

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Council Chambers, City Hall
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, California 94611

MINUTES OF
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

March 25, 2009

CALL TO ORDER	Board President Monach called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.
ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM	President June Monach, Vice President Ray Gadbois, Board Members Roy Tolles, Martha Jones, Rick Raushenbush
ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION	The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:16 p.m. to discuss: A. Conference with District Labor Negotiator Michael Brady Regarding 2009-10 Negotiations with the California School Employees Association, Chapter 60 (CSEA) (Government Code Section 54956.6) B. Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent (Government Code Section 54957)
OTHERS PRESENT FOR CLOSED SESSION	Constance Hubbard, Superintendent Michael Brady, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services David Roth, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION	Board President Monach called the Regular Session of the Board of Education meeting of March 25, 2009 to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
OTHERS PRESENT AT REGULAR OPEN SESSION	Constance Hubbard, Superintendent Michael Brady, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services David Roth, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Educ. Services
Moment of Silence	President Monach called for a moment of silence for the passing of Oakland police officer John Hege, who had been a Piedmont student, and whose mother was a former Board member and member of the Piedmont Educational Foundation. On behalf of the Board and administration, President Monach extended deepest sympathies to the family.
Report of Action Taken In Closed Session	None
Agenda Adjustments	None
COMMUNICATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT)	None
California School Employees Association (CSEA)	None

Parent Clubs

None

Student Representative to the Board

Will Pritchett, Student Representative to the Board:

- He thanked all of the parents, coaches, and fans who helped out and attended spring sports; the second half of the season is now going on and he encouraged attendance at the games
- He announced that Friday, April 3 is the opening night for the A Capella musical revue. It will also be held on Saturday night at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Contact Jan D'Annunzio for tickets.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO SPEAK ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Parent Catherine Ogle was discouraged about the District's disclosure regarding the Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT) contract at the last Board meeting. The information was not presented in a manner that the public could understand. An increase in employee expenses is of great concern in light of the parcel tax renewal coming up.

President Monach responded that, in terms of this disclosure concern, she will acknowledge later this evening under "Correspondence" that staff has received communication from a community member regarding this issue and that staff is in contact with that person.

Superintendent Announcements

Superintendent Hubbard announced that a memorial service honoring Officer John Hege will be held on Thursday, March 26, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Piedmont Community Hall. Because of the memorial event, the Curriculum Forum meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 2 from 7:00-8:30 p.m., place to be determined; and the Citizens' Oversight Committee has been postponed, with no new date set. The Piedmont High School Parent Education Night on "Academic Integrity: Cheating and Plagiarism" will still be held on March 26, but the start time has been changed from 7:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Board President Announcements

President Monach announced that:

- The tri-school "Spring Fling" auction and party will be held on Saturday, April 4; for any questions, call the fund raising office at 653-1816
- The PRAISE committee will be sponsoring a parent forum on transition to middle school on April 7th at Piedmont Middle School Library at 7:15 p.m.
- She wanted to thank the writers of the Piedmont Highlanders student newspaper, Chrissy Lee and Lauren Reed-Guy, for their front page March 16 issue regarding the District budget; it was accurate and captured the complexity of the issues

PRESENTATION

Announcement by Piedmont Educational Foundation of the Amount Available for Funding to the District for the 2009-10 School Year, on Behalf of the Endowment Fund

Lance Fong, President of the Piedmont Educational Foundation, and on behalf of the Endowment Fund, was pleased to present a donation in the amount of \$158,602 to Piedmont schools for the 2009-10 school year. He commended the District for its ongoing commitment to academic excellence. He also wanted to let the community and parent donors know that the Foundation is grateful for their support and investment in the long-term financial stability of the Piedmont school district.

REVIEW & ACTION ITEMS

Approve Updated District-Wide Library Plan and Adopt

Dr. Jamie Adams thanked all of the librarians of the District for attending. Piedmont High School Librarian Susan Stutzman introduced the other school librarians present.

The District-wide Library Plan must be updated annually in order to be eligible for State funding. Information on the plan was discussed.

Combined, the librarians manage 80 computers, 73,000 books, audio books and other library materials; serve 3,800 patrons; and, since the start of the school year, have checked out 69,000 items.

Measure E Bond Program:
PUSD Bond Program Presentations

Assistant Superintendent Michael Brady said the question being asked is: does the Piedmont Unified School District have, with its own resources, the ability to take on all of the Tier I projects – identified as the Maintenance building, Havens Elementary School and the Ellen Driscoll Theater, and the Piedmont High School Quad/Library Building and Student Center? He feels secure that the District can do this.

PUSD Bond Program Manager David Burke gave an overview of issues: project budgets, and impact of the interruption of State School Facilities Funding on the Measure E Program. A bond financing presentation by KNN Vice President Ruth Alahydoian was given, discussing a Measure E contingency plan, and a cash flow analysis. Both presentations are available on the District web site.

For an August bond issuance, bond counsel would prepare a resolution in June and bonds would go to market in July.

Resident Bernard Pech requested raw data behind all of the information be provided, rather than having to reconstruct the information. He said that recently, a lot of questions have come up in terms of conflict of interest between a bond consultant and the administering of a bond. He asked if the Board understands the financial incentive of the bond consultant in this process, such as, if there is the potential for fraud, and will Kelling, Northcross & Nobriga be getting any money from the underwriter?

Superintendent Hubbard responded that the presentation tonight will be placed on the District web site but that the information gathered and used by KNN is proprietary and it is unreasonable to request their information. Superintendent Hubbard added that she has worked with Ms. Alahydoian for thirteen years and has great confidence in the company and Ms. Alahydoian's advice. Superintendent Hubbard also stated that KNN is a public finance agency and as such, is regulated. There is tremendous oversight.

Board Member Raushenbush stated that it is not appropriate to request any consultant to turn over any proprietary software models. If some of the information is available electronically and does not involve doing that, that is fine. He understands the concern about financial fraud but there is no implication of that at all here. It would be helpful to know differing compensation. He would like to have an understanding as to what the total cost to Piedmont residents is of abiding by the \$20 commitment, and how much are we paying to

keep it at that level? Superintendent Hubbard responded that several discussions have been held regarding that and that information will be provided at a later date. Tonight's meeting is to look at the essential projects and updated information. Costs were per project; what it looked like for the total bond program and broken up into one segment with State funding, and one segment without State funding. District administration will be asking the Board to let contracts out by June 2009.

Superintendent Hubbard stated that all of this saves bonding capacity that, with state money that we know we are going to be eligible for on the projects that would be completed, together, could address Beach and Wildwood. One of the essential pieces of information trying to be communicated is that, in defining the near-term red-tagged projects, we are saving some bonding capacity to assure that other projects can be addressed if and when State money becomes available.

Both Mr. Burke and Ms. Alahydoian were thanked by the Board for the information they provided.

Adopt Resolution 16-2008-09, "Authorizing the Projects and Filing of Applications for funding Under the State School Facility Programs(s)"

We are looking at seeing what we can do to maximize state funding.

The Piedmont Unified School District is participating in the State School Facility Program(s) where possible, and anticipates applying for and receiving funding from the State for construction of the Measure E projects at the following schools: Havens Elementary School, Beach Elementary School, Wildwood Elementary School, Piedmont Middle School, Piedmont High School, and Millennium Continuation High School. The District wishes to approve these projects and file eligibility and funding applications for these projects with the Office of Public School Construction for approval by the State Allocation Board to appropriate funding when possible from any funding source and program available for the project. The Superintendent or designee would be authorized to furnish and certify such information on behalf of the District.

It was moved by Board Member Raushenbush and seconded by Board Member Tolles to adopt Resolution 16-2008-09.

The Board was polled and the motion passed unanimously.

First Reading of Proposed Revised Board Policies 5145.3 (student version), and 4030 (employee version), "Discrimination / Hate Crimes / Hazing / Harassment (Including Sexual Harassment) / Intimidation / Bullying and Cyberbullying"

Assistant Superintendent David Roth talked about the hate crime last fall against one of our teaching staff. There was interest in reviewing our current policies and administrative regulations regarding discrimination. This is a unique First Reading because after the First Reading, there will be a working group of teachers, administrators, staff, and students to review any possible changes. The final draft will come back to the Board. A recent survey was taken which collected input from staff and their experiences with harassment, intimidation, issues of disrespect; all of which was shared anonymously. Some larger meetings will be held as a task force on diversity and respect. Dr. Roth would like to see a more coordinated District vision for our K-12 program. It's a continuous improvement issue.

Superintendent Hubbard added that, in terms of what is being asked for now, the staff wants to make sure that the issue of hate crimes has been included in the proposed First Reading. This policy was developed over a long period of time by administrators, parents, and staff members. Now it will go through another policy review process. The finalized Board Policy and Administrative Regulation will be reviewed with all teachers, new and returning.

Resident Jon Elliott provided a collection of thoughts on the Administrative Regulations to possibly add to the draft being revised.

Vote on Updated Library Plan

It was moved by Board Member Jones, seconded by Vice President Gadbois, and passed unanimously to approve the updated District wide Library Plan.

Five-Minute Recess

President Monach called for a five-minute recess.

REVIEW & DISCUSSION ITEM

Begin Discussion on District Goal Setting

President Monach identified three goals for community engagement:

1. develop a public engagement plan that ensures that the Board hears from a representative sample of the whole community, to include students, parents, staff and members of the community.
2. frame the priority setting discussions within the current and projected economic reality of the school district; and
3. build consensus in terms of identifying priorities

She suggested taking some time during the summer for discussion and then rolling out community engagement over a period of months in the fall.

Superintendent Hubbard added that continuous improvement, even with the economic crisis, is needed in order to sustain student program over the long term. She said the student program needs to be looked at, as well as community expectations and Board expectations on how the program is delivered. She stated that the Action Plan is very full and staff cannot continue to address this broad group of issues all at the same time; it needs to be narrowed down. It is important to have a discussion on that with target groups. We are talking about high-level policy that will guide decisions.

Board Member Raushenbush stated that, in doing these collaborative meetings, community members need to realize that there can only be a certain number of priority items.

Vice President Gadbois stated there has been a "ratcheting up" of expectations but not of resources and/or funding, so we are limited in responsiveness and service. He wants to make sure that information is collected from a broad spectrum of the community.

Assistant Superintendent David Roth stated there are some core educational portions that we need to continue to work on such as assessment, diversity/respect, and continuing to engage staff on being reflective about what our program is and why we deliver it the way we do. These things do take up time but we cannot stop just because there is less money. People will learn to work with that.

The professional development activities have been invaluable to the teachers. We must continue to engage the teachers. It doesn't have to mean there will be lower quality just because there is not as much money.

Board Member Tolles thinks issues should be made more simplified for the community and that more time is needed in coming up with a plan.

Resident Jon Elliott commented that where the Board focuses their attention and sets the culture affects the power of what it is being done. Don't just look at the money and rising workload and stress. The Board should open up to engaging in parent partnerships.

INFORMATION ITEM
Information on 2010-11 Instructional
Calendar

The Calendar Committee was given all of the surveys and feedback provided over the years from the previous Calendar Committees. The later the start in the Fall of 2010 is better because of the construction going on. The way the information reads in the APT contract, a calendar must have a vote of 50% or higher. None of the calendar variations met the 50% or higher mark, so a runoff vote of the two most popular is being held. It is anticipated that the 2010-11 Instructional Calendar will be brought back on April 7 for review and a public hearing. Parents can provide input but they are not voters in the process.

CORRESPONDENCE

Input was received from the community on disclosure and agenda descriptions, facilities use and access process, and the budget and suggestions for alternative ways to balance the project. Board Member Jones also received a communication regarding the bond.

BOARD REPORTS

President Monach will be attending a conference on Monday, March 30 to learn about new alternatives for teacher compensation. She attended a Silicon Valley Education Foundation workshop on the education budget crisis and restructure reform efforts.

Board Member Jones attended a Math Festival on her recent trip to Rome.

CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Board Member Jones, seconded by Board Member Raushenbush, and passed unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar as presented:

- A. Acceptance of Donations
- B. Adopt Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2009 and March 11, 2009
- C. Personnel Action Report
- D. Accept Grant Agreement Between the District and the County of Alameda for Data Collection and Reporting of Clinical Services for Wellness Center, effective March 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.
The PHS Wellness Center will be given a grant in the amount of \$20,000 and the District will provide the County with a confidential clinical services report at the end of the school year
- E. Approve Overnight Field Trip for Tournament for Piedmont High School Tennis Team, March 4-6, 2009, Fresno, CA
- C. Waive Second Reading and Adopt Board Bylaw 9320, "Meetings and Notices"

(Superintendent Hubbard)

The proposed additions to this Bylaw provide information regarding the availability of the agenda and agenda backup material; and add the process for ending Board meetings that go beyond 11:00 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Conduct Public Hearing and Recommendation to Determine the Parcel Tax Levy and Amount for Measures B and C for the 2009-10 Fiscal Year (**Tues Apr 7**)
- Update on Composition and Structure of Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Parcel Tax (Apr 7); Approval on April 29)
- 2009 PEF Spring Grant Applications (Apr)
- Approve Application for Funding, 2009-10 English Language Acquisition Program (Apr)
- Notification of 2009 Arthur Hecht Volunteer of the Year Awardee (Apr 7)
- Approve Contract for GASB 45 Actuarial Services (Apr)
- Presentation on Proposed Textbook Adoption(s) (Apr)
- Approve Contract for the Procurement of Transportation Services (Apr)
- Approve List of Classified Employee Layoffs (Apr)
- K-12 Science Curriculum Presentation (May)
- Approve Contract Between District and Overaa Construction Company as Developer of Piedmont High School Seismic Mitigation Project (Quad/Library Building and Student Center) (Apr)
- Recognition of 2009 Arthur Hecht Volunteer of the Year (May)
- Third Interim Financial Report of the District (May)
- Adopt District Budget (June)
- Review of Board Bylaws (Section 9000) (TBD)
- Board Policy/Administrative Regulations 6163.4, "Acceptable Use of Technology" (TBD)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and with no objections by the Board, President Monach adjourned the meeting at 11:02 p.m.

JUNE MONACH, Board President
Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education

CONSTANCE HUBBARD
Secretary, Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education