

In Attendance

Carol Cramer, Wildwood/ Beach Principal

Tery Susman, Havens Principal

Denise Meredith, Havens

Ken Taylor, Havens

Samantha Spielman, Havens

Jenny Lynn, Havens

Sara Valkonen, Havens

Rachna Dube, Havens

Alyssa Morrisey, Piedmont Post

John Creighton, Beach

Linda Morell, Beach

Lilly Krenn, Wildwood

Ereca Miller, Wildwood

Anjuna Lohnes, Wildwood

Jen Kessler, Wildwood

Christine Fredericks, Havens

Lillis Stern, Havens

Kathy Moody, Beach

Nancy Packer, Beach

Jon Elliott, Havens

Vicky O'Bresly, Havens

Jen Friedman, Havens

Martha Jones, Board of Education, Piedmont Unified School District

The meeting was called to order at 3:30. Principals Cramer and Susman described the purpose of the meeting as to consider the possibility that there may be funds available as early as February 2012. Should those funds be used to restore program that was cut during the most recent round of budget cuts? Should the core program be changed in other ways?

I. TRI-SCHOOL FUNDING

Tri-school Fundraisers [Annual Campaign, Spring Fling]	+ \$1,170,000
Cost of District Reimbursed 11-12 Program*	- \$572,000
\$300 per student	- \$337,500
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	= \$260,500
Ballpark Site Expenses [e.g. art, stipends, emergency supplies]	- \$120,000
What's left	= \$140,500

- Cost of District Reimbursed 11-12 Program includes: all math resource, science resource, half of counseling at Beach and WW, a portion of counseling at Havens, a portion of Tech at all 3 schools, and all of 3rd-5th grade Aides.

If fundraising continues at present level, and if program continues at present footprint, then there is about \$140,500 that might become available to spend. How to spend this money in a sustainable way?

Caveat: District could still face mid-year budget cuts. We won't know for a while (might not happen during this year). But there is reasonable confidence that current levels of funding will continue through 2013.

Caveat: Will fundraising continue at the same level? Two years ago, Spring Fling exceeded all expectations; followed suit last year.

Administration is pursuing two tracks:

- A. Possibility that in February, the District will ask the Board whether there is a surplus. Board will look at 3-year period.
- B. Also facing possibility of mid-year budget cuts. Should we save the funds for a rainy day? Some say that money raised by parent community should be used for current needs, not saved for future budget shortfalls.

Decision making process: Principals will consider input from teachers, parents and staff and make a recommendation to the School Board. Board will have the final say.

II. POTENTIAL USES

A. SMALLER CLASSES?

There are 51 teachers K-5 across the three elementary schools. The district is no longer able to keep 20:1 ratio in K-3. Some K-3 classes have 21-23 students. Some Beach classes are lower (17-18) due to relocation. Havens and WW experienced some lower numbers during their time in Emeryville.

COST: 1 teacher = \$90,000

Other considerations in enrollment: keeping families together, keeping students at the school they first attended, physical space.

B. REINSTATE FURLOUGH DAYS?

There are currently 5 furlough days, though only a decrease of 1-1/2 days of instructional time for students. The other days are from Professional Development and other non-student days. Two possibilities:

- (1) January 30: non -student, non-teacher days.
- (2) Day after last day of school: but teachers will work anyway to close up classrooms, so this is just a salary cut for teachers.

COST: \$36,000 just for Elementary Schools for one day. (\$90k for K-12; decision would have to be made district-wide). For both days, \$72,000.

C. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Regular ed OT (not special ed OT) was eliminated four years ago. Teachers are incorporating OT exercises, tools into classroom time.

COST: \$40,000 is approximate cost to buy 1 hour per class per week K - 2.

D. LIBRARIES

- (1) Teacher Librarian Time
COST: \$36,000 would reinstate to prior level (.6 for WW & B, 1.0 for H)
- (2) Lunch Time Access at Beach, Wildwood
COST = \$2870 per school for 2 hours

[Q: would this enable B & WW to open their libraries 5 days/week?] This would allow access for one hour each day on the non – staffed days.

E. CLASSROOM AIDE TIME

Parent Clubs currently pay for 3rd-5th grade Aide Time: 5 hours per week. District pays for K-2 Aide Time of 5 hours per week. There was a discussion of the ways in which aides support teachers and help students: working with smaller groups was very important; way to compensate for larger class size. Aides also help with grading work, yard supervision. One issue with present levels: scheduling aide time (it may be that the one hour of scheduled aide time spans the morning recess, so that teacher can't use aide with the children.)

Q: What was the high water mark of Aide Time? 12/10 hours per week.

Q: Is there any flexibility to add aide time to some classes who need extra aide time because of higher enrollment? Some classes have big swing. What if allocation were based on number of students?

There was a discussion of the benefit of aide time especially for grades K-2. Younger children need targeted help with reading. Research cited showing that if kids don't learn to read at certain point (early elementary school) it is harder for kids to catch up.

One possible option: keep base level of aide time, then augment: have extra allocation for classes with high enrollment.

F. Math/Science

Restore Math Resource

COST: \$31,500 to restore Math Resource (to .1 Beach, .1 WW and .15 Havens); \$36,000 to add (.20 Havens, .1 to Beach and .1 to WW).

Additional Science

COST: \$54,000 to bring science to .8 Havens, .5 Beach and .5 WW

G. Restore Reading Resource

Havens went down .2 (one day), WW & B went down 1/2 day. Restoring those levels would give Resource Teachers more time to see more kids.

COST: \$36,000

Q: a parent asked Teachers to offer their perspective on top three choices:

A: Aide time! (See discussion above.)

Furlough days

Restore reading resource specialist time- helps teachers differentiate in the classroom. Helps at both ends (those needing more help, and gives teachers more time to help those who are ahead of the group).

III. INPUT FROM SITE COUNCIL

Following the discussion, each participant was given an index card and asked to list how they would prioritize any spending (up to \$140,500) for program restoration.

Many of those in attendance indicated a desire to reinstate at least one furlough day (13 of 17 respondents listed furlough days in their top three). A desire to restore Aide Time was also a common theme: 16 of 17 respondents listed an increase in some amount of Aide Time in their top three. Of those 13 responses, 10 specified Aide Time for K-2 among the top three priorities. 8 respondents (6 of 7 teachers, and 2 of 10 parents) listed reinstatement of Reading Resource; 4 identified Math Resource; 3 listed smaller class size; 1 identified counseling, 2 for OT, 1 for library, 1 for science, and 1 for holding the money.

The individual responses are reprinted below.

Staff Responses:

1. Furlough Days \$72,000, Aide Time – 1 more hour, but flexible as per discussion to accommodate larger class sizes/ 2nd grade \$66,000 No more money, but reading resource would be next choice followed by math and science
2. Aide Time in First and Second Grade (All \$140,500 if it makes a big difference) I would Love 10 hours per class per week, Furlough Days: First priority being June workday because we will be at work that day anyway, Reading Resource
3. Furlough Days, Primary Aide Time, Reading/ Math Resource to address remedial needs
4. 2 hour + increase for aide time in 1st and 2nd grade, Reading Resource Time, Math Resource Time
5. Furlough, Aide + 1 hour 1st and 2nd, More Reading Resource
6. Instructional Aide Time + 2 hours, Furlough Day (Readers Workshop Training) Class Size
7. Reinstate June Furlough Day (\$36,000 Teachers are all working, we would love to be paid.), Aide Time – as much as humanly possible! But especially at grades 1-2, Reading Resource as much as possible

Parent/ Community Responses:

1. Aide Time 1-2 \$24,393 Smaller Class Size \$90,000 Furlough Days \$36,000
2. Increase Aide Time for lower grades 1 & 2, increase OT time, increase Math Resource
3. Aide Time, Reading Resource
4. Aide Time esp. grades 1 – 2, Furlough Days, O.T.
5. Aide Time K-2, Furlough Day, Equalize Library Days (\$2,870 for B and WW)
6. Furlough – Professional Development, Aide Time, Aide Time
7. Aide Time, esp K-2, Furlough Day especially 6/16 last day, Smaller Class Size, Maintain Counseling
8. Restore Math, Science, Reading Resource; Classroom Aide Time (primary), Reinstate Furlough Days
9. February, Buy Back Furlough Days, especially professional development.
10. Hold the Money and don't spend, if it's going to be spent put all toward aide time to get more "bang for the buck", use a little to investigate a bridge between school and Schoolmates to see if there could be some homework help for students