

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Council Chambers, City Hall

120 Vista Avenue

Piedmont, California 94611

MINUTES OF

Special Meeting of the Governing Board

November 4, 2014

CALL TO ORDER	President Andrea Swenson called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 9:07 a.m.
ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM	President Andrea Swenson, Vice President Sarah Pearson and Board Members Amal Smith, Doug Ireland and Rick Raushenbush were present.
Adjourn to Closed Session	The Board adjourned to Closed Session at 9:08 a.m. to discuss: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation/Initiation of Possible Litigation.
Others Present in Closed Session	Superintendent Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent Booker, Attorney James Gotch of Stubbs & Leone
Reconvene to Regular Session	President Swenson called the Regular Session of the Board of Education to order at 9:51 a.m.
Others Present at Regular Session	Superintendent Constance Hubbard Randall Booker, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services Julie Valdez, Director of Special Education Jan Tomsy, Attorney, Fagen Friedman LLC Marie Souza, Special Education Consultant
Report of Action Taken in Closed Session	<p>Board members reviewed the proposed agreement with the Turkey Trot Corporation for running the Turkey Trot Race in Piedmont on Thanksgiving morning. Mr. Gotch was available to answer any questions regarding the proposed agreement.</p> <p>It was moved by Mr. Ireland and seconded by Ms. Swenson to authorize the Superintendent to signed the proposed agreement as presented.</p> <p>The motion passed as follows:</p> <p>AYES: Swenson, Smith, Ireland NOES: Raushenbush ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: Pearson (her daughter is on the teams involved)</p> <p>Board Member Raushenbush read the following statement into the record:</p> <p><i>Although I understand the desire to resolve the dispute with the individuals who created the Piedmont Turkey Trot Corporation, I voted against the District entering into this Agreement. I did so because the PHS athletic community has never had any opportunity to provide their thoughts on who should run the Turkey Trot in the future and how its proceeds should be allocated.</i></p> <p><i>Since 2003, the Turkey Trot has been run and supported by volunteers from the PHS running teams. A small number of volunteers were entrusted with the honor of organizing the race, and many student and parent volunteers made it happen. In 2013, the leadership volunteers again collected funds from the District to finance the race,</i></p>

and students and parents again volunteered on race day. But after the race, with no notice to the District, parents or student athletes, a few individuals formed Piedmont Turkey Trot Corporation and kept the race proceeds.

When the District realized that none of the race proceeds had come to the District, the District found out about the formation of Piedmont Turkey Trot Corporation and began efforts to obtain the funds to benefit Piedmont student athletes. At a February meeting, the District encouraged the organizers of the Piedmont Turkey Trot Corporation to meet with stakeholders--student athletes and their parents--to discuss how to run the race in the future, as well as provide the 2013 race proceeds to the teams. The organizers did not agree to meet with stakeholders and did not return the race proceeds.

From February to the present day, the District has asked the Piedmont Turkey Trot Corporation organizers to meet with student athletes and parents to discuss who should run the Turkey Trot. They never have. In mid-summer, over half a year after the 2013 Turkey Trot, the organizers finally repaid some of the money advanced by the District for the 2013 race. But still student athletes and parents have not been consulted.

*The Agreement states that the District agrees that the Piedmont Turkey Trot Corporation will now **solely** manage, organize and run the Turkey Trot in Piedmont. In short, the Agreement asks the District, without consultation with student athletes or parents, to agree to a significant change in how the Piedmont Turkey Trot is run and who benefits from the funds it raises.*

In my view, the cardinal sin committed by the Piedmont Turkey Trot Corporation organizers is that they unilaterally, without notice to anyone, asserted that they controlled the Turkey Trot and would decide who benefits from the funds it raises. Perhaps student athletes and parents would agree--perhaps they would not. We don't know because the stakeholders have never had a chance to be heard. The Agreement asks the District to join the Piedmont Turkey Trot Corporation organizers in making the same mistake. I vote no.

Board Member Smith agreed with his statement and expressed concern over a very difficult situation. She commended the Board President and Superintendent on their efforts to get this matter resolved

President Swenson expressed the hope that the Turkey Trot Corporation will reach out to parents with current runners on the PHS Cross Country and Track Teams.

Board Member Pearson agreed with the statements of other Board members and encouraged the Turkey Trot Corporation to amend its bylaws so that the intent to support the PHS Cross Country and Track teams is more explicit.

The agreement is available upon request to the Office of the Superintendent.

Persons Requesting to Speak on
Items Not on the Agenda

None

REVIEW AND ACTION ITEMS

Workshop on Special Education

The Board heard presentations from the District Director of Special Education, Julie Valdez and attorney, Jan Tomsy, partner, Fagen Friedman and Fullfrost LLP, on the Federal and State mandates for school districts to serve students with disabilities. Discussion included

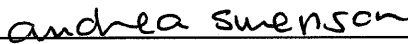
current practices in the North Region Special Education Local Planning Area (SELPA) and the District's Special Education program.

Presentations are available on the District website.

Piedmonters for Resources, Advocacy and Information in Special Education (PRAISE) President, Liz Fitzgerald, shared that PRAISE parents are working on developing written materials to help families who may not have students with special needs be inclusive of those students with special needs. Ms. Fitzgerald expressed the willingness for PRAISE to work together in addressing all student needs.

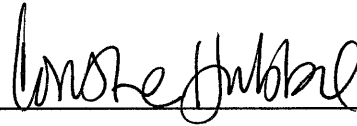
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.



ANDREA SWENSON

Board President, Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education



CONSTANCE HUBBARD

Secretary, Piedmont Unified School District
Board of Education