

**School Board News!** Highlights from the October 27, 2010 Meeting  
by June Monach, Board Member

**State Budget Update:** Assistant Superintendent Michael Brady provided an update on the recently adopted State Budget. It is anticipated that the District will receive approximately \$430,000 in new one-time Federal Funds through the Education Jobs Act. These funds are to be spent in 2010/11 and 2011/12 and come with a number of spending restrictions. According to Assistant Superintendent Brady, this budget restores many of the cuts proposed in the May Revise. For Piedmont this means an additional \$600,000 in State revenues. The net financial impact for Piedmont is approximately \$1 million more in one-time Federal and ongoing State revenues. Assistant Superintendent Brady explained that the previously estimated two-year cumulative shortfall of \$5 million may be revised to \$4 million. He alerted the Board that we may still be looking at mid-year cuts this year. As reported in the "2010-11 Pocket Budget, a summary analysis of the 2010-11 State Budget prepared by School Services of California," similar to past years, the estimated \$19 billion shortfall was closed based on "rosier state and federal revenue projections, the sale of state properties, additional borrowing, and the suspension of Proposition 98, the constitutional amendment enacted in 1988, guaranteeing a minimum funding level for schools. Given continued predictions for a slow rate of economic recovery in our State, the Board stressed the importance of continuing to maintain a long-term view in developing sustainable solutions to the current budget problem. For more details, go to pp 27 – 30 of the link at the bottom of this page.

**Requests from Piedmont Sports Groups for Sunday Access to Witter Complex:** With growing numbers of Piedmont youth playing field sports and a diminishing number of play fields in the East Bay, there is increasing demand for fields for youth sports practices and games. Early this Fall, the Board was approached by the Presidents of the Piedmont Soccer Club and the Piedmont Baseball and Softball Foundation to increase permitted access to the Witter athletic complex on Sundays. Both organizations feel as if scheduling access to the complex would curb unauthorized, organized use on the weekends, while simultaneously serving as a revenue producer that would benefit Piedmont youth and the school system. Staff reviewed the competing interests that need to be balanced when considering the requests. Mr. Mark Landheer, President of the Piedmont Soccer Club, expressed appreciation to the staff and Board for considering the Club's request to offer permitted access to Witter Field on Sundays in the Fall and Spring for Under-13 and Under-14 Girls and Boys soccer games. He expressed a willingness to work with neighbors on a trial basis to see if the authorized use would help reported problems with unauthorized organized use. Piedmont High School student, Mr. David Hunt encouraged staff to make the authorization process as easy as possible, and also to strictly enforce whatever policy changes are made. The Board asked Superintendent Hubbard to work with staff and develop a proposal to relax the current Sunday Use Policy for permitted access to the Witter Complex. Neighbors will be noticed, and the matter will be reviewed by the Board at a future regular meeting. For more details read the staff memo on pp 9 – 10 of the link at the bottom of this page.

**Board Follow-up on Citizens Advisory Committee for the Parcel Tax (CAC):** This committee was established as part of parcel tax Measures B and E, approved by voters on June 2, 2009. There are three openings on the Committee as a result of resignations submitted in September from Mr. Ad Brugger, Ms. Cathie Geddeis, and Ms. Eileen Ruby. Board President Roy Tolles explained that the Board scheduled this agenda topic in order to get feedback and evaluate the work of the committee relative to both its scope and process. Committee Chair, Jon Elliott, reflected on the work accomplished to-date, and thought the reports generated by the sub-committees were good, but admitted the committee struggled with the process to generate them. Mr. Elliott felt it would be important to add new members to restore a balance of interests represented on the committee. Ms. Eileen Ruby suggested that the Board improve upon the charter language for Measure B by specifying that the basis for recommendations on the levy amount should be whether the will of the voters is being met. Ms. Ruby also suggested that if the Board wants the committee "to provide additional evaluations or recommendations on specific budgetary or programmatic questions," that it ought to formally vote on what additional research is desired. In hearing committee reports from past Board meetings, community member Amal Smith, felt the advisory committee had over-reached its mandate. She urged the Board to limit the committee's mandate to the parcel tax and not other policy matters. The Board thanked committee members for their hard work and agreed that clearer expectations will be set in the future. The Board expects an annual report recommending whether and at what level to levy both measures by late January/early February. Board Members agreed with a written statement from Board Member Ray Gadbois that any additional assignments from the Board should be made by a majority vote of the Board. Liaisons Roy Tolles and Rick Raushenbush were asked to work with Superintendent Hubbard to propose revisions to the charter based upon this evening's discussion and public input. The Board also asked staff to initiate the process for filling the three openings. The current charter and committee list is available on pp 23 - 26 of the link at the bottom of the page.

**Construction Progress:** The Board approved a Notice of Completion for Havens now that work on the construction project has been completed to the District's satisfaction. \$230,000 is the amount withheld to address minor items that have been identified by the Architect of Record (ATI Architects & Engineers). Once the synthetic turf warranties have been received from the manufacturer, the amount withheld will be reduced to \$10,000. Receipt of the warranties protects the school district against future liens.

**LINK** to the October 27, 2010 Board Packet: <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/102710packet.pdf>