Ohlone. Board members asked what other systems the Board might need to approve. The Board agreed to put this item on consent.
<u>Action</u> Authorization to Issue Addendum No. 2 AEDIS Architecture and Planning	This item was discussed September 22, 2009. MOTION: It was moved by Klausner; seconded by Baten Caswell; and motion carried 4-0 to authorize staff to execute Addendum No. 2 with AEDIS Architecture and Planning in the amount of \$2,710,016.
<u>Discussion</u> Authorization to Issue Addendum No. 1 to Verde Design, Inc.	Staff pulled the item. Board members as to have the Verde items together on the next agenda.
<u>Discussion</u> Renewal of Student Teaching/Intern Agreements	Bowers noted this is an annual item for student teacher and intern agreements with local colleges and universities. The Board agreed to put this item on consent.
<u>Discussion</u> Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Among Basic Aid School Districts in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties	Skelly noted this is a renewal of the previous MOU. Board asked for potential costs at the next meeting.
<u>Board Members'</u>	Mitchell noted there are three openings on SCC Committee on School Organizations, one of which is the representative for Palo Alto. She encouraged others to consider finding candidates. Baten Caswell announced YCS is having a day of service on October 24. They are looking for people to paint in the Ravenswood School District. Board members asked for information from the recent CALSSD meeting. Townsend noted several Board members attended the <i>Everyday Math</i> workshop. Klausner asked that the photos from walk and roll to be shown at the next meeting. The Board adjourned to closed session at 11:10 p.m.
<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 54957.6 and Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release pursuant to Government Code 54957.
<u>Adjournment</u>	The Board reconvened in open session at 11:48 p.m. Mitchell announced the Board took no action. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 p.m.
	_____ Secretary to the Board