

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

MINUTES OF
Special Meeting of the Governing Board

November 1, 2011

CALL TO ORDER	Board President Roy Tolles called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:01 p.m.
ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM	President Roy Tolles, Vice President Rick Raushenbush; Board Members Martha Jones, Ray Gadbois, June Monach
Adjourn to Closed Session	The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss: A. Conference with District Representative Constance Hubbard Regarding Negotiations with the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 60 (Government Code Section 54956.6) B. Conference with District Labor Negotiator Constance Hubbard Regarding Negotiations with the Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT) (Government Code Section 54956.6)
Others Present in Closed Session	Constance Hubbard, Superintendent Michael Brady, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Randall Booker, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Reconvene to Open Session	President Tolles called the Regular Session of the Board of Education to order at 7:07 p.m. led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Others Present at Open Session	Constance Hubbard, Superintendent Randall Booker, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Report of Action Taken in Closed Session	None
Agenda Adjustments	None
Review of Administrative Regulations Regarding Interdistrict Attendance	Board President Tolles explained the Special Board Meeting was informational, both for Board members and for the public. He introduced Jan E. Tomsy, partner of the law firm Fagen Friedman & Fulfrost LLP, present to provide a presentation of the present interdistrict permit process, Board Policies, and Administrative Regulations, along with the newly-implemented Open Enrollment Act (Romero Bill) process that affects all schools in California. Superintendent Hubbard discussed various financial impacts to the District and enrollment capacity issues that may preclude students from entering Piedmont schools.

[The complete PowerPoint presentation can be viewed at the following link:
http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/aboutpusd/agenda.minutes/Presentation_on_IDTs.pdf]

Attorney Tomsky also discussed factors to consider in the event the Board wishes to accept grandchildren residing outside of Piedmont, but whose grandparents reside in Piedmont, such as:

- Definition of "Grandparent"
Property owner? Also resident? Duration of residency? Proof of residency?
- Definition of "Grandchild"
Prior history?
Allow blended families? Allow legally and non-legally binding relationships?
- Priority of acceptance in relation to other categories
Capacity Issues
Revocation
Transportation
Other factors?

Costs of Romero Bill students or students who are the grandchildren of Piedmont grandparents, who may have special education needs were discussed with Attorney Tomsky.

Public comments were heard as follows:

Kay Cheatham: former school board member and Piedmont grandparent, is in favor of having her grandchildren, who reside in Berkeley, attend Piedmont schools, not only for the education but to provide an opportunity to additionally bond with her grandchildren by seeing them more often. She feels she would be more likely to donate additional monies to the Educational Foundation if this were allowed.

Julia Burke, of the Piedmont Educational Foundation Fund Raising Office, is in favor of this consideration. She cited that only 35% of residents in Piedmont have children in Piedmont schools. Grandparents tend to support the schools their grandchildren are attending. She feels the District has the capacity to help more children. Beverly Hills Unified School District has a legacy program in effect which it controls.

Jon Elliot: at the high school level, if there were additional students at the high school, what extra class(es) might be offered? We could look at the value to the existing population of students. In looking at non-discriminatory ways in, would it be non-discriminatory to administer readiness testing? If the District would benefit from having 130 students of staff attending Piedmont schools, is there that kind of enrichment offered for grandparents or for other groups that might also enrich the experience of the community?

Lisa Joyce: she is happy the issue is being discussed. For City and District employees, having their students attend Piedmont schools, if they do not reside in Piedmont, creates a potential to be

a perk of sizeable value. How is that incorporated when their compensation is being evaluated? By law, does an interdistrict transfer have to be at no cost to the out of district student? There are a number of students who reside in Piedmont but do not attend Piedmont schools: has the District looked at why they do not, and is it of value to try to attract them back? As a person who has lived and owned property in Piedmont, it was never her expectation that students outside Piedmont would attend Piedmont schools. She feels that as a property owner, a lot of the value she has gained from her parcel tax, in addition to her children being educated here, is the value she has in her home.

George Childs: he thanked the Board for taking on this involved and potentially controversial subject. His primary issue is: do we have any idea at all of approximately how many grandparents might have students that would come to Piedmont schools? And how would the District limit the amount if there were more than could be accommodated?

Bill Drum: This is a very complicated subject. It is a matter of risks, but also rewards. He also had questions on students who may need special education attention. He feels allowing grandchildren of Piedmont parents is a very low risk to the District and should start them as soon as possible instead of waiting for capacity statistics. He does not think there would be a great number. Regarding Allen Bill students, [some of which are not presently eligible] it could be done on a one-time basis.

Alicia Elliott, President of PAINTS, read a letter that was sent earlier to the Board, which requested that children of elementary art specialists be considered for interdistrict permits [these positions are not District employees]. Because their students are not eligible, the art specialists have said that it is a factor in looking for a position outside of Piedmont.

Wayne Lyons: resident of Piedmont for 25 years. His children did not attend Piedmont schools. However, now his daughter and her family live in Oakland and he is in favor of allowing grandchildren of Piedmont parents to attend Piedmont schools. He would also like to know more about approximately how many requests for this there would be. He would like to see a decision made soon. He offered to assist in any way possible to obtain this information, as he knows others grandparents would.

Allison Bigelow: representing a family who have grandchildren outside of Oakland but the grandparents are Piedmont residents. She is in favor of this program.

Superintendent Hubbard said discussions have already started on how to get an estimate of Piedmont grandparents who have grandchildren outside the District that would be interested in attending Piedmont schools, one of which is a day set aside where the grandparents and parents would come with data and provide an expression of interest.

A random lottery process would be built into Board policy to control slots for which there are too many applicants.

Board discussion ensued:

Board Member Jones: she agrees that it is harder to students to enter school at the higher grade levels. Assistant Superintendent stated academic readiness is the biggest struggle, which often leads to social issues.

In response to a question by Board Member Monach, Attorney Tomsy advised that under the Open Enrollment Act (Romero Bill), school districts may prohibit the release of a student requesting a transfer out of their district, if the district feels the student could attend another school within their own school district (intradistrict transfer).

Ms. Tomsy also responded that students who apply outside of their district with a special education need requiring instruction outside of the District to which they apply (e.g., residential treatment in another city or state), those students would not qualify under the Romero Bill. The Romero Bill applies to public schools, not non-public schools. It is possible that once a Romero Bill student transfers into a district and then it is learned the student requires residential treatment, the district accepting the student would be taking a risk in revoking the transfer permit.

Further discussions on the issue of grandchildren of Piedmont grandparents will be conducted in a future Board meeting. At this time, the Board is only gathering information. President Tolles urged the public to send emails to Board members if they have questions or comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, and with no objection by the Board, President Tolles adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

ROY TOLLES, Board President
Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education

CONSTANCE HUBBARD
Secretary, Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education