

PARADISE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
March 17, 2009
Minutes

1. OPEN SESSION

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 5:03 p.m. in the Paradise High School cafeteria.

2. ROLL CALL

All members of the Board of Trustees were present: Tom Conry, Mike Greer, Lisa Nelson, Donna Nichols, Tim Titus

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Conference with labor negotiator (Government Code §54957.6):
 - 1. Certificated negotiations regarding Teachers Association of Paradise/CTA/NEA
 - 2. Classified negotiations regarding Paradise Classified Employees Association
- B. Personnel Issues (Government Code §54957):
 - 1. Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release
- C. Conference with real property negotiator (Government Code §54956.8)
- D. Conference with legal counsel regarding existing/anticipated litigation (Government Code §54956.9)
- E. Student Issues (Education Code S35146, §48918, and §72122):
 - 1. Hearing to consider expulsion of students #1204075, #1103002
 - 2. Approval of stipulated suspended expulsion for students #1416000, #11030002

6. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session and the meeting was reconvened at 5:48 p.m.

7. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION

Action was taken regarding two student issues:

Mr. Titus moved, Mrs. Nichols seconded, to expel student #1204075, and to refer student to Honey Run Academy for the remainder of the 2008/2009 school year and the first semester of the 2009/2010 school year. Motion carried.

Mr. Titus moved, Mrs. Nelson seconded, to place student #141600 and student #1103002 on a stipulated suspended expulsion, and to refer students to Honey Run Academy for the remainder of the 2008/2009 school year. Motion carried.

9. CELEBRATIONS/RECOGNITION

10. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. SHINE Grant presentation

Susan St. Germaine, evaluator for the SHINE project handed an evaluation report to the members of the Board. Ms. St. Germaine gave a report on her evaluation.

B. Carol M. White PEP Grant report

Kristy Mullen and Sue Thompson discussed SPARK Training Update while presenting a slide show which covered SPARK curriculum, fitness fairs, jump rope events, high school special event, high school wellness room and future teacher programs.

C. Report from Student Representative

The student representative was absent.

D. Items of information from:

- 1. Paradise Intermediate School
- 2. Paradise High School
- 3. Ridgeview High School
- 4. Honey Run Academy

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judith Peters urged the board members to be thoughtful in making decisions and asked them to pare down programs instead of eliminate them.

The Board heard Cheryl Kirby who spoke in support of the music program.

Glenn Stankis presented a memo to the Board titled, "Agenda Item Requested for Board Resolution to be Sent to the Supreme Court for Validating Prop 8 and Preserving Its Benefits on Students' Education," and read it in its entirety.

Amy Behlke, teacher at Paradise Intermediate School (Evergreen 6 program) wished to acknowledge the site administrators for their hard work through difficult times. She invited the members of the Board to Paradise Intermediate School on March 30th, where a group, "Common Vision," will bring a drumming performance group up as well as members who will work to turn an unused hillside at the school into a productive fruit orchard.

Mrs. Nelson noted that a solar energy video, which has representatives from Paradise including student, Mario Visinoni, and teacher, Greg Holman, is shown on the internet. It can be found at www.100people.org.

12. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Superintendent Bylund presented a report on Building a Budget which included a Power Point presentation.

- Federal funds have been affected differently than state funds. Title I funds will be available, but will be used in different ways. Conversations are in process to determine how the Title I funds will be used. Additional IDEA funds and Federal Economic Recovery Funds will be available as well. Economic Impact Aid will be available from state funds. The current task is to balance the budget based on available information.
- Core Program for Elementary and Intermediate will include 1 Principal, 2 Custodians, 1 Principal's Secretary, 1 Health Secretary, teachers, materials and supplies and utility costs.
- Core program for high school will include 1 Principal, 2 Vice Principals, 5 Custodians, 1 Principal's Secretary, 2 Secretaries, 1 Health Secretary, teachers, materials and supplies and utility costs.
- After deducting the costs for the above items from the core budget of 20,625,831, the funds available or left over are 1,454,475
- Staff and community were polled as well as administrators to come up with sound solutions to add programs and staff back into the Core program. Class size reduction is being considered as well as reduction of office services.
- Budget challenges are:
 - To provide the best possible education for our students in the context of a federal and state budget crisis
 - To use our limited funds as effectively and efficiently as possible
 - To support our highly trained, professional staff and support personnel as they reorganize to meet the needs of students
 - To provide a long range plan to meet the challenges

13. CONSENT ITEMS:

- A. Approve fundraising request:
 1. By Paradise Elementary School PTO, to hold a silent auction on May 14, 2009
 2. By Paradise Elementary School, to sell Cookie Lee jewelry to friends and family members through April, 2009
 3. By Paradise Elementary School's 5th graders to hold a math-a-thon in March, 2009
 4. By Pine Ridge School to hold a book fair and gift wrapping, April 10-11, 2009
- B. Accept donations:
 1. By Danny Mayberry, payroll pledge to Cedarwood Elementary for \$435.36
 2. By Paul Burton, payroll pledge to PHS football, for \$480.00
 3. By Randall Hendrix, payroll pledge to PHS sports, for \$360.00
 4. By Matthew Jacobs, payroll pledge to PHS, for \$120.00
- C. Approve Monthly Personnel Report

NEW EMPLOYEES:			
Coaches (temporary)	Ron Madery		
CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT:			
Certificated employees -	Cassandra Lashbrook		
Classified employees -	Brent Taylor	Larry Thompson	Gary Tull
	Cindy Wetzal	Mike Kilpatrick	
Rehired (Continuing) Coaches at PHS, Temporary:			
	James (Sonnie) Dance	Brianne Stanley	Ryan Logelin
	Seth Roberts		
Classified Employees who have reached in-district status:			
	Linda Pittenger (Confidential Employee)		

- D. Approve Payroll and Vendor Claims

- E. Permission for Retired Teachers Association, Paradise Chapter, to plant a tree at Ponderosa Elementary School, in memory of Barbara Darling
- F. Approve board minutes for:
 1. Special meeting of February 3, 2009
 2. Special meeting of February 10, 2009
 3. Regular meeting of February 17, 2009

Mr. Titus moved, Mr. Conry seconded, to approve all items on consent agenda. Motion carried.

The Board took a brief recess.

14. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Second reading and approval of job description for In-School Suspension (ISS) Liaison (.25 FTE)

Mr. Conry moved, Mrs. Nichols seconded, to approve the job description for In-School Suspension Liaison. Motion carried.

- B. Approve school calendar for the 2009/2010 school year

Superintendent Bylund recommended an August 10 (teachers), August 11 (students) calendar in order to minimize the different lengths between the first semester and the second semester. A later start date would make one semester 16 days longer than the other. He also suggested to the Board that a committee be created immediately to come up with a three year calendar for the future.

A lengthy discussion regarding the beginning date for the school year developed. Some felt school should begin after labor day. Beginning dates presented were August 10, August 17, and August 24, 2009. Others explained that the school year should begin early to coincide with testing at the secondary level and to align with other school districts in the area.

TAP President, Donna McDonald indicated that the majority recommendation of the teachers was to begin school on August 17th.

Board member, Lisa Nelson noted that from a parent perspective, the early start date of August 10 was too early. She would prefer to see school begin later, closer to Labor Day.

Carol Kirk, teacher at PHS spoke in favor of the August 10 start date.

Amy Behlke, teacher at Paradise Intermediate School spoke regarding the calendar options. She stated that there are positive and negative aspects to both calendars. She is most in favor of starting school on August 17th.

Jan Hillskemper spoke, in favor of the August 17th start date, from the perspective of an elementary school teacher.

Judith Peters, parent, addressed the Board and was in favor of April 17th start date.

Tamara Conry, teacher at Paradise Intermediate school indicated that she does not have a personal choice. She did indicate that even if books are turned in at the end of the year, teachers are still teaching.

Debbie Spencer, parent, asked the Board to consider the August 17th start date.

Dan LaVerne asked if PCEA's voice could be heard. Becky Neville, PCEA President stated that PCEA was not asked to vote on a calendar choice. Her personal choice would be the August 17th start date.

Mr. Greer stated that ADA is a prime consideration.

Board member, Tom Conry suggested that because it is late in the year, it would be a good idea to keep next year's calendar in line with this year's calendar and that in the future, it would be a good idea to establish a calendar for a three year period.

Mr. Greer moved in favor of beginning school on August 17, 2009. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion. Mrs. Nichols, Mr. Conry and Mr. Titus were opposed. By a 2 – 3 vote of the Board the motion was denied.

Mr. Conry moved to approve the calendar that was presented, beginning school on August 11th, 2009. Mr. Titus seconded the motion. Mr. Greer and Mrs. Nelson were opposed. By a 3 – 2 vote of the Board the motion was carried.

- C. Request by Beth Paterson to reduce her workload to 80% for the 2009/2010 school year

Mrs. Nichols moved, Mr. Conry seconded, to approve the reduced workload request by Beth Paterson. Motion carried.

D. Second reading and approval of Health Secretary job description

Mr. Titus moved, Mrs. Nichols seconded, to approve the job description for Health Secretary. Motion carried.

E. Request to share a 2nd/3rd grade contract for the 2009/2010 school year by Cheryl McKalip and Camellia Home at Cedarwood Elementary School.

Mr. Conry moved, Mr. Titus seconded, to approve the request by Cheryl McKalip and Camellia Home to share a contract for the 2009/2010 school year. Motion carried.

F. Second Interim Report of Financial Stability

Mr. Titus moved, Mr. Conry seconded to approve the Second Interim Report of Financial Stability as presented. Motion carried.

G. Approve request by Jim Mullen of Pine Ridge School, to take students to Mendocino for a four day, three night camping study trip, from May 6 through May 9, 2009.

Mr. Mullen spoke about his past experiences with the Mendocino field trip and how positive the experience was for his students.

Mr. Titus moved, Mr. Conry seconded to approve the field trip request by Mr. Mullen. Motion carried.

H. Agreement for Professional Services by Fagen, Friedman & Fulfrost

Mr. Titus moved, Mrs. Nichols moved to approve the agreement for professional services by Fagen, Friedman & Fulfrost as presented. Motion carried.

I. Early Retirement Options

Two options were offered. Those options were Early Retiree Incentive of \$10,000 and a Golden Handshake, which includes 2 years credit. Different scenarios and retirement number assumptions were discussed.

Mr. Titus indicated that without knowing how many people would retire and not knowing what the actual cost would be, it may be too much of a cost risk to the District at this time.

Mr. Greer stated that the money must be spent considering the best interest of the students. The Board is faced with a very tough decision, not knowing what's going to happen at the state level. There is no question that teachers have put their heart and soul into their job for many years, but he doesn't feel, as a member of the Board, that a golden handshake can be afforded at this time.

After some discussion the Board decided to table the item to the meeting to be held on March 24th, at 4:30 p.m. No action was taken.

J. Additions to Core Program / Budget Reductions

Superintendent Bylund stated that the purpose of this item is to continue to review budget information, receive public comment, consider additions to core programs and budget reductions. The administrators have met with staff, parents, and the community to gather input on essential services to establish a core educational program. All groups contributed input on what additional services, personnel, and programs should be added to the core program as funds are available. The State of California has passed a budget for 08/09 and 09/10 and with that information the District has established the cost of the core program and what additional funds are available to provide more services, personnel and programs. The information given this evening will provide costs for those identified additional programs. The District continues to wait for specific and concrete information on the amount of funds available to PUSD through the federal legislation recently passed. The possible uses of those funds are not yet clear.

A list of Additions to the Core / Reductions was submitted to the Board.

President Greer stated that he would like to see the Fusion and music programs reinstated and included into the core program.

Mr. Titus stated that he feels counseling should be part of the core and there will need to be some trimming of the department. The program will need to be trimmed and determination made as to what types of services are needed most.

Mr. Conry stated that when items are added back into the program it is not in order of importance or preference. The Board will put back as much as is possible. He stated that a music program should be continued, and he would support bringing back the entire music program.

Mr. Schofield, music teacher at PHS described the grant for the Fusion program and how the program is funded.

Mrs. Nelson made a motion to add the Fusion program at the high school and the music program at the Intermediate School back into the core. Mr. Conry said he will second the motion if it includes the music and art teacher for 4/6 grades.

After some discussion and explanation of the programs by Superintendent Bylund and Mr. Schofield, Mrs. Nelson amended the motion to reinstate the Fusion program at the high school and the music program at the Intermediate School as well as the music and art prep time coverage for elementary grades as needed. Mr. Conry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Bylund stated that this motion covers three full time positions.

President Greer invited public comment.

Alison Wagner, private citizen and retired credentialed school librarian, spoke of the value of libraries for children and the importance of the library specialists' positions.

Jan Reale, teacher at Paradise Elementary School, presented a slide show regarding the importance of class size reduction.

Susanne Davis, parent, addressed the Board representing Paradise pre-school. She spoke in support of the program.

The Board heard Susan Check, teacher at Pine Ridge School, as she spoke about how much she valued her kindergarten teaching partner as well as her instructional aide in the classroom and would hate to lose either of them. She also explained to the Board that the state does not give the District money for extended day kindergarten, and that the program is just an expense.

Fran Main, former PUSD Board member for 23 years, spoke in support of the band program. She spoke of her support for the Board and appreciation for their time.

Amy Behlke, teacher at Paradise Intermediate School addressed the Board. She spoke regarding the value of the school counselors, the health techs at the school sites and how often she as a teacher requires their services.

Pat Witt, parent, spoke in support of small learning communities, counselors, band and innovative programs.

Donna McDonald, respectfully requested that at the next meeting decisions are made, as it is so difficult for teachers, principals, parents and students to move on without knowing what is going to happen.

President Greer stated making decisions will be the purpose of the next meeting.

15. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. District Income and Expense Report

B. Retiree Health Coverage Review

At the Board's request, Mrs. Stutznegger brought the policy back with wording changes for Board review.

16. BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Mr. Greer addressed an issue of students being allowed to get on a bus whether or not they have a bus ticket or bus pass. He stated that the ADA loss would be greater than the cost of the bus pass. If it is an ongoing problem it needs to be addressed, but students should not be denied bus transportation because they do not have a pass. Mr. Greer requested information.

Mr. Bylund indicated that the Administration will respond positively to Mr. Greer's request. He will also come back with a detailed plan on the value of bus passes and the expenses involved in maintaining them vs. what PUSD collects in terms of revenue. Also, ideas of how to reconcile this issue in the future will be reported.

Mr. Greer asked how the Adult School is funded.

Mrs. Stutznegger stated that Adult School receives ADA, but at approximately one-half the rate of a regular student.

17. FUTURE BOARD ITEMS

Mr. Bylund stated that the Board will meet next Tuesday, Open Session at 4:30. Agenda items will be Additions to Core Programs / Budget Reductions and Retirement Incentives.

Mrs. Nichols asked if the Board can be prepared to discuss potential litigation during closed session at the March 24th meeting of the Board.

Mr. Titus requested a clear breakdown of Early Retirement Options for the meeting.

18. ADJOURNMENT

President Greer adjourned the meeting at 10:58 p.m.