

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Council Chambers, City Hall

120 Vista Avenue

Piedmont, California 94611

MINUTES OF

Regular Meeting of the Governing Board

June 11, 2014

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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, Amal Smith and Doug Ireland 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 (Chapter 60).
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 7:08 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	The Board met in closed session to discuss labor negotiations and no action was taken.
COMMUNICATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT)	None
CSEA	None
Parent Clubs	Katie Korotzer, incoming president of the PHS Parents Club, thanked outgoing President Dane Copeland for her contributions and the many projects, (over 60) that she helped guide and develop. The Parents' Club is contributing grants for PHS Science teachers to develop the proposed new physical science class, professional development for Common Core implementation and Math leadership, and have committed to service learning and social-emotional development through sending 50 PHS and MHS students to Camp Everytown. She thanked the Piedmont Appreciating Diversity Committee for their grant for Camp Everytown. PHS teacher Nathan Maddox is helping redesign the PHS Parent Club website. Ms. Korotzer appreciated the work on the 5-day Bell Schedule and the work of teachers who cultivate the arts. While saddened by the vote on Measure H, the Parents' Club supports the Board's decision to make necessary repairs.
Student Representative to Board	None
Persons Requesting to Speak on Items Not on the Agenda	None

## Superintendent Announcements

Superintendent Hubbard made an announcement that in the fall, PMS will offer at least two sections of '97 Algebra 1 for 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders and the rest of the 7<sup>th</sup> graders will go into Common Core Math 8. There are fewer than five 6<sup>th</sup> graders whose parents will be contacted by PMS Principal, Mr. Fletcher, to ensure that the choices and implications for 8<sup>th</sup> grade are clearly understood by parents. If parents have questions, they should contact the middle school directly. I am certain that all students can be accommodated.

## President Announcements

None

## PRESENTATION

### Recognition of 2013-14 PUSD Retirees, Certificated and Classified

The District recognized District employees Bill Cywnar, Lauren Del Rosario, Dorothy Falarski, Sheila Haraldson, Linda Jaffe, Joanne Jaglowski, Valerie Jew, Catherine Knowland, Martha Morrow, Karen Palmer, Megan Pillsbury, Deborah Petch-Levine and Marian Snyder. The thirteen retirees represent a combined total of 260 years of dedicated service to the students of Piedmont Unified School District.

Karen Palmer, Havens teacher; Dorothy Falarski, Instrumental Music teacher; Megan Pillsbury and Sheila Haraldson, Wildwood teachers, and Linda Jaffe, PMS Science teacher, attended the meeting and were presented by Superintendent Hubbard with a wind chime, which is becoming a new Piedmont tradition and hopefully will spark some beautiful memories for each retiree. The Superintendent, school administrators and Board members expressed their gratitude to the retirees for their service to the District and the students.

## REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

### Conduct First Public Hearing; Review of 2014-15 District General Fund Budget and Solicit Public Opinion on Budget Implications for the Local Control Accountability Plan

President Raushenbush conducted the first public hearing on the District's General Fund Budget, as required by Education Code 42127 and 52062. With the implementation of the new Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), each district must hold at least one public hearing prior to adoption of the District's LCAP in advance of the meeting to adopt the LCAP and the Adopted Budget. Tonight's hearing will receive input on the budget, which will be brought back for approval at the June 25 meeting.

The surprise in the Governor's May Budget Revision is the requirement that school districts immediately increase their contribution to the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). His budget calls for an increase in STRS rates for the employer from the current 8.25% to 9.50% in 2014-15, 11.10% in 2015-16, and 12.70% in 2016-17, increasing incrementally to 19.1% by 2020. While the PERS rate changes from year to year and has already been accounted for in our budget projections, the STRS increase was not previously included in the budget and the District has set aside \$210K for this expense.

The LCAP represents a fundamental shift in how LEAs (Local Education Agencies) plan for – and are held accountable for – funding for all pupils in the District. The District budget must align with identified needs for 2014-15 and reflect Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) funding and structures. The State Board of Education's approved spending regulations and the District template are intended to guide expenditures according to locally defined goals and actions for all students, with particular emphasis on English learner, low income and foster youth students. Further, the District's LCAP must demonstrate how services are provided to meet the needs and improve the performance of all students. The District's 2014-15 Adopted Budget will include expenditures necessary to implement

the LCAP and will reflect funding commitments as they relate to the District's LCAP

It is important to note that while revenues are growing, the District still faces significant challenges in supporting its existing educational program and meeting the competing demands for increased spending if State revenue does not grow at the projected pace and if new liabilities for employers to contribute to STRS are not commensurate with an increase in funding.

There are several calculations that determine the amount Piedmont Unified will receive in a given year under the LCFF. The core components of this formula are the calculation of the District's base grade-level funding, supplemental funding, minimum State Aid, K-3 Grade Span adjustments (for class-size reduction), and the LCFF Target (which includes gap funding). Some districts will receive no additional funding, while others are receiving substantial increases in funding.

Department of Finance (DOF) projections for calculating the Gap Funding rate (restoring education funding levels to 2007-08 levels) have generally been conservative and have been supported by alternate forecasts from the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). The Alameda County Office of Education's "common message" to school districts is that the funding percentages outlined by the DOF are reasonable and supportable. The District is following the direction recommended by ACOE.

The General Fund budget is based on the following assumptions:

- Programs included as essential by the Board are maintained
- Salary and benefit increases negotiated with APT have been applied to all bargaining units
- Cost of Living Adjustments from the State have been included
- Maintenance of financial support from the community

Vice President Swenson asked how long deficit spending would continue. Mr. Brady explained that the expectation was the District would move out of deficit spending in 2015-16, but this may change in light of the increased STRS contribution.

There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

Conduct Public Hearing: Local Control Accountability Plan Review of 2014-15 Action Plan to Augment LCAP

The first of two Public Hearings for the 2014-15 Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) was held. The LCAP will be presented on June 25, 2014 for approval and will be used in conjunction with the District Action Plan to communicate the Board Goals and the annual areas of focus for the District.

The new funding rules for LCFF require that each school district adopt a plan, called a Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), for education spending. The LCAP must describe how the District will meet annual goals for students that reflect both State requirements and local priorities. The LCAP must be approved by July 2014 and then reviewed annually and must conform to specific content and format requirements mandated by the State and the Alameda County Office of Education (ACOE). As with the District Budget, the LCAP is submitted to ACOE for approval, which then submits it to the State for final review and approval.

Superintendent Hubbard explained that we had hoped to blend the LCAP and our annual Action Plan into one document. After consultation with ACOE, the District has concluded that the goals in our Action Plan are not readily adaptable into the LCAP format. For this

reason, the District will continue to maintain and update its Action Plan as well as the LCAP.

Assistant Superintendent Booker explained that the LCAP requires the District to provide a plan that addresses eight priorities focused on conditions of learning, pupil outcomes and engagement. The template developed by the State is strict and cannot be changed. We have been working closely with ACOE to fit our goals into the required format, which does not address the spirit and outcomes of our goals and action plan. Most districts in the county are receiving supplemental funds and need to demonstrate how they are spending these on the targeted populations. The only supplemental funding PUSD receives is for English Learners and District spending exceeds the \$88k received from the State.

Our LCAP tells the story of our district based on five student needs:

- Exemplary professional educator
- High quality curriculum aligned to Common Core State Standards and materials.
- Social and emotional support services/practices
- Raise awareness of available resources
- Maintain a healthy learning environment

The LCAP requires documenting three years of goals and action and is updated every year. If we do not achieve a goal in one year, it may be moved forward to the following year.

There was no public comment and the hearing was closed.

Approve 2014-15 Pilot Bell Schedule  
Piedmont and Millennium High Schools

The Board was asked to approve a bell schedule to be piloted by PHS and MHS for the 2014-15 school year. The schedule is a modified block with a five day rotation and is recommended by staff, the Principal and the Superintendent per the provisions of the Collective Bargaining agreement with Association of Piedmont Teachers (APT).

Superintendent Hubbard explained that we have a block schedule, which allows for longer class times, that has repeated on a seven-day schedule and we wanted to get to a five-day rotation.

Principal Daniels described the collaborative effort of teachers and administrators, in conjunction with parents and students, to develop this plan. The goal was to optimize student learning through a predictable rotation of days, provide more opportunities for sleep, increase collaboration time for teachers, and offer more tutorial periods. In particular, there was a focus on reducing student stress, a key need identified in the most recent Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) report.

Ms. Kashani, President of APT, noted that teachers overwhelmingly approved the pilot schedule by a vote of 54-4.

Board Member Ireland wanted to know if parents were brought into the process. They were part of Site Council discussions and input. A letter about the proposed schedule was sent to all parents to explain the new schedule, and the process and rationale behind it.

Vice President Swenson received an email from a parent asking about how the school will enforce the teacher pledge to not have exams on Mondays. Mr. Daniels explained they will be using software to provide analytics on tests and testing dates. Ms. Kashani noted that student assessments such as tests are geared to longer periods, and Monday will have shorter class periods, as every class

will meet that day.

Board Member Pearson participated in the Site Council and asked if there could be homework-free weekends. Principal Daniels said this is not necessarily possible. Ms. Kashani said she sees a place for homework: she bases 30% of her grade on homework, and homework provides an opportunity for students who struggle on papers and tests to use their work ethic to improve their overall grade.

Board Member Smith expressed concern over the coordination of early release and sports. Mr. Daniels said a baseball parent did a lot of research and concluded that the pilot schedule would have less impact on sports than the current schedule. In this schedule there is an effort to provide athletes a free period in the afternoon.

Inga Heuser, Piedmont parent was surprised by the new bell schedule. She did not see the advantages of the new schedule and wondered why students would be required to attend mandatory tutorials.

Mr. Daniels said there are mandatory tutorials eight times per year and PHS is planning to use those times for programs that currently interrupt class times, i.e., assemblies, course enrichment, service learning, mandatory state testing, etc.

Dane Copeland, PHS Parents' Club President, was on the WASC committee and participated in the site council and parent survey. She is very much in favor of the schedule because it mitigates some student stressors. The pilot provides an opportunity for feedback and tweaking the schedule. A lot of work went into developing the schedule and she thinks it will be a success.

Ms. Smith moved to approve the 2014-15 Pilot Bell Schedule for Piedmont and Millennium High Schools. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pearson and the vote was 5-0.

Approve Piedmont High School Course:  
*Physics of Alternative Energy Design  
and Construction*

The Board is requested to approve the PHS Course *Physics of Alternative Energy Design and Construction*, which is open to grades 9-12 and intended for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. This course is designed to replace the current 9<sup>th</sup> grade course, *Introduction to Physical Science*. This course is a two-semester physical science course that is hands on, project based and meets the University of California "D" requirement for a physical science course. PHS will communicate with the families of 8<sup>th</sup> graders so that 9<sup>th</sup> graders can choose either this course or Biology UC/CSU admission requirements include two units and strongly encourage three units in two disciplines: Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

Mr. Daniels said the Science Department received a grant from the Parents' Club in order to develop this class. They researched and studied a similar class at a high school in Napa.

Ms. Swenson moved to approve the Piedmont High School Course *Physics of Alternative Energy Design and Construction*. Ms. Pearson seconded and the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

## REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Discussion of Board Reorganization and  
Board Assignments for 2014-15

The City Charter requires that the School Board reorganize in July of each year. Because some members will be gone in July, the Board discussed reorganization this evening. Mr. Raushenbush said the Superintendent acts as Secretary based on Board policy and the general practice has been that the Vice President becomes President and the next senior board member becomes Vice President, although this is not required.

Announce Election Results and Discuss  
Next Steps

Ms. Swenson volunteered to be President and Ms. Pearson Vice President. Ms. Swenson would like another Board member to share the responsibility of public correspondence. She asked that Board members send their committee preference to her.

Superintendent Hubbard said the final election results will not be available until Friday but it is clear that Measure H did not have the support of the majority of the community. She thanked the professionals involved in working on the design and plans for the theater: Larry Tramutola's office for their assistance, Christian Garcia for his work, and Jonathan Davis and Annette Clear, co-chairs of the campaign committee, for their hard work. She acknowledged the generous donors who gave \$565K to be used exclusively on the theater. This money is available for the District to use on some necessary repairs to the theater. As a result of the development of more plans, we have additional information we did not have a year ago and will use this to inform our decisions about how to proceed.

Jonathan Davis and Annette Clear, co-chairs of the campaign committee, thanked all the volunteers and said it was a pleasure and a valuable experience working on the campaign. They said election results show that the community was split.

Grier Graff, Piedmont resident, was disappointed in the process of the election and community members. Any future attempts to rehab the theater will cost more and bond costs will be higher. He had expected an honest discourse but the opposition literature was misleading at best: they compared the *total* cost of our project to *construction* costs of other projects. The Board knows that total project costs, which include DSA approval, architects' fees, engineers' fees, and special inspectors, etc., add at least 20% more than construction costs. The cost of the theater in Palo Alto was \$5M more than the opposition reported. What's next must be a focus on access for all to this educational facility.

Mark Becker, Piedmont parent, thanked everyone who worked on the campaign and noted that the opposition presented false information. There seemed to be several camps: those who didn't want to spend any money and those who want a brand new facility, which would have the advantage of more volume and more seating and would cost at least \$30M. The District will need to decide if they want to do: the minimum, stay with a hybrid based on the existing structure or build a new theater. There are immediate issues that must be addressed, i.e., lighting, seats, roof and HVAC.

Noel Joeck, Piedmont resident, would like to know what will happen next. He believes it was a legitimate debate and those against Measure H were not underhanded and the community agreed with them.

Mr. Raushenbush said the arguments were so varied and contradictory that it is difficult to know what would be acceptable to the community. Whatever happens, the costs will go up. Eventually the theater will need to be fixed or closed.

Ms. Pearson has already received a call from an opponent of the measure asking if we could put something on the November ballot.

Mr. Ireland said the Board's obligation is to move forward with the donor money and do the minimum necessary, which is what we said we would do if the measure failed.

Ms. Smith noted there was not enough time to get something on the ballot for November and that the District does not have close to the approximately \$30M in bond capacity it might cost to build a new

theater. While people can disagree about the purpose behind the proposal, what we need now is a long and thoughtful dialogue.

Ms. Swenson agreed that more dialogue is needed but in the meantime the students are the losers.

Mr. Raushenbush said some opponents made statements that were not factual. We need to know why the measure did not pass. He expects there will be an opportunity in September for those with alternate plans to have an opportunity to present their plans. If there is a plan or plans, they can be presented and discussed in town hall meetings. In the meantime, there are some things the District must do, such as fix the roof.

Inga Heuser, Piedmont resident, was shocked that the Board is having this discussion because the public has voted against remodeling the theater.

Mr. Raushenbush noted that people do take re-votes and that the Board has a fiduciary duty to maintain the theater. It was always in the plans to do needed repairs if the bond measure was not approved.

Ms. Hubbard said the District now will focus on prioritizing necessary work on the theater, on seating, roof and HVAC.

#### DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board meeting in July for annual reorganization will be held on Tuesday, July 1 at 10:00 a.m. in the District Office.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Swenson received some emails on AHT with questions about expenditures to date and the source of donations. One parent email thanked the Board for offering alternate math pathways for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. There was an email from ALPs about the math enrichment position, and email in favor of the new science course and new bell schedule, and comments about our ranking in the STEM ratings.

#### BOARD REPORTS

Mr. Ireland attended the MHS graduation and the Havens Parent Club meeting. At the PMS meeting about Common Core Math, parents had a lot of questions about the choice of Algebra 1 versus Common Core Math and there was a lot of anxiety because the full math cycle of courses through graduation has not yet been established. He appreciated the presence of PMS teachers at the meeting.

Ms. Smith attended the Acappella Review, the MHS graduation, and the PMS ceremony, where she appreciated the eloquence of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade speakers.

Ms. Pearson attended several meetings about math, the BAC meeting, the English Awards, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Spring Concert, a Wildwood retirement party, and a talk on education policy by Bill Kurst, advisor to Jerry Brown. She enjoyed the low-key awards ceremony at Wildwood, where each student spoke and complimented another student.

Ms. Swenson attended the most recent Beach Parent Club meeting, participated in AHT election work, and attended meetings about AP and Honors classes, a very fruitful City-School Liaison meeting, the APCP and BAC meetings, and the MHS graduation and PMS ceremonies.

Mr. Raushenbush attended the City-School Liaison Meeting, the steering committee, and the MHS graduation, where every student had the opportunity to speak.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Raushenbush thanked the San Francisco Foundation for their donation to the Wellness Center.

Ms. Swenson moved, Mr. Ireland seconded, and Mr. Raushenbush, Ms. Swenson, Ms. Pearson, Ms. Smith, and Mr. Ireland voted to accept all items the Consent Calendar as presented.

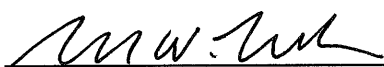
- A. Approve Monthly Financial Report for the District for the Month of May, 2014 Approve Personnel Action Report
- B. Approve Personnel Action Report
- C. Approve Designation of 2014-15 California Interscholastic Federation Representatives to League
- D. Approve Field Trip for 5 PHS Students to attend CADA Leadership Camp for ASB Students at UC Santa Barbara from July 22-25, 2014
- E. Approve Agreement for Professional Services with Dannis Woliver Kelley Law Firm, to provide legal services effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, per the fee schedule provided.
- F. Approve Internship Contract Agreement Between the District and Brandman University, effective June 1, 2014 through May 30, 2016.
- G. Accept donation from the San Francisco Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 for the Wellness Center.
- H. Approve one reimbursement to Alameda Unified School District School for non-public school services for one student effective August 26, 2013 through June 13, 2014, at a total cost not to exceed \$32,322.79. Funding: Special Education.
- I. Approve one reimbursement to Alameda Unified School District School for non-public school services for one student effective August 26, 2013 through April 10, 2014, at a total cost not to exceed \$20,237.03. Funding: Special Education.
- J. Approve one Independent Service Agreement with Starfish Therapies for non-public services for one student effective June 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014, at a total cost not to exceed \$500. Funding: Special Education
- K. Approve one reimbursement to parents of one student, for non-public services, effective May 1, 2014, through June 5, 2014, at a total cost not to exceed \$930.00. Funding: Special Education
- L. Approve one reimbursement to parents of one student, for non-public services, effective May 1, 2014, through June 12, 2014, at a total cost not to exceed \$1,500.00. Funding: Special Education

#### FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

The Board would like to discuss AHT in September, and would like an update on green policy. Mr. Ireland would like a proposal or survey on prioritizing facilities work. Ms. Pearson would like to see the discussion on math options moved up to the fall. Mr. Booker noted that the report on the first semester will be available at the January 2015 meetings. The Math Task Force will begin meeting in the fall. It was suggested that the Facilities Handbook be presented at the June 25 meeting.

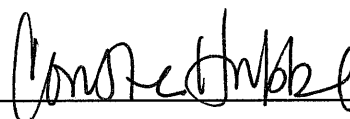
#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m.



RICHARD RAUSHENBUSH

Board President, Piedmont Unified School District  
Board of Education



CONSTANCE HUBBARD

Secretary, Piedmont Unified School District  
Board of Education