

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
District Office – Board Room
760 Magnolia Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611

MINUTES OF

Citizens' Advisory Committee to Parcel Tax Program (Measures B & E)

April 1, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jon Elliott called the regular meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the Parcel Tax Program to order at 4:07 pm.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

In Attendance:

Committee Members Catherine Ogle, Cathie Geddeis (left at 5:55 pm), George Childs, Jon Elliott, Peter Freeman, Ken Jensen, Matthew Lifschiz, Mimi Felson, Eileen Ruby, Ad Brugger (left at 5:35 pm); Board Member Liaison Martha Jones, Board Member Liaison (alternate) Richard Raushenbush. Also present: Board President Ray Gadbois, members June Monach and Roy Tolles.

ABSENT FROM MEETING

Superintendent Constance Hubbard.

REVIEW & ACTION ITEMS

1. Approve Minutes of 3/18/10 Meeting

George Childs moved and Ken Jensen seconded approval to the minutes from the 3/18/10 meeting.

2. Consider program items for review by this committee, subcommittees to perform these reviews, and information/data requests to the District.

This item will be rolled over to the next Committee meeting.

REVIEW & DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meet with Board of Education members to receive guidance (this item may be moved to the top of the agenda)

Board President Ray Gadbois sees this Committee as having value to the Board and the community. His vision is that the Committee generate objective data driven information related to the budget and taxes. Not interested in the Committee lobbying for particular policy positions.

Board Member June Monach concurs with Ray completely. She has always felt that the Board and the District need an ongoing group like this Committee. She'd like to see the Committee do some trend analysis, communicate the story of the community's support of the school system and conduct an impartial analysis of the numbers. A thread she'd like to see is for the Committee to agree on and establish specific sources for financial information and use that information over time. Interested in comparative analysis with other districts that is impartial and includes: % of revenue from the State, adult/student ratio, average class size and teacher turnover rates. Track the ballot language for the use of parcel tax funds in the last six elections and going forward.

Board Member Richard Raushenbush believes the Committee's first priority is to determine if the parcel tax is triggered. He's

interested in having the Committee put together objective data that is not a repeat of what the Board already has. Likes the ideas of trend analysis, generating information for the community, analyzing both/all sides of issues (on the one hand/on the other hand), and thoughts on delivering services better. Interested in financial impact to District of continuing current structure of healthcare benefits. Interested in areas of employee evaluations, compensation and performance, layoff orders and how other districts are handling these issues.

Board Member Roy Tolles likes having this Committee as an advisory committee to the Board and would like similar ones for curriculum and capital expenditures. He thinks finances are fundamental and is interested in trend analysis over the last 10 years, including taxes and contributions. He welcomes the Committee's input on how to handle flat/decreasing revenues and increasing expenses. He's interested in having the Committee gather data relevant to the public and in a format understandable to the public. Roy is concerned about the future and sees the 2012-2013 budget as a major time bomb. He would like to get input from the Committee on ways to share interests (joint partnership) with the teachers.

Board Member Martha Jones likes the four subcommittees the Committee has formed. She is interested in healthcare – what are some options, what are other districts doing, what are the options that are most pleasing to the most people but also meet our cost parameters? She'd like an analysis of what the impacts of different options are to Piedmont. She's interested in the Committee looking at trend analysis, alternative comparables and doing some community outreach.

Committee Member Ad Brugger asked the Board Members to express their priorities, which are summarized below:

Board Member Ray Gadbois: macro trends, comparable district analysis of total compensation, simplifying the material used to educate the public, look at a couple revenue enhancement strategies in depth.

Board Member Richard Raushenbush: the first 3 items mentioned by Ray including graphs, healthcare options, general structure of relations with teachers (merit comp, tenure, layoff by seniority or by performance?), look at information that's available (i.e. Martha Jones circulated the teacher score card).

Board member Ray Tolles: long range analysis of benefits and healthcare and Ray's first 3 items.

Board Member June Monach: agrees with Ray's items. Suggests asking the community what their questions are – get the taxpayers' perspective. Budget should be connected with goal setting.

Discussion ensued around why we are laying off our best teachers and didn't we pay a lot in parcel taxes to keep our best teachers.

Martha Jones: determine if the parcel tax should be levied and if

there should be a parcel tax increase, any ideas about changing costs or revenues is part of the Committee's purview, healthcare costs/issues/comparables and the effect on Piedmont, macro trends including revenues, expenses, FTEs, # of minimum days, "bang for the buck", and how are other districts dealing with this crisis.

General discussion ensued with the following points: the Board would like data from the Committee relevant to contract negotiations between now and September 2010. Healthcare data needs to be provided by June 2010 in order to implement any changes during the open enrollment period in October 2010. Board is interested in objective information and analysis, with different "sides" analyzed, identification of various options and effect on Piedmont analyzed.

2. Break into subcommittees for discussion; reconvene to report out

This item will be rolled over to the next Committee meeting.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:
CONSIDER FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Confirm or revise scheduled meeting for 5/6/10

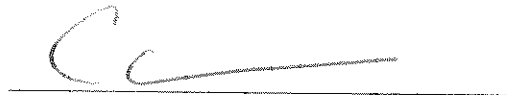
The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 6th @ 4:00 PM in the District Boardroom.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.



Jon Elliott, Chair
Citizens' Advisory Committee to the
Parcel Tax Program, Measures B & E



Catherine Ogle, Secretary
Citizens' Advisory Committee to the
Parcel Tax Program, Measures B & E