

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Council Chambers, City Hall

120 Vista Avenue

Piedmont, California 94611

MINUTES OF

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

March 13, 2013

CALL TO ORDER	Board President Richard Raushenbush called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m.
ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM	President Richard Raushenbush, Vice President Andrea Swenson and Board Members Sarah Pearson, and Ray Gadbois were present. Board Member Roy Tolles was unable to attend.
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 Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT) (Government Code Section 54956.6).
Others Present in Closed Session	Superintendent Hubbard Michael Brady, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Reconvene to Regular Session	President Raushenbush called the Regular Session of the Board of Education to order at 7:05 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
Report of Action Taken in Closed Session	The Board met in closed session to discuss items related to labor negotiations. No action was taken in closed session.
Agenda Adjustments	There is a change to the consent calendar that will be announced when it is brought forth on the agenda.
COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT)	APT President Harlan Mohagen expressed her appreciation for the passage of the School Support Tax thanks to the community and parents and especially Doug Ireland and Katie Korotzer for their great leadership. Stella Kennedy, PMS teacher, shared that today over 80 middle school students presented detail-specific heartfelt letters to Kate Black, City Planner, in support of the Bicycle and Safe Routes to Schools grant. Along with 51 letters from community members, this will help the City of Piedmont immensely in their efforts.
CSEA	None
Parent Clubs	None
Student Representative to Board	Elise Lasky said the JV Baseball and Varsity Softball teams have at home games this Friday. The Women's Basketball won yesterday in the CIF semi-finals and advance to Regionals Saturday, where they play Salesian. If they win, they will play in Sacramento at the Kings Arena. Spring Fair is next week. This is a day for clubs to fundraise and sign up new members. Sophomores are taking the CAHSEE this week. Congratulations to the Robotics Club who made it to the world championships in St. Louis, Missouri.

Superintendent Hubbard explained that CAHSEE is the California High School Exit Exam, which is taken for the first time by all sophomores. Our passage rate for tenth grader is in the high 90th percentile.

Board President Announcements

President Raushenbush thanked the Measure A Campaign and co-chairs Doug Ireland and Katie Korotzer, Precinct Manager Jonathan Davis; Precinct Captains Jonathan Becker, Tim Rood, Jessica and Mike Berg, Shanti Brien, Michael and Kendall Connors, Lauren Dutton, Teddy King, Nick Levinson, Julie Moll, Marianne Mitosinka, Hope Salazar, Guatam Wadhvani, Sue Smegal, Amal Smith, Karen Sullivan, Pam McBain, and Donna Williamson; Advisors Eileen Ruby, Hilary Cooper, Jon Elliott, Sharon Hom, Brad Hebert; Communications and PR: Mary Ireland and Holly Hanke, Mahvash Hassan, Anne-Marie Lamarche, Conna McCarthy, June Monach, Kristen Malan, Jim Baack, Jean Jarvis, Jenn Fox, Debbie Lee, Julie Reichle, Stacy Merickel, Patty and Carter Dunlap; and Karen Snow Hawkings, Marty Kelly, Cathie Geddeis, Doug Okun, Anne Violanti, Sue Lin and Sue Smegal for their hard work in educating people about the issues surrounding Measure A. Everyone involved in the schools thanks these volunteers for what they have done for us.

Persons Wishing to Speak to Any Item Not Listed on the Agenda

George Childs, Piedmont resident, acknowledged the passage of Measure A and reminded listeners that approximately 25% of voters were not in favor of Measure A. The problem was the way it was imposed, particularly the shift in rates, which falls harder on smaller parcels; the lack of meaningful low income or senior exemption; and that the flat tax supposedly imposed by the court decision has been debunked. He believes there are better ways to levy the tax in a more fair method. He doesn't know what this might be because he has not looked into the recent court decision.

Superintendent Announcements

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REPORT: SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT LEARNING Havens Elementary School Garden/ Environmental Education Space

None.

Dr. Cheryl Wozniak, Terry Smith, and Sarah Valkonen presented the proposed Havens Elementary School Garden/Environmental Education Space for consideration as a modernization project. The proposal is to restore a permanent garden site (Environmental Education Lab) as part of an overall Havens Schoolyard Master Plan.

Since 2000 when a parent-led team of volunteers created a first-grade garden, teachers have had an opportunity to integrate math, science, social studies, art, language arts and health curriculum with a dynamic, interactive garden experience for students in all grades.

Terry Smith, science enrichment teacher and garden manager, said that although the garden continues to thrive, currently it is located in a temporary site, greatly reduced from its former size, as a result of the redesign/rebuild. This temporary site is no longer viable as the raised beds are eroding and the limited space does not allow for comprehensive teaching opportunities.

In 2012, with funding provided by Havens' Parents Club, representatives from the Parents Club, the Garden Committee, and Principal Wozniak hired Bay Tree Design, a landscape/environmental design firm renowned for its schoolyard work, to facilitate the development of a community-based Schoolyard Master Plan for Havens. The plan identifies ways to enhance exploration, learning, imaginative and quiet play, as well as unstructured active play. Implementation of the Environmental Education Space will occur in an organized, phased way as the first phase of a five- to ten-year master plan. Planning

and input meetings began this fall and will culminate with a final Master Concept Plan in Spring 2013.

With input from staff, district, and professionals, Havens' community has determined the ideal, most cost-effective location to restore a permanent garden, the Environmental Education Lab, is the area behind the Havens multipurpose room just beyond the fence. This location requires building a retaining wall to the left on the Bonita Avenue side to bring the area up to the walkway level. A parallel project identifies the addition of a second retaining wall to the right on the Bonita Avenue side of Havens and rerouting a small portion of fence to create a gathering space for students in direct view of the garden, and it is more cost-effective to do both retaining walls at the same time.

Assistant Superintendent Brady said that geotechnical borings have determined that the footings don't need to go down very far. Pricing is not available now but will be available within several weeks. The retaining wall may be subject to DSA requirements because of accessibility issues but may not require DSA approval as long as the handicapped sidewalk remains. The idea is to install piers and build the wall on top of them.

Superintendent Hubbard wanted the board to be able to see the overall vision. The modernization steering committee will review costs and timelines with construction management and prepare a program presentation with various costs and timelines that will come back to the board for review and approval.

Sara Valkonen said that much of the blacktop will disappear and the committee is aware of the need to communicate with the larger community about the basketball court and other issues.

In summary, the Havens Learnscape Committee is requesting funding for two retaining walls and the rerouting of a portion of the fence for the re-establishment of a permanent Environmental Education Lab and a contribution toward the Havens Learnscape Project.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

Approve Sports Club MOU for the Athletic Facilities Preservation Fund

Present Raushenbush has been interested in getting money set aside for athletic facilities preservation. The Civic Center Act limits the District to charging for direct costs only, with nothing to cover needed improvements. The District has recently executed an agreement with the City that Recreation Department programs taking place on school facilities will contribute \$25 a person toward replacement costs of Witter Field and other facility improvement projects. Three of our sports clubs, the Piedmont Soccer Club, the Piedmont Baseball/Softball Foundation, and the Skyline/Piedmont Lacrosse Club have agreed to make a contribution to the Capital Facilities Preservation Fund in the amount of \$24,500.

Board Member Pearson noted this is another example of an expense parents are taking on. In better times, this is something the District would have provided.

Board Member Gadbois noted this money will help with the replacement of Witter Field but he is not sure we will have enough when the replacement is needed.

The motion to approve the Sports Club MOU for the Contribution to the Piedmont Unified School District Athletic Facilities Preservation

Fund was moved by Mr. Gadbois, seconded Ms. Swenson and passed unanimously.

Keith Melco, head of Piedmont Basketball Foundation, said there were some issues with them being involved with the MOU just passed, and he would like to submit an MOU that mirrors that MOU. He would like their MOU to focus on the gyms. His club has contributed over \$50,000 in the past nine years, about a third of the cost of floor replacement of the Buzz Redford Gym, as well as a scoreboard and scoring table at the PHS Gym. He would like to submit a check tonight and an MOU later.

Present Raushenbush expressed appreciation for his efforts and will discuss the MOU with him outside the meeting

Approve Proposed Piedmont High School
Course: *Spanish 3 in Action*

Rich Kitchens presented the newly proposed *Spanish 3 in Action* course. The recommended *Spanish 3 in Action* course will provide students with a less rigorous Spanish 3 course and will serve students who want to add a third year of language study to their High School transcript but do not wish to continue beyond Level III. This new course will be designated "UC Approved" in order to be considered college preparatory and count as a UC/CSU third year language course. This course is designed to encourage students to further develop their communication skills and cultural competence, and to improve in all four areas of language acquisition.

The Foreign Language Framework for California Public Schools acknowledges the extensive leap in rigor from Level II to Level III. Our current Spanish III curriculum is focused on preparing students for Level IV and AP and mainly serves students who are on the AP path. Students, counselors, resource teachers, administrators, and the PHS Spanish teachers support the need for a course that isn't specifically designed for AP preparation and yet encourages students to further develop their communication skills, cultural competence, and language acquisition.

Joanne Guillen-Donahoe and Christelle Hutin-Lee, PHS Spanish teachers, explained that the proposed *Spanish 3 in Action* course will emphasize verbal communication and cultural exploration. It will teach language and grammar by focusing on four themes: relationships, community, environment and art. The class will emphasize auditory skills and cultural competence and will expose students to the Spanish-speaking community. Students with a C or better can enroll in the class while a B or better is required for the AP Spanish III, so it opens Spanish up to students not currently being served.

The addition of *Spanish 3 in Action* for the 2013-14 school year will not result in an addition to Piedmont High School's overall FTE because it will supplant an existing Spanish III course.

Mr. Gadbois asked if students who take *Spanish 3 in Action* can take the other Spanish III class or Spanish IV. Principal Kitchens responded that they could but would need to fill in the gap of grammar taught in AP Spanish III before they take Level IV and would need to demonstrate proficiency. In response to the question of the possibility of *Spanish 3 in Action* becoming an honors class, Mr. Kitchens explained that a consideration is that colleges look at the ratio of AP classes taken to the number offered, so increasing AP classes can actually harm students. The main difference between the two Spanish III classes is the rigor of grammar and academic orientation, and the same textbook will be used in both classes.

Charles Tuan, senior at PHS, took Mandarin 3. He believes there is an issue with those looking for an easier class if you're only going to take three years of language. If you can take *Spanish 3 in Action* and still get into Spanish IV, why would you take AP Spanish III, which is more work. College admission officers may look at *Spanish 3 in Action* and realize it's less rigorous than AP Spanish III and think students are not challenging themselves sufficiently.

Scott Arthur, PHS senior, is in favor of this class. He took Spanish I and II and did not think he could handle Spanish III because he was struggling with grammar and speaking in Spanish. This class would have been perfect for him to continue with Spanish.

Will Corbin, PHS Senior, said that last year there were over 30 juniors in Spanish III but this year there are only three seniors in Spanish IV. It is difficult to get help in the larger Spanish III class. In response to Charles' comments, he said the job of the school is not to get students into college but to help them be the most educated they can be. If this course helps students learn as much Spanish as possible, it should be pursued.

Mia Orans, PHS Senior, said she took up to Spanish III. Every summer she went abroad and home-stayed. She thinks this class would be very helpful in teaching people to converse – allowing people to be more comfortable with present and past tense and being able to communicate. She did not feel prepared to hold a conversation after taking Spanish III and she thinks the strongest point of this class is increasing students' ability to hold conversation.

Superintendent Hubbard explained the class can be approved tonight. There is no requirement that the Board hold two readings.

It was moved by Ms. Pearson to approve the proposed Piedmont High School Course *Spanish 3 in Action*, seconded by Ms. Swanson, and approved unanimously.

Review Second Interim Financial Report; Accept Positive Certification of the District's Ability to Meet Financial Obligations for Current and Subsequent Two Fiscal Years; and Authorize Budget Transfers of Funds

Following a review of the Second Interim Financial Report, the Board will be requested to approve a *Positive Certification* of the District's ability to meet financial obligations for 2012-13 and the subsequent two fiscal years.

Assistant Superintendent Brady presented the Second Interim Financial Report, which is the financial status of where we are in March based on the first interim report, and is a snapshot of finances and circumstances as they were on January 31, 2013. The District operates eight or nine funds and the General Fund reflects the day-to-day obligations of the District. Since the First Interim Budget was passed in December 2012, several things have changed, including the passage of Measure A and the Governor's January 2013-14 proposed budget. Since 2008, we have had five years of deficit funding. The Governor is proposing a new distribution system of base grants to all schools plus supplemental funds for students who are not English proficient, or who are low income or in foster care. This special funding proposal, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), would replace most categorical spending programs and requirements. The provision of class-size reduction would be part of the base grant and not separately funded and would leave it to districts as to how they want to implement it. There is no expectation that our K-3 class size will go up to 30.

Local Control Funding Formula is just a proposal at this point and is expected to be phased in over seven years. There will be more

information about it after the Governor's May budget revise. Some schools will receive a greater proportion per student. With the passage of Prop. 30, the idea is to use those funds to return funding to the 2008 levels. However, the budget presented this evening is based on the assumptions in place on January 31, 2013. Prop 30 funding will keep income level and prevent it from going down further; as far as the statutory amount based on Prop. 98, we are still \$300 per student below the 2007-8 level. The Governor's proposal is to bring us to fully funded to the 2007-8 level over the next seven years. Prop. 30 is also about erasing some debt, and the proportion of debt to new funding will be decided later. It is important to keep in mind that Prop. 30 ends in four years.

The increase in revenue limit shown under income has to do with increased enrollment and attendance. Our ADA went from 2504 to 2545 this year. The local portion of our funding comes from special education, parent club receipts, donations, and ASB. PHS parent clubs funded 35 computers for the library at a cost of \$51,000. Expenditures went up as three long-term subs were hired to fill in for three FTEs on long-term leave. As far as our reserve, we are spending more than we receive, so we need to keep a healthy reserve while we wait for state funding to increase. The District has been successful at holding expenditures to around \$30 million. In 2014-15 we will need to come up with \$424,000 for the reserve.

Our projections follow the Governor's proposed budget assumptions and will be amended for the 2013-14 adopted budget in June of this year once we have more information. Our reserves and the Board's ability to increase revenue and decrease expenses will provide us with plenty of time to respond to the budget issue in 2014-15.

Other funds include the Adult Education Fund, which is separately funded. We have a unique program with our adult education diploma program. The Governor has proposed taking Adult Ed money and transferring it to community college districts. This would be unfortunate as our adult education makes a profit that goes into our General Fund.

The Cafeteria Fund is a separate fund that tracks all food service operations. The costs are supported by the parent club organizations.

The Deferred Maintenance Fund supports the District's five-year deferred maintenance plan. Costs remain the same and the use of deferred maintenance funds in support PUSD modernization projects is ongoing.

The Building Fund is where the proceeds of all voter-approved bond measures are accounted. There are few remaining expenses and the \$300k ending fund balance will cover any close-out expenses.

The Capital Facilities Fund is our fund for capital projects identified by the Board of Education. Donations for projects show up in this fund, e.g., the MOU with the athletic clubs. There will be other expenses from this fund as it becomes necessary.

The State School Facilities Fund is where restricted money for the modernization of and construction of school facilities is held. It is somewhat linked to the Seismic Safety Bond Program (SSBP) and now that the SSBP is concluded, all expenditures tied to modernization funds will be tracked separately in this fund.

The School Support Parcel Tax Reserve Fund was established to hold funds from the beginning of the current parcel tax to support programs in the later years of the term of the tax. The reserve fund must be fully expended by the end of the term for Measure B so there will be nothing in the fund in 2013-14, and the Board will make a decision about the amount to set aside from Measure A.

The NODA fund is used to support grants for visual arts and secondary school.

In summary, our request is upon review to approve the positive certification to meet our financial obligations for this year and the subsequent two fiscal years.

President Raushenbush stated that even with \$450,000 shortfall in year three, we are in much better shape than we have been, due to the excellent planning and assessment of Superintendent Hubbard and Assistant Superintendent Brady. We still are deficit spending every year and the County Office of Education has allowed us to count on our parcel tax. Regarding the move of Adult Ed funding to community colleges, he suggests that administration communicate with Sen. Loni Hancock.

Superintendent Hubbard clarified that local control is removing the requirement to provide services and the accountability for them. Regarding Capital Facilities Funds, they are not only for Witter Field and will support any sports facility projects, including the gymnasiums. The State Facilities Fund includes the Alan Harvey Theater proposal and HVAC for the middle school but does not include the cost of the roofs at Wildwood and Beach. Anything spent since January 31 is not shown as an expenditure.

Ms. Swenson thinks that things could be different in May after the Governor's budget proposal. The good news is receiving some COLA but the bad news is we're still getting \$.78 out of each \$1 we are owed by the State. At the Budget Advisory Committee, it was noted that we will become more dependent on attendance because categorical funding based on enrollment will be eliminated and be replaced by the formula based on attendance.

Mr. Gadbois appreciated the presentation of the historical chart of revenue of where we are and where we should be. As far as deficit spending and reserves, he believes we can resolve the third-year deficit. However if the District continues to deficit spend by \$1 million in 2014-15, in the following year the Board will have to find or cut \$1 million because there will be no reserve to carry forward.

George Childs, Piedmont resident, asked about the general fund balance in 2013-14 that shows a 5% escalator for the parcel tax. He thought the term for Measure B expires in June 2013. Superintendent Hubbard explained that Measure B was scheduled to terminate in June, 2014, but in trying to meet the legal requirements, we replaced it with Measure A. The Measure A amount is the Measure B rate plus 5%, and takes over in June 2013. In the first interim budget, we reflected what we knew at that time so Measure B is what is shown. Now the amounts are the same but the names have been changed. Present Raushenbush explained that the Board decision earlier this year was to increase Measure B in 2013-14 up to 5%, and when Measure A was proposed, it incorporated that amount. There is no additional 2% increase in 2013-14. In June when the adopted budget is brought forward, it will reflect Measure A

rather than Measure B.

Vice President Swenson moved to accept the Positive Certification of the District's Ability to Meet Financial Obligations for Current and Subsequent Two Fiscal Years and Authorize the Budget Transfers of Funds. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pearson and unanimously approved.

INFORMATION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Vice President Swenson reported that correspondence was light. She received several emails from parents about the sixth grade core curriculum changes passed for last year and the proposed changes in core curriculum and seventh grade electives for this year. She received several email suggestions regarding principal searches.

President Raushenbush received several emails about Measure A and several regarding the Sports Club MOU.

BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Gadbois and all the Board members attended the Special Board meeting on March 11. Mr. Gadbois attended the Tri-School Site Council where staff gave an excellent presentation on K-5 Everyday Math and the transition to the middle school math curriculum. The PHS advanced drama group is presenting *Leading Ladies*, a farce, on Thursday and the next three nights.

Ms. Pearson attended the Tri-School Parent Council, the PMS Site Council and other meetings including a parent night for teachers and parents to present changes to the seventh grade core curriculum. She attended the PHS Parent Club meeting, a curriculum forum that discussed *Spanish 3 in Action*, and the Budget Advisory Committee. The Piedmont Parents Network is presenting James Steyer of Commonsense Media and author of *Talking Back to Facebook* on April 2 at Alan Harvey Theater.

Vice President Swenson attended the AHT planning meeting and the Millennium WASC meeting and will participate in the WASC visits next Monday through Wednesday. She attended the Beach Parent Club meeting, the Measure A celebration, the Special Board Meeting, and the BAC meeting, which is a good venue for reviewing the budget.

Present Raushenbush has been very busy and remembers attending the education series with Dr. Pope.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Superintendent Hubbard asked to remove the second position (psychologist) in the Personnel Action Report (Item D), as the person listed is not taking the position.

It was moved by Board Member Pearson, seconded by Vice President Swenson, and unanimously approved to accept the consent calendar as corrected.

- A. Adopt Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2013
- B. Approve Monthly Financial Report of the District for February 2013
- C. Approve CIF Application for Multi-Team Status
- D. Approve Personnel Action Report
- E. Approve Field Trip for 8-14 PHS students to participate in Salmon Watershed Restoration and Service Learning Adventure at Humboldt State University and Mattole Valley

Special Education

- G. Approve one Individual Service Agreement with Behavioral Intervention Associates, (BIA), to provide nonpublic services for one student, effective April 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013, at a total cost not to exceed \$4,669.00. Funding: Special Education

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

A future topic is the Allen Harvey Theatre design presentation and presentation of any other modernization projects, including the Wildwood playground. Mr. Brady will provide a list of projects and estimated costs.

Other topics include developing the charge for the School Support Tax Subcommittee and athletic facilities issues, including signage and unauthorized use. The Action Plan update and Goal development for 2013-14 were also suggested.

APT President Harlan Mohagen would like to see the Board review the 2014-15 Instructional Calendar and consider scheduling finals before December break, which has been shown to reduce student stress. President Raushenbush would like a discussion about what can be done to about student stressors. Superintendent Hubbard suggested that a worthwhile goal for 2014-15 could be to have a comprehensive review of student stressors including what we can change, parent education and a review of graduation requirements.

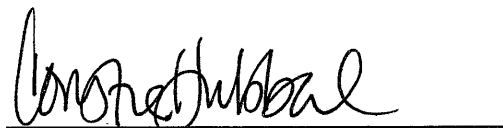
- Certification of Athletic Coaches (March 27)
- Announcement of PEF Contribution of Funds to the District (TBD)
- Accept Closeout of Seismic Safety Program Projects: Havens School, PHS Quad/Library and Student Center Buildings, Wildwood and Beach Schools, Ellen Driscoll Playhouse (TBD)
- Alan Harvey Theatre Design Presentation (TBD)
- SARC (Student Accountability Report Cards (TBD)
- Mid-Year Assessment of District Goals and Commitments (TBD)

Adjournment

There being no further business, and with no objection by the Board, President Raushenbush adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.



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



CONSTANCE HUBBARD
Secretary, Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education