

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

MINUTES OF
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

May 14, 2008

CALL TO ORDER	Board President Monach called the Board of Education meeting to order at 5:40 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 5:41 p.m. to discuss: A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Superintendent (Government Code Section 54957) B. Conference with District Labor Negotiator Constance Hubbard Regarding Negotiations with the Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT) (Government Code Section 54956.6)
OTHERS PRESENT FOR PORTION OF CLOSED SESSION	Constance Hubbard, Superintendent Michael Brady, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services David Roth, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Educ. Services
RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION	Board President Monach called the Regular Session of the Board of Education meeting of May 14, 2008 to order at 7:03 p.m. and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
OTHERS PRESENT AT REGULAR SESSION	Constance Hubbard, Superintendent Michael Brady, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services David Roth, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Educ. Services
Action Taken In Closed Session	None
COMMUNICATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT)	None
California School Employees Association (CSEA)	None
Parent Clubs	None
Student Representative to the Board	Riely White, Student Representative to the Board, reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AP exams are now complete• NCS (North Coast Section) is coming up for spring sports• ASB (Associated Student Body) elections were held today and the results will be released tomorrow; the appointed positions will be decided next week

- Bird Calling is this Friday
- The Senior Ball is this Saturday

PERSONS REQUESTING TO SPEAK ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA None

Superintendent Announcements

Superintendent Hubbard invited all interested persons to attend the Budget Advisory Committee meeting on May 20, which will be held in the Piedmont Middle School multi-purpose room at 3:30 p.m. A representative from Assembly member Sandre Swanson’s office will be in attendance and speak.

District staff will be attending a budget workshop on May 19th in Sacramento to learn more details of the May Revise. Although it appears the situation will not be as bad as predicted, backup plans will still be made by the District.

Board President Announcements

President Monach announced that:

- The GATE Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the Middle School multi-purpose room
- A Curriculum Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29, from 3:30–5:00 p.m. in the Middle School multi-purpose room
- The public and Board members are encouraged to take a look at the District’s improved web site. She extended her thanks to Assistant Superintendent Michael Brady, Technology Coordinator Louisa Cheung from Wildwood School, and web designer consultant David Mihm (who is a Piedmont High School graduate) for all their work.
- She thanked everyone who supported the tri-school elementary fundraiser, “Moonstruck”
- Recipients of the Lois Blair Rawlings Education Inspiration Award were recently honored
- The 6th Annual PAINTS Bird House Auction & Gala will be held on May 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m. For tickets: contact www.piedmontpaints.org
- The 43rd Annual Bird Calling Contest is this Friday, May 16, 3:30 p.m., at the Alan Harvey Theater

PRESENTATIONS

“What Music Means to People”
(Speech from PMS 6th Grade Speech Festival by English Learner Student Nacho Navarro)

Piedmont Middle School teacher Sharon Tringali, introduced English Learner student Nacho Navarro, who gave a speech he prepared regarding music. Nacho arrived from Spain in January.

Collaboration Regarding 8th Grade Pilot Science Program Between Piedmont Middle School and the Community Resource for Science in Partnership with UC Berkeley

Adam Thacher, Piedmont parent, and Dr. Richard Saykally, also a Piedmont parent and Chair of the Chemistry Department at UC Berkeley, joined together with the Community Resources for Science, a non-profit organization in Berkeley. The purpose of the collaboration was to get middle school students more engaged and inspired in science by connecting scientist role model volunteers to do hands-on experiments that connect classroom curriculum with what scientists do in their everyday lives. There is a concern for the decrease in the number of students majoring in science. Anne Jennings of CSR, said the organization, up until recently, had worked only with elementary

students but has realized that middle school students are at a point that can limit or expand their future career paths.

Marianne Gielow, Piedmont Middle School science teacher, thanked both UC Berkeley and CSR for this collaboration opportunity.

Ted Greenebaum, PMS science teacher, introduced students Abigail Thacher, Zoë Clancy-Clavier, Nikka Piterman, and David Hosler.

Each student talked about the science experiment conducted regarding neutrinos and cosmic rays. The experiment related to their classroom studies, as they have talked about nuclear fusion and radioactive display earlier in the school year.

Recognition of Arthur Hecht 2008 Volunteer of the Year Recipient, Maude Pervere; Recognition of Student Artwork by Piedmont High School Student Christopher Li

The Arthur Hecht Volunteer of the Year Award is presented annually to individuals who have volunteered their efforts over a period of time and made a difference because of their involvement and commitment to Piedmont's youth.

Maude Pervere, the 2008 recipient, was recognized by the Board and presented with a gift of student artwork. Piedmont High School student Christopher Li will be given a check in the amount of \$100 for his artwork.

Ms. Pervere expressed what a great honor this was for her.

REVIEW & ACTION ITEMS Change in Order of Agenda

President Monach changed the order of the agenda, to begin with Item VII. B first.

Item VII. B. Conduct Public Hearing and Adopt Proposed New High School Textbooks

- *"Statistics in Action: Understanding a World of Data" (Honors Statistics, Grades 10, 11, 12)"*
- *"Calculus" Grades 10, 11, 12*

John Hayden, Math Department Chair, spoke about the process for proposed textbooks and the analyzation of those textbooks. He does not know of any other school district being as transparent as this District. Teachers are hoping to be respected throughout the process. The High School Math Department reflected on comments presented at Curriculum Council meetings. The three areas of concern raised seemed to be content, approach and the use of graphing calculators.

Content of the textbooks: teachers look to the State of California and their list of approved textbooks.

Approach: teachers discussed their philosophy and its research basis. They felt a discovery approach is very appropriate for the students and best matches their goals and philosophy. Dr. Adams assured everyone that teacher philosophy is not changing.

Use of graphing calculators: it is essential to Piedmont's philosophy that the students understand what they are doing. The calculator is a wonderful tool but can be an over-reliance. Teachers are very aware of this yet feel there is value to using the calculators, also. Part of what is done on a daily basis is to show the students how a problem can be solved in their head.

Teachers felt the *Statistics in Action* textbook does a great job of teaching statistics and is a good textbook for grades 10, 11, and 12 at both levels.

Teachers felt the *Calculus* textbook is excellent as an AP, AB and BC textbook. It is a very good choice. It has very few, if any, irrelevant photographs, contains formal definitions and proofs using standard math notation and terminology without trying to get back to the “first principle”, while giving a good practical feel and making for interesting reading.

The conceptual understanding component is a much more challenging piece to approach vs. teaching skills. To have a good resource for that is crucial to the teacher. The combination of the two makes for powerful learning and teaching.

Parent Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers had hoped that the concepts discussed would have been something that could have been discussed fully at a Curriculum Council meeting before the Board took steps to make a decision that has a seven-year effect on students. She would like the District to start getting some firm data to see how its students are doing: how are students doing on the SAT in terms of how successful we are?

The textbook, “Discovering Algebra” has been withdrawn from consideration for adoption at this time.

It was moved by Vice President Gadbois, seconded by Board Member Raushenbush, and passed unanimously to adopt the proposed new high school textbooks:

- “*Statistics in Action: Understanding a World of Data*” (Honors Statistics, Grades 10, 11, 12)
- “*Calculus*”, Grades 10, 11, 12

Change in Order of Agenda

To keep the textbook issues together, President Monach changed the order of the agenda and moved to Item VII. C., “Conduct Review of Proposed New Elementary Textbook, ‘*Everyday Mathematics*’, Grades K-5”.

Item VII. C. Conduct Review of Proposed New Elementary Textbook, “*Everyday Mathematics*”, Grades K-5

Jamie Adams, Director of Curriculum, presented a PowerPoint overview of the philosophy and goals for elementary students, the timeframe and processes used to date, the criteria used to make a decision on what textbook is being proposed, concerns to date and next steps. Concerns will be discussed in more depth at the May 29th Curriculum Council meeting. There is a 30-day public review cycle of the textbook and will return for anticipated adoption at the June 11th Board meeting.

Several questions were asked by the Board.

Parent, tutor and Adult Education teacher Parent Kathi Roisen, voiced her concerns about the textbook and its philosophy.

Parent Nancy Lerhkind asked:

- what is broken that we are fixing?

- do we have statistics from other similar districts as to how their students have performed on California State testing?
- If we are talking about these K-5 tests, do our teachers think the content covered by the State tests is a true indicator of the program they want to put forward?

These questions will be discussed at the May 29th Curriculum Council meeting.

Parent Drew Bendon stated that he does not have an opinion yet on the proposed textbook, but he has seen some strong objections and is concerned about the process for the adoption of textbooks. He asked that consideration be given to the idea that of addressing the curricular areas sufficiently in advance of the year in which we are required to address them, in order to have time to make any changes in philosophy and assess as a community. It's a timeframe issue.

Parent Bernard Pech said he is surprised the District is going in this direction for the textbooks.

Parent Mary Kelly asked: since there are several experienced teachers who are retiring and have the experience, expertise, and mastery, will the less experienced teachers do well and be able to deliver the program that more experienced teachers do? Dr. Adams responded that this is part of the professional development piece; newer teachers have been trained in this in many ways. Master teachers would be helping out.

Parent Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers said it would be helpful to learn whether these two types of approaches (conceptual teaching and skill-based teaching) are happening on a national level. The "Every Day Math" textbook is not described 100% as the type of program we want. It does not publicly tell us what the program is. Are there going to be supplements and what would they be? Dr. Adams, Director of Curriculum, advised teacher Nancy Litton will be attending the May 29th Curriculum Council meeting to discuss this issue. Ms. Litton is supportive of the "Every Day Math" program.

President Monach said it is important that the Board understand and take responsibility for supporting the educators and administrators in having the necessary tools, which includes the textbooks and professional development. Teachers are the "front line".

Dr. Adams stated that our teacher philosophy has always been to have both conceptual and skill-based learning in math. We did not construct a new philosophy for this work. That philosophy was in place.

Recess

President Monach called for a two-minute recess.

Change in Order of Agenda
Item VII. A. Receive Presentation on
Proposal to Increase High School
Coaches' Stipends and Implement High

Randall Booker, Principal of Piedmont High School, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposal to increase the high school coaches' stipends and implement student athletic participation fees. At the High School, there are 767 athletes on

School Student Athletic Participation Fees

46 different teams; 75% of the student body participates in athletics. Many parents feel athletics is a part of the curricular experience rather than an extracurricular activity.

The coaching pay history was reviewed. There have been no raises since 1995-96. The District is having a difficult time finding and retaining coaches, part of the reason being that club sports are competitive with school league sports.

A salary survey was conducted of 35 schools in the Bay Area. A stipend committee made several recommendations on stipend payments and staffing. A recommendation is also being made to allow the children of head coaches to attend Piedmont schools. A proposed stipend schedule was reviewed. The District provides \$250,178 for coaching stipends and there is a funding gap in the amount of \$63,339.

It is being proposed that a student athletic fee be implemented in the amount of \$325 per athlete per sport. The participation fee would be voluntary.

The District has proposed a \$50,000 increase toward supporting the athletic program's operating budget. Previously, the Boosters have been funding \$60,000 per year to support the program's operating budget.

The Superintendent expressed her appreciation for all of the work done by the Boosters. This issue had been raised last school year at a Budget Advisory Committee meeting. She supports piloting a program. However, she does not support the recommendation of allowing the students of head coaches to attend Piedmont schools; this issue should be considered separately under interdistrict attendance criteria.

Measure E Bond Program:
1. Review of "Mini Master Plan"

Superintendent Hubbard stated that the mini master plan was developed over a four-month program period to serve as information for the Board in making decisions regarding Measure E projects. It is not a plan for expenditures under Measure E; it is not necessarily how the District is going to spend Measure E monies: it is to help inform the Board of Measure E decision-making as the Board goes through the process .

Assistant Superintendent Brady said that with respect to Measure E, it is important to look at infrastructure upgrades and managing resources efficiently with respect to energy, so this is all taken into consideration.

murakami-Nelson Architects and Engineers staff presented a PowerPoint presentation of their findings. The mini master plan is a physical assessment of the existing and possible future facilities focusing on long-term space requirements and functional issues. This was not an academic master plan or programming exercise. This was based on physical features. The goals of the study are to provide a guide which can inform how to accommodate current and future needs and priorities and the demographics of the District; also, to outline

improvements and allow for flexibility in each of the campuses. Another goal is to provide a framework that continues to adapt to new information and the changing goals and future planning efforts. This is a starting point as things evolve. How to evaluate Measure E and the modernization projects that are coming along and how they can fit in with the long-term goals of the District and various school sites.

Piedmont High School:

- new prominent entry for the campus (hardscape and landscape); enhance breezeway (presently dark and gloomy); provide additional seating
- campus signage, both directional and accessibility is severely deficient
- site lighting sub-standard, especially for night-time activities
- improve amphitheater – proper stage lighting; additional/improved sound system
- main plaza area: space starting to deteriorate; upgrades could be to patio surface and entrance
- Alan Harvey Theater: consider relocating the Shipping/Receiving and Adult Education offices to reestablish the original intent of the theater as a performing space and use area for set designs; create private construction space for theater productions
- Ability to have more of the teaching staff interact with each other. Some of the departments are dispersed in a number of buildings, including the 40's building; try to create enough classroom space so that the department can be more consolidated for teacher/staff interaction
- Seismically upgrade the dining facilities in the Student Center, especially redesigning the kitchen, which currently does not comply with current health codes; also, consider relocating the facilities into the library space and relocating the library to the Student Center area, which was the original design for that building. Create a student union. The Principal would like to reduce the number of students driving off campus and encourage students to stay on campus and eat healthier food in a nice environment
- Establish an ROP culinary class with a production kitchen for the high school which could also possibly be used for adult education cooking classes
- The 40's building that currently houses Millennium High School contains the District offices on the lower level. There are also a number of departments sharing classrooms dedicated to the arts and crafts curriculum that are in need of expansion; look at reassigning/relocating classrooms
- The High School Principal is interested in having a facility for an ROP program for funding for a television studio
- The District Office should have its space remodeled to make more efficient and maximized use of space

Piedmont Middle School:

- Food service area deficient; either upgrade or merge with high school food services

- Sports courts old and need updating

Wildwood Elementary School:

- As a long-term need, consider more flexible space for small group instruction
- Actual classroom spaces – could use more
- Need to prepare for a third kindergarten class for 2008-09; currently have one class but two there are two kindergarten classes that alternate use; the students currently using multipurpose room will have to find another classroom.
- Computer room/administrative area could be eliminated, making the administrative area smaller in order to make another classroom. No real add-on space. Use SchoolMates building into two classrooms and possibly place SchoolMates in the field house at Witter Field

Beach Elementary School:

- More space for small group instruction and additional classroom space
- They are also going to be having a third kindergarten class in 2008-09. Perhaps could do some consolidating in the admin wing and resource classrooms could be consolidated. A lot of the walls are going to be impacted by the seismic project. Space behind stage is not utilized well and perhaps could be used as a music room. Look at giving up resource room and turning it into a classroom.
- Replace existing portable which is falling apart; long-term would be to consider additional classroom space; doing an addition at one end of the building which would make two additional classrooms at standard size.

Havens Elementary School:

(only looking at Ellen Driscoll Theater):

- The theater houses the auditorium, stage, and a room at back for the music program and occupational therapy. The front of the building are single-accommodation restrooms and a kitchen. Consider taking the kitchen and single-accommodation restrooms and turning them into multiple accommodation restrooms to bring up to code. The kitchen functions would find a home in the new school design.
- For the music/occupational therapy room: relocate music room into the new school
- Future courtyard will be a connection between the Ellen Driscoll Theater and the new school. Side entrance to building will be next to main entrance of the new administrative wing so possibly look into programmatic uses

The mini master plan is intended to be used as a guideline for current planning and looking into the future. It would be an evolving document.

Cost projections will be discussed at the June 11 Board meeting.

Resident George Childs, in the context of Measure E funding, said if we were to look at these different proposals in that view, such as the possibility of moving the Student Center to the library; that building is going to have to be retrofitted. He has some doubts about whether the Measure E funding could possibly be used for making that realignment. Regarding creating more classroom space at Wildwood by taking over the SchoolMates structure, it is a city-owned building and perhaps does not meet current seismic code. It might create another seismic problem and he thinks it would be outside the parameters of Measure E. Moving SchoolMates into the Field House would create objections.

He indicated that, for the current portable at Beach, which is approximately 1300 square feet, if the District contemplates making an addition to another wing near the administrative office by extending that building into the school yard area, it may not be able to be done with Measure E monies. Also, he feels the District needs to do Measure E items first.

Update on Measure E Projects

Superintendent Hubbard advised that:

- May 28, 2008 Board meeting: the mini master plan will be brought back for approval
- June 11, 2008 Board meeting: schematic designs will be presented for the High School, Ellen Driscoll Theater, and Maintenance building
- June 25, 2008 Board meeting: schematic designs for Beach will be presented, along with cost estimates
- July 23, 2008 Board meeting: schematic designs for Wildwood will be presented, along with cost estimates

The Superintendent will be talking with Webcor and ATI to see when they can attend a Board meeting.

REVIEW AND DISCUSSION ITEMS Continuation and Discussion of Goals for 2008-09

Board members agreed that a Special Board Meeting (Board Workshop) would be a good option to discuss Goals as a one-item agenda. Possible dates and times will be reviewed and the Board will be contacted.

Resident Drew Bendon said there does not seem to be a process for citizens to come to the Board and request that something be placed on the agenda; he would like to see that as one of the Board's goals and process.

Also, he is a member of the Piedmont Baseball Foundation and wants to discuss the idea of opening up Witter softball field for game play on Sundays.

Paul Adams does field coordination for the Piedmont Baseball Foundation and also has an interest in more field space.

Glyn Burge, co-president of the Piedmont Baseball/Softball Foundation, stated they have 500 children playing either baseball or softball and are well suited to use Witter Field. Sunday use is being requested.

This item could be considered when reviewing the facilities management District goal, but would need to be weighed relative to other priorities identified for next year.

Review of Tentative Schedule for 2008-09
Regular Board Meetings

Following Board discussion, the Board was advised that this item will return for anticipated adoption at the May 28, 2008 Board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

President Monach advised that eight emails were received regarding the proposed textbook adoption; a phone call was received regarding the proposed coaches' stipend which she will refer to Principal Booker.

Board Member Tolles also had a discussion with a community member regarding the coaches' stipend.

BOARD REPORTS

Board Member Raushenbush attended the "green" program at Beach School. President Monach shared that Board Member Raushenbush will serve as the school district liaison on the City's task force regarding "green" initiatives.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Facilities Design Standards (Item G) is provided on the District web site.

It was moved by Board Member Raushenbush, seconded by Board Member Tolles, and passed unanimously to approve all of the items presented on the Consent Calendar, as follows:

- A. Adopt Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 30, 2008, with minor edits
- B. *Approve Personnel Action Report
- C. * Approve 2007-08 Single Plan for Student Achievement (formerly *SIP* plans) for:
 - Piedmont High School
 - Piedmont Middle School
 - Beach Elementary School
 - Havens Elementary School
 - Wildwood Elementary School
 - Millennium High School
- D. *Approve Professional Services Agreement Between the District and Fagen Friedman & Fulfroost Law Firm for 2008-09
(Rates to remain the same as the 2007-08 school year)
- E. *Approve Monthly Financial Report of the District for April 2008
- F. * Designate League Representative and Alternate to California Interscholastic Federation
- G. Adopt Piedmont Unified School District "Facility Design Standards"
These standards were developed through a series of meetings held with architects, the PUSD Maintenance Staff, and with numerous manufacturer's representatives. As the Maintenance staff and District design team work with these standards, any products that the District deems as needing to be single-sourced will be brought back for Board approval at a later date.

- H. *Approve Warrant List Dated April 28, 2008 for Goods & Services Rendered by the District
- I. *Approve Contract Between the District and **Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP**, as independent auditor for the District, for the 2008-09, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 fiscal years. The annual fees for auditing services under the terms of the contract shall be \$27,300 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2009; \$28,100 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, and \$29,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.
- J. *Approve Special Education Agreements/Reimbursements as follows:
 - 1. Approve one Consultant Services Agreement with **April Jourdan**, Licensed Educational Psychologist, to provide a neuropsychological assessment and report for one high school student and to attend the student's IEP meeting, effective May 15, 2005, at a total cost not to exceed \$2,125.00. Funding: Special Education
 - 2. Approve one Consultant Services Agreement with **Linguistic Connection** to attend an IEP meeting for one pre-school student, effective May 9, 2008, at a total cost not to exceed \$300.00. Funding: Special Education
 - 3. Approve reimbursement to parents of one pre-school student for non-public services, effective September 2007 through June 30, 2008, at a total cost not to exceed \$14,700.00. Funding: Special Education
 - 4. Approve reimbursement to parents of one elementary school child, for non-public extended school year services, effective June 2008 through August 2008, at a total cost not to exceed \$7,500.00. Funding: Special Education
 - 5. Approve an increase to one Individual Service Agreement with **BIA** to provide non-public services for one pre-school student, effective April 4, 2008, at a revised total cost not to exceed \$31,980.00. Funding: Special Education (previous total cost: \$13,156)
 - 6. Approve two Individual Service Agreements with **Dori Maxon, PT, PCS, MEd** to provide non-public services to two pre-school students, effective 3/13/2008 through 6/30/2008, at a total cost not to exceed \$1,392.00. Funding Special Education
 - 7. *Approve payment to **West Contra Costa Unified School District** for an interdistrict placement of one pre-school student, effective February 1, 2008 through March 6, 2008, at a total cost not to exceed \$6,176.00. Funding: Special Education

FUTURE REGULAR AGENDA BOARD
MEETING AGENDA ITEMS
(subject to change)

- Budget Update (May)
- Third Interim Financial Report of the District (May 28)
- Discussion of District Goals for 2008-09 (May)
- Adoption of District Goals for 2008-09 (June)
- Public Hearing and Adopt Proposed New Middle School Textbooks (May 28)
- Contract with Nolte Photography for 2008-09 school year (May 28)
- Identify Campaign Chairs for Proposed Renewal of Parcel Tax (Jun/Jul)
- Approve Student Accountability Report Cards 2006-07 (May/June)
- Review of Board Bylaws (Section 9000) (TBD)

Vice President Gadbois suggested adding to a future Board agenda the issues of enrollment review and maximizing the use of Witter Field and other sports fields.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and with no objections by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 p.m.

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

CONSTANCE HUBBARD
Secretary, Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education