

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Council Chambers, City Hall

120 Vista Avenue

Piedmont, California 94611

MINUTES OF

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

March 12, 2014

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CALL TO ORDER	Board President Richard Raushenbush called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:15 p.m.
ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM	President Richard Raushenbush, Vice President Andrea Swenson, and Board Members Sarah Pearson, Amal Smith and Doug Ireland were present.
Adjourn to Closed Session	The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 6:16 p.m. to discuss: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release: Non-reelection of Probationary 2 Certificated Employees and Notice of Possible Reassignment of APSA members.
Others Present in Closed Session	Superintendent Hubbard Michael Brady, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services Randall Booker, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Reconvene to Regular Session	President Raushenbush called the Regular Session of the Board of Education to order at 7:10 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
Others Absent at Regular Session	Ms. Pearson was excused from the regular session.
Report of Action Taken in Closed Session	The Board met in closed session and released a Probationary II certificated teacher and discussed possible reassignment of APSA employees.
Agenda Adjustments	Two items - Item A. (Board Minutes of 2-12-14 Board Meeting) and Item G. (Adopt Resolution 11-2013-14) - were removed from the Consent Calendar. Item A. was not ready in time and Item G. requires that all Board members be present.  The order of Board items will be changed. The Board will go to the first action item and hear the reports from our auditor and the Seismic Safety Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee. Then the Board will come back to the Spotlight.  A formal letter from CSEA agreeing to negotiations was not included in the packet mailed out. It is now included in the formal packet.
COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT)	None
CSEA	None
Parent Clubs	None

Student Representative to Board

PHS representative Allen Hosler announced that *Hamlet* will be performed on Thursday and Saturday and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* will be performed Friday and Sunday. All performances will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Alan Harvey Theater. The students have put an incredible amount of effort into these productions. This evening the Girls' Basketball Team is playing in their quest to win the CIF Division 4 Championship. Sophomores take the exit exam next week. PHS students in Journalism and Publications are taking a field trip to New York City from March 18-21, where they will hear a lecture at Columbia. The Class Colors Spring Rally will be held on Friday, March 28. The MCs have not been announced yet and the Class of 2015 will be wearing red. The Spring Dance was cancelled due to low ticket sales but there will still be some type of event. ASB is running its annual food drive for the Alameda County Food Bank. We are typically the #1 donor in Alameda County and last year donated over 10,000 pounds of food. It is important to do this as 1 in every 6 people in Alameda County goes to the Food Bank at least once a year.

Persons Requesting to Speak on Items Not on the Agenda

Spencer Kim, PHS Senior, argued the case for having finals before Winter Break. The current system has a two-week break and then one or two weeks to study and finish up work and go straight into finals. To have a real break, finals would have to be completed before winter break.

President Raushenbush explained that the Board cannot discuss items not on the agenda, but that he would convey Mr. Kim's views to Principal Daniels.

Chloe Jiang said that PMS is supposed to switch from seven periods to a block schedule like PHS. It is her opinion that younger students may not adjust well to this schedule, based on a younger sibling who went through the trial period. PMS students don't know how to manage time efficiently, and if this change takes effect they will struggle. Maybe 8<sup>th</sup> graders will adjust but she feels 6<sup>th</sup> graders need to learn how to adjust to a regular seven-period schedule.

Nikitha Kosaraju, PHS Senior, followed up on Spencer's comments. The college he will attend has finals before winter break and he will need to adjust to this new system. He thinks it would be nice to have this schedule in high school so students can learn how to study and manage time with earlier finals.

Superintendent Announcements

Ms. Hubbard announced that the Piedmont Fire Department and the Safety Committee want to encourage all citizens to attend the Fire Department Open House and Disaster Preparedness Fair on Saturday April 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Fire Department.

President Announcements

President Raushenbush welcomed new Piedmont City Administrator Paul Benoit, who began working in Piedmont on March 3, 2014. Mr. Benoit was grateful to be invited to the meeting and for the warm welcome he received from District staff. He spent the last nine years in Astoria, Oregon, which was the best place he ever lived. He thinks Piedmont will be even better. The City of Astoria has a reputation of having the best relationship with their schools of any city in Oregon – it was both informal and productive. He knows Piedmont has a strong relationship with the schools and he would like to replicate the relationship he had with the schools in Oregon.

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

Presentation and Acceptance of 2013 General Obligation Bonds Financial Report - Audit Report; Presentation and Acceptance of 2013 General Obligations Performance Report

Ms. Jill Stenton from Vavrinek, Trine & Day, Co., LLP, the District's independent auditing firm, presented the General Obligation Bonds (2006) Financial Audit of June 30, 2013 and the General Obligation Bonds Performance Audit of June 30, 2013. The financial audit received an unqualified or clean report, which means it was fairly presented in all material aspects. VTD also presented a performance report in which they test expenditures; their results indicate that the District expended all funds in accordance with the approved projects. As of June 30, 2013, bond funds have been spent and the District will no longer need an audit for the G.O. bonds. The ending fund balance as of June 30, 2013 was \$2.8m, which was transferred to the modernization fund and is being spent on modernization projects.

The motion to accept the 2013 General Obligation Bonds Financial Report - Audit Report and the 2013 General Obligations Performance Report was made by Andrea Swenson and seconded by Doug Ireland. Mr. Raushenbush, Ms. Swenson, Ms. Smith and Mr. Ireland voted in favor of the motion.

Seismic Safety Bond Program: Annual 2012-13 Report from the Citizens' Oversight Committee

Mr. Grier Graff, Chair of the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) to the Seismic Safety Bond Program, presented the annual report on the Seismic Safety Bond Program (SSBP). Since the committee was formed in 2006, it has overseen the expenditures of SSBP funds and ensured that all expenditures were made for the purposes authorized by voters. The COC reviewed summaries and reports of all expenditures made between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, and determined that the use of the SSBP funds as reported was appropriate. As all SSBP projects have been completed and all bond proceeds have been expended, this concludes the work of the committee. The list of individuals who served on the COC includes Mr. Graff, Mark Aikiwa, Philip Cardon, George Childs, Bill Drum, Rob Hendrickson, Ken Jenson, Robert Lally, Chee Keong Lin, Ward Lindendmayer, Stephanie Mooers, Margaret Ovenden, Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, Dana Serleth, Nava Shaham, Corey Smegal, and Michael Zuckerman. The list in the report should have included Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers and Rick Raushenbush. Mr. Graff offered special appreciation to Bill Drum for his dedicated service to the committee, the school district and the community.

#### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES REPORT: SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT LEARNING

Common Core Standards in Mathematics

Assistant Superintendent Booker explained that the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Mathematics are educational standards that describe the knowledge and skills in math needed by students when they graduate from high school, regardless of their choice of college or career. The CCSS require greater depth of knowledge of math principles, resulting in a reordering of the sequence in which math concepts are taught. As a result, all school districts in California are making changes to the courses offered in middle and high school and the assessments used to measure mastery of subject matter

This presentation will provide a summary and update to the March 5th Parent Education Night on CCSS Mathematics. More information can be found on the PUSD website under CCSS Math Curriculum & Parent Engagement Calendar and CCSS Math Parent Education Night - 3/5/14 - PowerPoint Presentation. With the implementation of CCSS, teachers will shift their teaching practices and curriculum. Students will focus on fewer math concepts and principles and will be expected to develop greater mastery and conceptual understanding of these. There will be greater emphasis on understanding the connections among different math concepts. Common Core also

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establishes standards for the *practice* of math; students will be expected to develop greater problem-solving and reasoning skills, and explain and defend their thinking.

Individual school districts have discretion over certain aspects of implementation. Each district will also be able to determine course sequencing and progressions – how and when students move from one math course to the next, as well as how students may accelerate. It is important to understand that courses like Algebra I are very different in content under the new standards.

It will take the District several years to make the transition. Educational materials and textbooks are not ready for fall and we are looking at a heavy textbook adoption cycle in the future. The District is asking for feedback from the community before making recommendations to the Board in May for implementation of the CCSS in Math. Right now the data we have shows that on STAR exams, SAT exams, etc., the students in accelerated math do unbelievably well.

Ms. Swenson said that if we do enhanced differentiation in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the curriculum will be much more rigorous. Our teachers are trained in Algebra 1, 2, etc. It will be very challenging for math teachers to be cross-trained and teach a new curriculum. Maybe we could offer acceleration in the 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

Mr. Booker explained that we teach other courses such as chemistry and physics that depend on math knowledge. We do not want to make the junior year more stressful and difficult than it already is.

Jon Elliott, Piedmont parent, has a child in each math level - fast, slow and middle. There are things we do not know yet about how all this will work. Other states are ahead of us in adoption but have not produced any useful data. I want to examine what it takes to keep accelerated students ahead and support those who are struggling. We know that every year you put off compression, you rely more on teacher differentiation. This is teachers who are trying to change their curriculum and teach different levels at the same time. I believe that you now have three-year overlaps (students in eighth, ninth and tenth grade in the same class), which is differentiation. It works okay and varies by teacher. The longer we make teachers do this, the longer we prolong the struggle to make it work effectively. It seems like the later you offer compression, the more complicated students' lives are. If you put calculus AP and BC into one class, that impacts seniors. If you compress it, sophomore and junior classes will feel the impact. If you offer compression in sixth to eighth grade, this may be an easier transition and less stressful for students. We expect that the top 15 to 20% of students will make that transition easily. This leads me to think that compression as early as possible is easier and that offering multiple pathways is good. I would like the district to focus on pushing toward what we know and not be driven by inertia. Washington state has sixth-grade compression and is a couple of years ahead of us. I would like to see us hold off the decision as long as possible and ensure that there are enough resources for teachers to differentiate effectively.

President Raushenbush said we are talking about offering a new math progression next year. Recommendations will come to the Board at the end of May. We will not be adopting the math progression for all classes next year; it will be for two or three classes. Students in the current progression will continue in that. Textbooks are not ready for next fall, and we will be purchasing other types of supplementary material. We are looking for data from states which

are ahead of us in adopting CCSS in math.

Gabriel Kra, who has four children at Beach, has been following this discussion closely. He understands the significant changes required in adopting Common Core. The district has been working on this and will review it in several years. One thing parents hear is that books aren't ready yet; some of the changes have to do with math subject material and some with learning. What is the goal for the student at the end of their math experience? It's a big uncertainty because teachers will have to make big changes. They are used to thinking of their subject in subject blocks. For teachers there is the added challenge of doing in-class differentiation while making big changes in the subject matter at the same time. You seem to have some data; you have one piece of data, which is that acceleration is serving a significant segment of the population well. If you are considering eliminating acceleration in the middle school, you will be stopping something that is already working. If you're thinking about changing sixth grade, why make that change now? Change as few things as possible and not something you have evidence is working well.

## REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

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

Assistant Superintendent Brady presented the Second Interim Financial Report. The Board is required to certify the financial condition of the District at two intervals during the school year. Per the requirements of AB 1200, the District declares its ability to meet its financial obligations through one of three self-certifications: A *Positive* Certification means that the District believes it can meet its financial obligations for the remainder of the current fiscal year and subsequent two fiscal years.

District staff are confident PUSD will be able to meet its financial obligations for the current year and subsequent two years. The 2014-15 year shows a positive ending fund balance of \$2,769,330 (with a 4% reserve for economic uncertainty plus an additional \$1,438,413 for use in 2015-16). It also includes full restoration of furlough days and restoration of 180 student instructional days. The District will proceed with the Board's directive to maintain the current educational program through 2015-16.

The Second Interim Report is based on assumptions in place on January 31, 2014. The report uses the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) LCFF calculator for determining multi-year projections, and assumes Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) provided by the California State Department of Finance.

It should be noted that revenue summaries do not include any increases in the School Support Parcel Tax levy, though a recommendation brought forth by a subcommittee of the Budget Advisory Committee suggests a 2% levy increase with proceeds set aside in the Parcel Tax Reserve for future use.

Revenue: There was a slight adjustment to per pupil funding; a slight increase to Federal funding of \$28k and local funding increase of \$249k resulted in an increase of \$303k.

Expenditures: Expenditures increased by \$562k including costs for substitute teachers, adjustments to salary calculations in October and classified salary adjustments for personnel for specialized programs. An increase in benefits of approximately \$46k is attributed to "qualifying event" changes in medical plans and to the transfer of some personnel benefits costs between operating funds. Books & Supplies/Services & Operating expenses are booked against revenues received. In addition, the budget anticipates increases to the cost of

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conducting municipal elections.

Second Interim: The projected total ending balance on June 30, 2014 is \$3,520,715, which represents 10.6% of total expenditures. Districts are required to maintain a 3% reserve for economic uncertainty. An Ending Fund Balance of \$2,168,024 is what remains after the 4% reserve goal set forth by the Board has been met.

Adult Education: The Adult Education Fund is balanced for this year. For 2014-15, the district must “expend no less” than the amount spent in 2012-13. Adult Education continues to offer diploma program classes and activities for senior citizens at no cost to the public. PUSD is the fiscal agent for the AB86 Consortium Planning Grant in 2015 (which includes Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emery, and Oakland Unified School Districts).

Cafeteria Fund: The Cafeteria Fund is a separate fund for which the District tracks all food services operations. The salaries of three food service employees at PHS and PMS are accounted for through this fund. This fund does not receive contributions from the District General Fund. Revenue is anticipated to increase by the cost of salary and benefits for employees in the multi-year projections. Expenses include 0% increase in salaries for 2014-15 and 2015-16 and 1.5% in longevity increases.

Deferred Maintenance Fund: Revenue sources to this fund are no longer a combination of State funds and matching District funds. All maintenance funds have been rolled into the LCFF, which goes directly to the District General Fund. Therefore all “revenue” for this fund is from a transfer from the District General Fund as designated by the Board at the February 12, 2014 Board meeting. Expenditures for this fund support the District’s Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Plan.

Building Fund: The Building Fund is the fund for which all voter-approved Bond measure proceeds are accounted. Funds may be used in support of any voter-approved project. The COC makes its final report this evening, effectively ending the SSBP. Any balance remaining will be transferred to the Modernization Fund.

Capital Facilities Fund: The Capital Facilities Fund is a fund for capital projects identified by the Board of Education. Interest earnings, capital improvement projects funded through donations, and limited facilities rental fees reflect any current changes to this fund.

State School Facilities Fund: The State School Facilities Fund is where restricted money received from the State of California for the modernization and construction of school facilities is held. It is different from the Building Fund, which contains proceeds from voter-approved Bond measures. Now that the SSBP is concluded, all expenditures tied to modernization funds are tracked separately in this fund.

School Support Parcel Tax Reserve Fund: The School Support Tax Fund was established for funds from the first year of the voter-approved School Support Tax to fund programs as necessary in later years during the term of the tax. The Reserve fund must be fully expended by the end of the term of Measure A in June 2021.

NODA Fund: The NODA Fund was established by the Board of Education to use proceeds from the sale of a mural by artist Benjamin Hideo Noda to establish a fund from which the interest earned is used for grants to support visual arts at the secondary level.

Multi-year projections follow the Governor’s Proposed budget

assumptions, and will be amended for the 2014-15 Adopted Budget in June, 2014 as more information is learned. The Board is asked to approve a *Positive* Certification of the District's capacity to meet financial obligations for the current year and subsequent two fiscal years, and authorize the appropriate budget transfers to reflect the amounts presented.

Ms. Swenson moved, Ms. Smith seconded and Board members Raushenbush, Swenson, Smith and Ireland voted to Approve Positive Certification of the District's Ability to Meet Financial Obligations for Current and Subsequent Two Fiscal Years; and Authorize Budget Transfers of Funds

Conduct Public Hearing for 2014-15 Negotiations Between the District and the California School Employees Association (CSEA), Chapter 60; Sunshine Articles to be Negotiated

The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and the California School Employees Association (CSEA) is expiring June, 2014, which means that every article could be open to negotiation. Because we participate in interest-based bargaining, CSEA and the District have met to discuss interests and have identified a list of articles to open for negotiation. The Board provides two opportunities for a public hearing to allow the community to comment on the issues to be discussed. Tonight is the first of those opportunities. After the second hearing at the board meeting on March 26, negotiations will begin and the proceedings will be confidential.

President Raushenbush opened the public hearing and asked for speakers. There were none, and the hearing was closed.

Approve Resolution 10-2013-14 - In Support of Local School Revenue Initiative

The organization "Educate Our State" (EOS) is currently collecting support and signatures for the Protection of Local School Revenue Act/School Funding Property Tax Revenues initiative to qualify for the California ballot. This resolution formally declares the support of the Board for this initiative.

President Raushenbush presented the resolution, which supports the Protection of Local School Revenue Act/School Funding Property Tax Revenues Initiative being distributed by "Educate Our State." At the February 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, Jennifer Bestor of "Educate Our State" spoke about this initiative. We know this is been difficult time for schools, and with the support of the community, parents, teachers and staff, Piedmont has been able to get through the lean years. What happened is that the State cut funding for education and simultaneously deferred payments to schools. The way this came about is that in 2004, the Legislature directed County Auditors to take the share of the property tax revenue going to schools and give it to the State to backfill reductions in vehicle license taxes. Essentially what this did was to remove a stable source of revenue for schools. This initiative would reverse that process. The school's share of local property taxes would be allocated to the schools, and the State would have to reimburse counties from the General Fund. The biggest benefit for this initiative will be during the next recession.

Board Member Swenson moved and Board Member Ireland seconded to approve Resolution 10-2013-14 - In Support of Local School Revenue Initiative.

The motion passed as follows:

AYES: Raushenbush, Swenson, Smith, Ireland  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: Pearson  
ABSTAIN: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS  
CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Swenson asked people to note that the email address for Board Member Amal Smith is [amalsmith@piedmont.k12.ca.us](mailto:amalsmith@piedmont.k12.ca.us). There is a teacher at Piedmont High School named Anne Smith, whose email is [asmith@piedmont.k12.ca.us](mailto:asmith@piedmont.k12.ca.us) and she is getting a lot of school board mail intended for Ms. Amal Smith.

Ms. Swenson received an email on the Alan Harvey Theater bond from someone concerned about other needs of the District including landscaping needs, an email from an ALPS (Advanced Learner Program Support) parent concerned that math compression may not be implemented until after grade 6, and an email from someone trying to form an organization to mentor accelerated and advanced students using underutilized local resources.

BOARD REPORTS

Ms. Swenson reported that she and Mr. Raushenbush attended a Piedmont Educational Foundation meeting. She attended the Curriculum Forum on Common Core Math, the Taylor Mali speaker event, the Alan Harvey Theater tour led by Mr. Booker, and the CHIME Gala where Mr. Booker and Principal Valdez performed, as well as some very talented students. She and a few others went to the reception for the new City Administrator. She attended Beach Parents Club, the Tri-School Site Council, an Alan Harvey Theater meeting, and the Common Course Standards Parent Education Night, which was spectacular with many parents and staff in attendance. At the Public Safety Committee meeting, it was decided that the new Fire Chief will advise the District on the emergency preparation shed being built by the District. The Piedmont Makers' Fair was an amazing event. She also attended the PMS Site Council in place of Ms. Pearson.

President Raushenbush attended several Alan Harvey Theater meetings, the CHIME Gala, and the Piedmont Choir Gala.

Ms. Smith went to several baseball games.

Mr. Ireland is in the process of learning what the position entails. He attended a meeting at Wildwood, the Havens Parent Club, the Common Core Math Parent Night, a Piedmont Educational Foundation event and a poetry slam in Berkeley with Taylor Mali.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Ms. Smith moved, Mr. Ireland seconded, and Mr. Raushenbush, Ms. Swenson, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Ireland voted to adopt the Consent Calendar with Items A. and G. removed.

- A. \*Adopt Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 12, 2014 Board Meeting
- B. \*Adopt Board Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2014 Special Board Meeting
- C. \*Approve Monthly Financial Report of the District for February, 2014
- D. \*Approve Personnel Action Report
- E. \*Approve Field Trip for 18 Piedmont High School journalism students to attend the Columbia Scholastic Press Association Workshops at Columbia University in NYC from March 18-21.
- F. \*Approve Field Trip for 50-100 Piedmont High School students to attend Camp Lodestar in Wilseyville, California from June 15-18, 2014.
- G. Adopt Resolution 11-2013-14 – Signature Card – Board Members

- H. \*Approve Assignment Under Education Code 44256(b), 44258.2 and 44258.3 Authorization for Assignment Out of Credentialed Area  
Education Code allows assignment of existing staff to areas outside of their credentialed teaching area under specific criteria. This must be done on an annual basis.
- I. \*Approve Schedule of Board of Education Meetings for 2014-15
- J. Approve one Independent Contractor Agreement with Carolyn Sakkis, M.S., LEP to provide an Independent Education Evaluation for one student, effective March 1, 2014 through June 12, 2014, at a total cost not to exceed \$3,500. Funding: Special Education
- K. Approve one Independent Contractor Agreement with 1st American Transit, LLC to provide transportation for one student to and from a Nonpublic School, effective March 12, 2014 to June 13, 2014, at a total cost not to exceed \$9,300. Funding: Special Education
- L. Reimburse one family for adaptive physical education services for one student, effective February 28, 2014 through June 30, 2014, at a total cost not to exceed \$600.00. Funding: Special Education

FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS  
ADJOURNMENT

There was no discussion about future agenda items.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

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

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CONSTANCE HUBBARD  
Secretary, Piedmont Unified School District  
Board of Education