

School Board News! Highlights from the May 11, 2011 Board Meeting

by June Monach, Board of Education Trustee

Summary:

- Recognition of Andrea Swenson, Recipient of 2011 Art Hecht Volunteer of Year Award
- Personnel Decisions – The Board Voted:
 - 5-0 to Approve Agreement Between PUSD and California School Employees' Association (CSEA)
 - 5-0 to Reduce/Discontinue 4.0 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Classified Positions Effective 2011-12
 - 5-0 to Terminate 4.4 FTE Certificated Positions Effective 2011-12
- Construction Decisions Made – The Board Voted:
 - 5-0 to Approve Updated List of Donor Fundraising List for Wildwood Construction Project
 - 5-0 to Approve Increase in the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Wildwood Construction
 - 5-0 to Appoint 2 New Members to Parcel Tax Citizens' Advisory Committee
- Board Review & Discussion:
 - 2011-12 District-wide Commitments & Goals
 - 2010 Academic Performance Index (API) Report
 - Contract negotiations between PUSD and Cahill Construction Co. for Beach Construction Project

Art Hecht Volunteer of the Year – Community Volunteer Extraordinaire, Ms. Andrea Swenson, was recognized for her boundless and extensive support of the Piedmont schools over the past fifteen years helping in the classrooms, libraries, on hot lunch days, and book fairs; serving as President for the Parents' Clubs of Wildwood, PMS, and PHS, and CHIME; Chair and Coordinator for Scrip and the Annual Giving Campaigns; Volunteer/Precinct Leader on the past 3 Parcel Tax Campaigns; and most recently as a board member of the Piedmont Educational Foundation and the Piedmont League of Women Voters. As is customary, she selected a work of art from the AP art show this year – a painting created by PHS senior, Ms. Faye Wheeler. With little fanfare and extreme efficiency, Andrea has modeled for students what active citizenship looks like in a community that cares deeply about public education. Andrea expressed her appreciation for the recognition by saying, "I am honored to live in a community that really values education."

Agreement Between PUSD and California School Employees' Association (CSEA) Reached – Assistant Superintendent David Roth acknowledged the Classified Staff who provide vital support to our District in serving the needs of all students in our schools. The Board approved the agreement, which has a cumulative 3-year financial impact of \$618,000. \$552,000 of the cost savings to the District is a result of an agreed upon medical benefits cap, and \$66,000 from three furlough days in 2011-12. The agreement also includes a Memorandum of Understanding that would yield an additional \$88,000 in savings should the State budget situation get worse by more than \$200 per student in 2011-12. Combined with the settlement agreement with the Association of Piedmont Teachers, the estimated cumulative 3-year impact is over \$3.7 million. Dr. Roth expressed appreciation and thanks to the members of CSEA, "who are making concessions that will have a real impact on their lives and that of their families." Board President Roy Tolles noted that there was over 90% support by CSEA for the agreement and articulated on behalf of the Board its full support and thanks for the Classified staff's collective efforts to protection education in Piedmont. For details of the agreement go to pp 1-31:

<http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/051111packet.pdf>

Board Approved Reduction or Discontinuance of Classified Services for 2011-12 – Superintendent Constance Hubbard recommended that the Board approve a resolution to reduce or eliminate the equivalent of four full-time classified positions: PHS Attendance Secretary (1.0 FTE), PHS Counseling Secretary (1.0 FTE), PMS Library Aide (1.0 FTE), and PHS Library Aide (1.0 FTE). Superintendent Hubbard noted that this recommendation was not a reflection of the work and contributions provided by the individuals filling these positions – who together have contributed a stellar 80 years of experience. The Board adopted the resolution authorizing the Superintendent to give notice of termination of employment to the affected classified employees.

See pg 32 at: <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/051111packet.pdf>

Board Approved Termination of Certain Teaching Positions as a Result of Reductions in Service for 2011-12 – At the March 9 meeting, the Board adopted a resolution to reduce or discontinue 4.4 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) particular kinds

of certificated services for next year. Superintendent Hubbard explained that this list does not reflect the full mix of staffing changes/reductions that will be made for next year. The Board suggested that before the budget is adopted, a list of changes/reductions be released that would delineate the net financial and programmatic impact to the District. The Board approved three professionals or 2.2 FTE in the following service areas: PHS English and Math, and Sports Medicine. Superintendent Hubbard explained that Sports Medicine was on the list because the contract for securing the Regional Occupational Program funds had not been finalized. See pp 33-34 at:

<http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/051111packet.pdf>

Fundraising Opportunities at Wildwood Elementary School Associated with Construction – As each school has undergone seismic renovation and modernization, a District-wide wish list of construction related improvements has been compiled for each school. The list was guided by Board policy and developed in collaboration with the Bond Steering Committee, the District's design team, and site principals (with staff, teacher, and community input). Each school then works with its' Parent or Dad's Club to run capital campaigns to raise the necessary funds to pay for items on the wish list. We reviewed items proposed to be added to Wildwood Elementary School's Wish List. They include: ornamental security fencing around play areas, architectural exterior and courtyard lighting fixtures, shade umbrellas, playground equipment, playground safety ground surface, school garden materials, and upgraded AV systems for the auditorium. Already on the list: Stage lighting, new stage and window curtains, LCD projectors in each classroom, Smartboards in classrooms, and an LCD projector and screen in the auditorium. It was noted that, "The list is not an obligation by the District nor the Wildwood Capital Campaign to construct and fund all of the items listed, but rather outlines additional scope approved by the Board for completion now or in the near future. None of the items will be funded through the Seismic Safety Bond Program."

See pp 35-40 at: <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/051111packet.pdf>

2011-12 District Commitments and Goals – Prior to adopting the budget for next year, the District begins the goal-setting and action plan development process to identify work concentration areas for the subsequent school year. The Board agreed to maintain the six goals from last year: 1) Adapt and improve educational program delivery; 2) Support professional growth and instructional effectiveness; 3) Provide a safe learning environment; 4) Cultivate a dynamic learning community; 5) Develop and implement a sustainable plan to balance the budget; and 6) Invest in and preserve school facilities and infrastructure. Superintendent Hubbard reviewed anticipated areas of focus for each of the goals. The Board supported all of the focus areas. Highlights from the proposed action plan for next year include: reviewing the K-12 World Language program; conducting self studies at PHS as part of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation process, and of the K-12 Special Education program; expanding the use of Data Director and Infinite Campus district-wide; piloting a new Evaluation process based on recommendations from the District Evaluation Committee; review for implementing a tri-school K-5 social development program on how we teach diversity, respect and inclusion; using common planning time to support teacher collaboration; reviewing school schedules to optimize delivery of academic content; continuing to implement a plan for financial sustainability of our educational program; and completing the Beach seismic safety construction project. The Board introduced additional areas for the administrative team's consideration: 1) Inter-district Transfer Policy discussion; 2) Studying the possibility of installing solar energy systems in the District; and 3) Increased use of on-line learning in the core academic program. In response to the Board's interest in making certain the long-term themes identified during the Shaping Our Future (SOF) process are incorporated in the District Commitments, Assistant Superintendent Roth agreed to work with Board Members Gadbois and Monach, and possibly the original SOF Design Team on this part of the document. PHS students offered their perspectives on block scheduling, on-line learning and the PHS Every 15 Minutes program.

See pp 45-49 at: <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/051111packet.pdf>

Other Business – We approved an increase of \$84,196 to the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) to Overaa Construction for the Wildwood construction project, bringing the GMP to \$5,127,661 due to changes in scope, unforeseen conditions, and unforeseen conditions not present in the original plans. The Board heard an update from Assistant Superintendent Michael Brady on how contract negotiations are going with Cahill Construction Co. for the Beach construction project. We anticipate reviewing the proposed contract at the next meeting. We also reviewed the recently released 2010 Academic Performance Index scores, which are calculated using the District's 2010 STAR and California High School Exit Exam test results. The Board approved the addition of two new members to the Citizens' Advisory Committee of the Parcel Tax: Mr. Jerry Bucci and Mr. John Hiestand.