

School Board News | Highlights from October 12, 2011 School Board Meeting

FOCUS FOR THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR - The Board took action on a very important item this evening. We approved the 2011-12 Action Plan. At the end of every school year, the Board of Education reviews what has been accomplished by our school district and sets its sights on the next year by articulating the District's Vision, Commitments, and Goals. An Action Plan is then developed by the Administrative Team that defines the 'Tactics' and 'Activities' that will be implemented to address the goals. All of our work is driven by the needs of every students, taking into consideration the following questions:

- What do students need to learn and know how to do?
- How will we know if they have learned it?
- What will we do if they have not?
- What will we do if they already know it?

Superintendent Constance Hubbard reviewed the three roles that must be aligned within our school system in order for all of us to work effectively to respond to the needs of every student.

Role	Responsibilities	Who's Responsible?
Strategic	Set the long-term multi-year vision and strategic goals for the District; Promote and monitor progress	Board of Education
Tactical	Work with parents and community leaders to create and deploy plans to meet the strategic goals set by the Board	Administrators, Employee Associations, Teacher Leaders
Operational	Work with students and design specific activities that are integral to the implementation plans	Teachers and Support Staff

The Board commended the Administrative Team for presenting the Action Plan in a new format. Board Members look forward to the Action Plan Progress Report that will be presented near the end of the school year which will reflect ways to measure and follow student progress.

#1 Adapt & Improve Educational Program Delivery

- Expand the use of student assessment data as one of the measures of student learning.
- Review the World Language program as the curriculum area of focus for the District over the next two years.
- Review the progress of the changes in the K-12 English Language Arts program implemented over the past two years.
- Expand service learning opportunities for students as part of the regular school day and after school/summer.
- Identify and collect base-line data to develop longitudinal system for measuring student outcomes and satisfaction with PUSD.

#2 Support Professional Growth & Instructional Effectiveness

- Continue to support the implementation of a new teacher evaluation system developed by a joint committee of Association of Piedmont Teachers and District representatives. Adapt the tools and protocols developed for the evaluation of teachers for the evaluation of administrators.
- Continue to provide common planning time for teachers/staff to collaborate and form/strengthen a culture of Professional Learning Communities in our District.
- Support Site and District review mandates.

#3 Provide a Safe Learning Environment

- Board Policies and Administrative Regulations reflect the expectations that all students and staff are in a safe and healthy learning environment.
- Continue the District Task Force on Respect and Diversity to facilitate and strengthen the culture of respect, inclusion, and diversity education.
- Maintain services K-12 to students to support personal responsibility, resiliency and respect.

#4 Cultivate a Dynamic Learning Community

- Continue to implement the ideals of the Interest-based Bargaining approach for all employee collective bargaining activities.

- Stay focused on communications at all levels of work within our educational community.

#5 Develop & Implement a Sustainable Plan to Balance the Budget

- Develop multi-year budgets as part of the budget development process that include consideration of different “what-if” scenarios, while maintaining a stable student program with a depth and breadth of programs offered by the most highly qualified staff.
- Continue partnerships with employee associations and fundraising groups in collaboration with the District to support the K-12 program.
- Participate in State-wide activities /associations to support California’s funding of public schools including facilities.
- Begin to prepare for the renewal of the School Parcel Tax in Spring 2013. The District is dependent on the Core Parcel Tax (Measure B) for one third of the operating budget. Loss of that support would result in the reduction of 100 employees who provide vital programs and services to Piedmont students.

#6 Invest in & Preserve School Facilities & Infrastructure

- Continue implementation of the Seismic Safety Bond Program to address structural and non-structural seismic issues in all school facilities. The last site to be addressed for structural seismic safety is Beach and is in progress.
- Meet with representatives from the City of Piedmont to finalize plans for the establishment of a Facilities Preservation Fund to help manage/maintain/replace District and City-owned fields as a community asset.
- Update the Deferred Maintenance Plan for all District facilities.

See pp 1 – 10 for details: <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/101211packet.pdf>

FACILITIES PRESERVATION FUND PROPOSAL - The Board reviewed and supported the proposal for the School District and City to establish a fund to help address the costs of eventual refurbishment or replacement of major athletic facilities, including Beach Playfield, Becker Playfield, Gym Floors/Beachers, Tennis Courts, Witter Playfield, and Witter Track. The estimated annual funding requirement for these athletic facilities is \$175,000. The proposal recommends that most of the additional revenues needed to cover these funding requirements should be spread across all of the community of users and user groups involved in the sports programs, with a goal of raising \$25 per user per season. This would generate an estimated \$142,000 per year to be set aside in a separate fund and used in the future for replacement or replacement of the designated athletic facilities. It was noted that the School District cannot require student athletes to pay fees to participate in PUSD athletic programs, and cannot charge other users more than allowed under the Civic Center Act, so any additional funds raised from students and sports organizations for the use of PUSD facilities must be contributed voluntarily. The goal of the proposal is to put an annual funding process in place for the future, not to catch up all at once. Other sources of funding will still be required to complete the near term projects. In general, feedback from sports organizations expressed support for the proposal. Sports groups have recommended that the City and School District review their policies and practices to maximize the availability of the facilities for all user groups in a fair and equitable manner. The Board requested that Superintendent Hubbard work with City Administrator Geoff Grote on the system and implementation details. The Board thanked Board Members Ray Gadbois, Vice President Rick Raushenbush, Mayor Dean Barbieri, Superintendent Hubbard, and City Administrator Grote for their hard work in developing a comprehensive proposal to share in the responsibility of preserving the community’s investment in athletic facilities. See pp 11 – 17 for the full report:

<http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/101211packet.pdf>

February 7, 2012 Municipal Election - October 17, 2011 to November 11, 2011 - Nomination papers for candidates interested in running for public office may be obtained and filed during this time period. See pp 21 – 22 for details:

<http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/101211packet.pdf>

Upcoming Meetings – Superintendent Hubbard and Board President Tolles informed the public of the following meetings:

Wed	Oct 26	7 pm	Regular School Board Meeting	City Hall Council Chambers
Tues	Nov 1	7-9 pm	Special Board Meeting on Inter-district Transfer Policy: Review and consider ramifications of relaxing policy to allow grandchildren of grandparents who live in Piedmont to enroll in Piedmont schools; review potential impact of the Romero Bill and Open Enrollment Act	City Hall Council Chambers
Thurs	Nov 17	7-9 pm	Piedmont LWV Panel Discussion on Civic Engagement where a panel of experts will review different formats to cultivate productive and civil public dialogue.	City Hall Council Chambers