

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

MINUTES OF
Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

September 27, 2012

CALL TO ORDER	Board President Rick Raushenbush called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m.
ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM	President Rick Raushenbush; Vice President Andrea Swenson and Board Members Ray Gadbois, Sara Pearson and Roy Tolles were present.
Adjourn to Closed Session	The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:31 p.m. to discuss: Conference with District Labor Negotiator Constance Hubbard Regarding Negotiations with California State Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 60 (Government Code Section 54956.6)
Others Present in Closed Session	Constance Hubbard, Michael Brady, Randall Booker
Reconvene to Regular Session	President Raushenbush called the Regular Session of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
Others Present at Regular Session	Superintendent Constance Hubbard Michael Brady, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Randall Booker, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Report of Action Taken in Closed Session	President Raushenbush reported that no action was taken in closed session.
Agenda Adjustments	None
COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT)	APT President Harlan Mohagen spoke about Eileen Rohmer, a PHS Honors Chemistry teacher, who passed away last Sunday after a courageous three-year battle with breast cancer. On Tuesday, an in-house memorial was held; speakers included Assistant Superintendent Booker, PHS Principal Rich Kitchens and others, including four students. Ms. Mohagen, as a Resource Specialist, was fortunate to work directly with Ms. Rohmer, who was extremely responsive to students with special needs. She is missed and will always be remembered.
CSEA	None
Parent Clubs	None
Student Representative to Board	Elise Lasky was not able to attend the meeting. Superintendent Hubbard provided her report. All Seniors are going with their English teachers to see <i>Hamlet</i> at the California Shakespeare Festival. A community college night will be held on October 2, and tonight the AP French class will see <i>Rhinoceros</i> , a play they read this summer. The next home football game is the homecoming game on Oct. 12, a cross-country meet was held today and next week Women's

Golf, Women's Tennis, Volleyball and Water Polo have games.

Today was Club Day and next Tuesday a community service fair will be held. Homecoming Week is in two weeks and the Homecoming Dance will be October 13.

Persons Wishing to Speak to Any Item Not Listed on the Agenda None

Superintendent Announcements Some announcements will be made as the items come up on the agenda.

Board President Announcements: The Wellness Center Fall Festival 5K run is this Saturday and it is not too late to sign up to participate.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REPORT: SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT LEARNING

Common Core Standards - An Introduction Assistant Superintendent Booker presented an overview of Common Core Standard and used the recent urban gleaning trip taken by PMS eight graders to illustrate how the standards relate to the application of skills. The students did much more than harvest fruit and vegetables. Prior to the trip they studied the life cycle of the tomato plants and afterward wrote and painted about the experience.

Common Core Standards were developed to allow collaboration on best practices and professional development. They include common learning goals that provide a clear vision of what educators and parents should aim for and help ensure that today's students are prepared to meet college and work expectations in a rapidly changing world. California adopted its own Common Core Standards in 2010 that added supporting standards and strengthened standards for literacy, collaborative discussion and math.

Formerly the emphasis was on skill and mastery while today's standards focus on the application of skills and the development of critical analysis: Can students apply what they know? Can they answer questions based on inferences from a text? Can they apply vocabulary in a variety of content areas?

Right now STAR tests are used to assess student learning. Smarter balanced assessments have been developed to align with the California Common Core Standards. This is an online test that is dynamic, i.e., if students answer a question wrong, the assessment will send them on a different path with different questions. This helps teachers analyze where the student gets stuck. In 2015 this type of testing will replace STAR exams.

Much of Common Core Standards has to do with application of knowledge and overlaps with our model of Shaping Our Future. PUSD is on the right track and has a team of 24 teachers who attended a conference on content standards at the County Office and are bringing this knowledge back to their departments and classes. Some textbooks, including *Everyday Math*, are already aligned with the new standards.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

Interdistrict Attendance Policy Review Superintendent Hubbard reviewed information concerning interdistrict transfer policies for grandchildren of Piedmont residents; this information was presented by our attorneys at a workshop last November. Grandparents who have expressed interest in this issue

were notified by email or personal call regarding tonight's discussion. Background material in tonight's packet include the presentation by the attorneys, current District Policy and Administrative Regulations on Interdistrict Transfer, capacity guidelines approved by the Board, a list of 2012-13 enrollment by school and grade, and a list of the current approved interdistrict transfer students by category.

Ms. Hubbard suggested issues for the Board to consider: capacity, fiscal volatility (this could require more staffing and is difficult to predict), and the experience of other districts. We looked at Beverly Hills, the only district in California that has a policy admitting grandchildren of residents. Their experience was that there were issues defining and proving who is a grandparent: Is it an owner? Is it a renter? A step-grandparent? What about cases where there is a divorce? Eventually Beverly Hills eliminated this policy as it became too difficult to administer.

Points in favor of the policy are that it promotes stronger families and connections, in many cases grandparents are already caregivers, and it could increase the diversity of our student's experience. Points against the policy include the time and difficulties in verifying residency and school and staff capacity.

The Board could vote to leave the policy as it is, to bring it back later or to change it. The administration recommends not making any changes right now because it would not be wise in this economy to commit to a policy that has the potential to take resources from existing students.

Board Member Pearson asked a question about capacity. Ms. Hubbard explained that we need to look at physical and program capacity. We have no additional physical capacity at Havens or Beach and average enrollment at Wildwood. The middle school has some physical capacity but no program capacity, as every class is at the limit. The high school has some physical capacity but little capacity in terms of class size. Another consideration is to look at the grade level when students enter; capacity includes the consideration that students from other districts may require additional resources to be well-prepared for high school in Piedmont.

In determining capacity at the elementary level, sixteen students are required for a new class to be viable. Until 2014-15 we can go above a 20:1 ratio of teachers to students with only a small financial penalty, but we are striving to keep our K-3 classes close to 20:1.

President Raushenbush mentioned that once we enroll an IDT student, we try to keep them. Ms. Hubbard explained that we are not required to keep them but we have lost every case where we have challenged this.

Board Member Tolles inquired about the limited capacity at Beach in light of two new classrooms. The Superintendent explained that in fact there was only one new classroom since we replaced an aging portable. We also included all K-5 Special Education students at Beach so students would not have to change schools, and it happened that Beach absorbed the bulk of new students to the district.

Piedmont resident Mr. George Childs said he is impressed by the new Beach School. He is a proponent of the Interdistrict Transfer

program and is pleased at the willingness of the Board to consider adding grandchildren. While he has up to five students who would benefit, he understands that this is not a good time to add a new category.

Ms. Harlan Mohagen, speaking as a Piedmont resident, would like to encourage keeping this issue open as a possibility and reconsidering it later.

Board Member Tolles does not want to make a decision now given the current financial situation and would like to revisit it later. Board Member Gadbois understands the staff perspective and would like to move forward with a pilot project, e.g., starting with a small group of students entering 6th grade next fall. He does not believe it would be a big financial loss and would be good for the community, as long as we have the physical space. Board Member Pearson likes the idea but wants to focus on the guiding principle of what is best for kids and for the community. She is concerned about fairness as well as feasibility and finances. Given the current economic issues, she would like to see it tabled for this year and next. Vice President Swenson thinks it is the right thing to do but is concerned with implementation. She would prefer to wait until the economy begins turning around and we could take all students from a family, not just one grade. President Raushenbush would favor the issue if we had open seats. Because space does not look good and we have already cut back on classroom support staff, he does not believe this is a time to voluntarily add students. He suggests tabling it until the State budget improves and we have eliminated furlough days.

In discussing tabling the resolution to bring back at a later date, Board Members Gadbois and Tolles stated they would like to begin a pilot project now. Ms. Pearson would like to take it off the table until enrollment drops or budget issues are resolved. Ms. Swenson favors revisiting the issue and implementing a pilot program after furlough days are eliminated.

Board Member Pearson moved that the issue be tabled for further consideration until the school district budget stabilizes. The motion was seconded by Vice President Swenson. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Raushenbush, Swenson, Pearson
NOES: Gadbois, Tolles
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None.

Conduct Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution 06-2012-13, "Resolution on Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials"

Assistant Superintendent Booker explained that we are required by Education Code 60119 to conduct a public hearing to assure that we have provided all students with sufficient textbooks, instructional materials and science equipment aligned to academic content standards and consistent with the State Curriculum Framework. He certified that our instructional materials fulfill these requirements. Notice of tonight's hearing was published in the *Piedmont Post* on September 12 and 19, and was posted on the district website, at the District Office, and at all school sites more than ten days before the hearing.

There was no public comment.

Board Member Tolles moved and Board Member Gadbois seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 06-2012-13, "Resolution on Sufficiency of Textbooks and Instructional Materials." The Board voted as follows:

AYES: Raushenbush, Swenson, Pearson, Gadbois, Tolles
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None.

Approve Goals and Commitments for 2012-13 and Beyond

The Goals and Commitments for 2012-13 were brought forward and discussed at the Board meeting held on August 22, 2012. Superintendent Hubbard emphasized that they were written to tie into common core curriculum and standards are tonight for approval by the Board. There was no public comment.

Board Member Gadbois moved, Board Member Pearson seconded and the Board unanimously approved adoption of the Goals and Commitments for 2012 and Beyond as presented on August 22, 2012.

Certify Competence of Administrators in the Assessment of Certificated Employees

Superintendent Hubbard explained that Education Code requires us to certify annually the competence of administrators to assess certificated employees. By virtue of their administrative credential, administrators are trained in assessment and evaluation. Many of them have participated in developing our new evaluation tool. There is a parallel system in place for the evaluation of administrators.

There was no public comment. It was moved by Vice President Swenson, seconded by Board Member Tolles, and unanimously approved to certify the competence of administrators in the assessment of certificated employees.

REVIEW & DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Support Tax Election Timeline

The election for renewal of the School Support Tax is scheduled for 2013. Superintendent Hubbard said that elections in 2013 (an odd-numbered year) may be held on March 5, June 4 or November 5. She would like to target March 5, 2013 as the date for the election. To meet this time frame, there would need to be a Special Board Meeting on November 28, 2012.

Ms. Hubbard is beginning the discussion now to allow time for the public to provide input. At the October 10, 2012 meeting, she expects there will be some information for public discussion and direction for the Board. A more refined proposal will be discussed at

the October 24 meeting. The November 14 meeting will provide another opportunity for public input. A decision would be made at the Board meeting on November 28, with the campaign from January through March 5, 2013. A March 5 election would give us a contingency in the catastrophic event the tax was not approved. We would have the opportunity to come back to voters on November 5, 2013.

In the event we do not have a support tax of at least what we have now, the result would be layoffs of close to 100 people, a third of the staff. An election on March 5 would give us time to plan.

This process is different from the last time when we had lots of public discussion about what to do. We are in a different position this time and are looking at holding on to what we have, and want the Board to prepare for a March election. We want as much discussion as possible at regular Board meetings and will put the item as early on the agenda as possible.

In the subsequent discussion, Board members were in agreement about aiming for a March 5, 2013 election date. Members were concerned that the public have ample opportunity to hear the proposal and give input. Superintendent Hubbard said we would publicize the next three meeting and the November 28 Special Meeting in a press release to the *Piedmont Post*, the *Piedmonter*, *Piedmont Patch* and the Portal.

Ms. Hubbard said the key issues to be decided are duration of the tax, continuance of what we have, and the legality of exemptions. Ms. Pearson stated there are various ways to give input to the Board including phone calls and emails to the Board. It is important that the public understand that now is the time to give feedback and suggestions, and not wait until November 28 when the proposal is up for vote.

There was no public comment. The Board agreed to schedule a Special Board meeting on November 28, 2012 to approve a resolution on the School Support Tax.

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement of League of Women Voters Meeting

Superintendent Hubbard announced there is a correction on this item. The forum will be held at 7:30 rather than 7:00 p.m. and will cover local initiatives A, B1 and C. the forum is sponsored by the Piedmont League of Women Voters and will be held on Wednesday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers at Piedmont City Hall, 120 Vista Ave.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Swenson and Ms. Pearson received the following emails:

- email with a link to a video of a *New York Times* conference on "Schools for Tomorrow"
- a video magazine of an *Atlantic* article on the importance of students evaluating teachers
- email from Giving Campaign chairs on talking points and FAQ on our schools

Mr. Tolles received an email from the City Recreation Committee and directed them to President Raushenbush, who spoke with them.

Ms. Pearson passed along to the superintendent the appreciation of neighbors who were pleased at the District's swift response to

BOARD REPORTS

their concerns about visiting buses. Superintendent Hubbard said credit is due to the PHS staff, including Principal Kitchens, Jeff Peters and Megan Hernandez for solving the problem and implementing a plan.

Board Member Tolles attended the Bond Steering Committee meeting, the Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting at Beach and the PHS Site Council.

Board Member Gadbois went to the PHS Back to School Night.

Board Member Pearson attended the League of Women's Voters forum, a Speaker Panel on academic integrity, and the PMS Site Council, and will attend the Fall Fest Run and the Harvest Festival.

Vice President Swenson was a docent for the Beach Open House; there was someone in her group who attended Beach in 1951. She attended the League of Women's Voters Forum, the Piedmont Educational Foundation meeting, the Budget Advisory Committee, the APCP meeting, and the Millennium Site Council and Parent Club meeting, which became a WASC Parent Home group meeting. She announced that people should save the date of November 8, when Mr. Booker will be speaking at the Empty Nesters party.

President Raushenbush also attended the Bond Steering Committee meeting, the Citizens' Oversight Committee, the APCP, the Piedmont Educational Foundation meeting, a meeting with representatives of sport groups and the Forum on Academic Integrity.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Board Member Raushenbush thanked John and Edna Cooper for their generous donation to the Wellness Center.

Superintendent Hubbard said there is a slight correction on page 5 to the draft of the Board minutes. The way her response to a question was written was confusing. When she was asked if there would be cuts in 2012-13 if both ballot measures fail in November, Ms. Hubbard said not for 2012-13, by which she meant that there would be a midyear reduction in revenue but not for programs in 2012-13. That correction has been made in the final copy of the minutes.

Board Member Gadbois moved to accept the items on the consent calendar, Board Member Tolles seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

- A. Adopt Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2012 Board Meeting
- B. *Approve Warrant List Dated 9-21-12 for Goods and Services Rendered for July through August, 2012
- C. Accept Donation
- D. Approve Personnel Action Report
- E. Approve one Master Contract with Speech Language Pathology to provide one speech/language pathologist to serve district students, effective September 12, 2012, through June 30, 2013, at a total cost not to exceed \$50,320.00.
Funding: Special Education
- F. Approve reimbursement to parents of one student for non-public school services, effective September 1, 2012 through

June 30, 2013, at a total cost not to exceed \$2,100.00.
Funding: Special Education

Approve reimbursement to parents of one student for non-public school tuition costs, effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, at a total cost not to exceed \$30,500.00 Funding: Special Education

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

President Raushenbush said that we are waiting for the Beach GMP and some charges are still being negotiated. He would like to see technology infrastructure discussed before all the budget modernization money is allocated. Mr. Booker said the District Technology Advisory Committee is assessing where we stand and developing a technology plan. Their meeting is October 29 and he would like to hold discussion until after that meeting. Superintendent Hubbard said it made sense to hold the discussion in January in the context of BANs, which Michael is discussing with Ruth Alahydoian.

—————> SUBJECT TO CHANGE <————

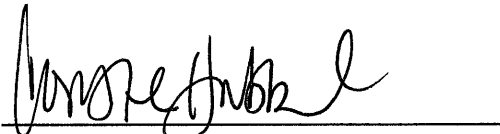
- Final Beach GMP (Sept.)
- 2012-13 Action Plan (Oct.)
- Parcel Tax – Recommendations and Report (Oct.-Dec.)
- Accept Closeout of Seismic Safety Program Projects: Maintenance Building, Havens School, PHS Quad/Library and Student Center Buildings, Wildwood and Beach Schools (Oct.-Dec.)
- Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement with CSEA (TBD)
- Review of Board Bylaws (Section 9000) (TBD)
- Technology Infrastructure and Modernization (TBD)
- Discussion of Interdistrict Transfer Policies (TBD)
- Athletic Facilities Use Agreement (TBD)
- Special Education (TBD)

Adjournment

There being no further business, and with no objection by the Board, President Raushenbush adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.



RICHARD RAUSHENBUSH, Board President
Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education



CONSTANCE HUBBARD
Secretary, Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education