

PACIFIC GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2008

The Board of Education of the Pacific Grove Unified School District held a meeting on September 4th at the Pacific Grove High School Library.

I. OPENED BUSINESS

A. Called to Order 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call President: Mike Niccum
Clerk: Beth Shammass
Members Present: Jessie Bray
Bill Phillips
Tony Sollecito
Administration Present: Ralph Porras
Robin Blakley (arrived 6:45 p.m.)
Board Recorder: Laura Emerson
Student Board Member Present: Brandon Cepress (arrived 6:50 p.m.)

C. Adopted Agenda

Porras suggested that Information/Discussion Item C (PGMS/PGHS Course Load Update) follow Action/Discussion Item B (Review of Enrollment).

MOTION Bray/Sollecito to adopt agenda as amended.

Public comment: none

Motion CARRIED 5 – 0

D. Identified Closed Session Topics

Personnel Matter

E. Public comment on Closed Session items

F. Adjourned to Closed Session 6:33 p.m.

II. CLOSED SESSION

III. RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION 7:10 p.m.

A. Reported action taken in Closed Session

Personnel matter
No action taken

Board President Mike Niccum asked for a moment of silence in memory of Joel Woods and Les Goode.

B. Pledge of Allegiance pledge recited

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Written Communication

Bray received a thank you letter from the PG Natural History Museum for the membership dues which she willingly pays on behalf of the school district. She also received information about a story writing contest through the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

Phillips received an email from the Brian Wood family about their concerns over the traffic issue.

B. Board Member Comments

Cepress said the theme for this year's Homecoming will be "Technologic" and now they are working on what that will look like. The first home football game is September 13th (at MPC). The Leadership class will be running the concession stand to raise money for ASB activities. They will also be participating in the Juvenile Diabetes Walk to Cure and selling nachos at the Butterfly Bazaar. The Film Club is a new club on campus this year. They hope to improve their film editing skills and discuss favorite films. This year's inductees into the PG Alumni Hall of Fame are Iva Cory Heitz (Class of '68), John Miller (Class of '71), Bryndol Sones, (Class of '83), Miguel de los Rios (Class of '92) and Mike Ottmar, Honorary Graduate. They hope to have the honorees represented on the Homecoming Float. The Senior Picnic is September 15th. He mentioned Phillip's idea of burying a time capsule (on the 50 yard line of the football field) to his leadership team and they think it's a good idea.

Bray read portions of a newspaper article about the Weston Photography Scholarship event, sponsored by the Carmel Art Association. She noted the following winners: Third place to Angelica Bongioanni; Honorable mention: Brandon Cepress, Lilly Shevling, Jade Suyematsu, Robbi Lee, Michael Martinez, Alyssa Synstebey, Keely Scates and Samantha Sanders. "We are all grieving over the accident that occurred last week....What more can we do to protect our students?"

Cepress said photography teacher, Mr. Kelly is very encouraging, that he always has time to go over their prints and offer assistance.

Sollecito continues to be pleased with the progress of Measure D projects.

C. Superintendent Report

Porras acknowledged everyone at the Middle School for their sensitive handling of the tragedy that occurred in front of the school on Tuesday. He continues his every Thursday visits to the sites and invited Board members to join him. MCOE is offering governance training, facilitated by Lozano Smith, to all Board members. He passed out a recent CSBA Alert and a news release from ACSA, both giving a snapshot of the current state budget situation. He will be attending a legislative caucus in San Francisco on Friday and Saturday as one of three representatives for the area.

V. INDIVIDUALS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mary Riedel is in awe of how her entire staff supervised 400 kids in the gym on Tuesday to keep them sheltered from the emergency situation that was occurring in front of the school. The new custodian, Randall Withrow, witnessed the accident and responded quickly by signaling a passing fire truck so first responders were immediately on the scene. As a result of the very supportive and caring Pacific Grove community, students are calm and teachers are being offered all the

support they need in whatever way they need. Jacob's special education teacher visited him at home and he seems to be doing well under the circumstances. There was a prayer vigil in front of the school this morning and Mrs. Woods attended. There is going to be a memorial service in a couple weeks but she did not have all the details. Also, a fund is being established for the two Woods boys.

Wendell Nuss thanked the Board on behalf of the Music Boosters. There are a few issues to be worked out but the band will be there for the Butterfly Parade, and football games. He looks forward to another fine year of the music program.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes of August 21, 2008 Board of Education Regular Meeting
- B. Certificated Assignment Order # 2
- C. Classified Assignment Order # 2
- D. Acceptance of Donations
- E. Approval of Vacation Contracts for Before and After School Program (BASRP)
- F. Renegotiated Contract for Occupational Therapy Services
- G. Contract for Speech Therapy Services and Assessment
- H. Contract for Services – Sarah Paff
- I. Approval of Contract for Services with IMPACT
- J. Out of State/Overnight

Shammas said that with the retirement of Mike Sheffer and the resignation of Nicole Meschi, she is concerned about hiring a new food services director without reviewing where the food services program is and whether we should continue to have a School Nutrition Director. Blakley responded that Meschi is writing a report concerning the status of the department and what needs to still be done in terms of continuing to improve the district's food service program. Meschi has also offered that she will be available to assist in the transition to a new director.

MOTION Sollecito/Bray to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Public comment: none

Motion CARRIED 5 - 0

VII. ACTION/DISCUSSION

- A. Approval of Revised BP #1312.3, Regulation and Exhibit

Mankey said the revisions are merely updating the forms and that copies are available at all sites.

MOTION Phillips/Shammas to approve the revisions to Regulations, and Exhibits #1312.3 and new Exhibit #1312.3 (a).

Public comment: none

Motion CARRIED 5 - 0

- B. Review of Enrollment

Blakley reviewed the enrollment data, that there are no significant changes. The Board discussed this item.

C. Approval of Topics for City/District Public Meeting

It was agreed to add the Sunset Drive crosswalk project (going out to bid in October, according to the City Traffic Engineer) to the discussion list under a new heading of "Pedestrian and Traffic Safety."

Porras will contact Jim Colangelo about a new tentative date of October 7th at 7:00 p.m. Sollecito asked that a general ConnectEd announcement be sent to remind parents about the meeting. Porras will ask principals to send out a message to parents about being safe with dropping off and picking up their children.

Linda Williams commended the PG Traffic Commission, that she has attended their meetings with an urgent need and received immediate action. Last year they installed two signs on Junipero, and crosswalks at Spruce and 13th Street. "We are on the agenda for next Tuesday regarding further improvements to our pedestrian walkways on Pine Avenue, to see what we can do to make it better. I encourage you to get a small group of parents together and go to these Traffic Commission meetings." When she heard of a pedestrian study that the City was conducting on September 15 and 16, she asked if the walkways around her school could be part of that study.

D. 2008/09 General Fund Budget Revision #2

Blakley discussed revisions to the General Fund, including carryovers and justifications for either keeping the funds in those accounts or using them to restore the property tax reserve and the 3% reserve.

**MOTION Shammas/Sollecito to approve the proposed budget revisions as presented.
Public comment: none
Motion CARRIED 5 - 0**

E. Parcel Tax Expenditure Review

Blakley said the idea of reallocating a portion of the Technology budget from the 2008-09 parcel tax to fund the music program and classroom aides in the 4th and 5th grades was discussed by Management who were not supportive of the idea because of the continuing need for technology funding.

Shammas said she was concerned that no parcel tax funding is allocated to music in the current budget and that did not seem to be consistent with the parcel tax ballot language.

Bruce Cates explained why the technology budget does not have any identifying needs listed at this time, only because that they create their list in September; it is always a long list and the money is stretched as far as possible. "We understand the whole budget process and will work with whatever is required of us."

Niccum wants to see a music budget or expenditure plan to find out how much money is required from the general fund. Shammas will support what administration recommends. Porras said SIP dollars are funding aides at Robert Down and Forest Grove.

**MOTION Sollecito/Shammas to reallocate \$2,500 from the Technology allocation portion of the Parcel Tax Expenditure for the Music Budget enhancement on the condition that prior to the funds being spent, the Board reviews the expenditure plan.
Public comment: none
Motion CARRIED 5 - 0**

MOTION Bray/Shammas that instructional aide time for Forest Grove and Robert Down at two hours per day per site for a cost of \$16,000 be moved from the K-12 Technology Plan.

Public comment: none

Motion FAILED 1 - 4

F. Measure D Oversight Committee

MOTION Bray/Phillips to appoint Henry Nigos and Joe Shammas to the Measure D Oversight Committee.

Public comment: none

Motion CARRIED 5 - 0

G. Board Calendar/Future Meetings

Niccum requested administration provide the Board with a tentative Board meeting calendar through the rest of the school year.

VIII. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Subcommittee Reports

Community Human Services

Phillips is currently reviewing information about Community Human Services. He read in the newspaper that they provided counseling services during the recent tragedy at the Middle School.

City/District

(This item was previously discussed.)

ROP

The difficulty in having the time to attend these meetings was discussed.

B. Measure D Projects Status Report and Construction Master Planning

Blakley said there have been many proposed change orders on the stadium project. With approximately \$200,000 of additional costs, certain architectural features (including the trellis at the entrance of the stadium) had to be dropped, much to the architect's disappointment.

Regarding the District Office project, the soil condition is a serious concern. Test results are "poor to very poor" in compactness, requiring significant reconfiguration to the original plan. The best solution is to dig up all the soil, then firmly compact it. The site is still buildable but will require more money being spent to prepare the area. A report should be coming to the Board in October.

C. PGMS-PGHS Course Load Update

Mankey said that after meeting with Bell this week to review the High School course load, there are no major concerns with the class sizes. Two students dropped out of the English class, bringing the enrollment to 34 students, which is in line with the contract.

To Phillips's inquiry about identifying the index to measure enrollment ratios in order to determine what class size creates the most successful educational environment, Porras replied

that this is something that has eluded educators for years. “It’s hard to nail down because it’s a human business.” Many variables other than class size will affect successful instruction.

Bell said the English and math class sizes will be an ongoing discussion, further influenced by the Middle School course content “forcing” the High School to offer higher level courses as students enter at a more advanced level.

(At 9:58 p.m. MOTION Bray/Phillips to extend the meeting to no later than 10:30 p.m.; motion CARRIED 5 – 0)

D. Reconfiguration

Following discussion, Bray said it is time to move forward with reconfiguration. Phillips recalled that during his visit to the Washington Union School District, teachers said they fought against change in the beginning and now they love the total collaboration that occurred with the reconfiguration. Sollecito said the benefits are outstanding and the challenges are minor. Niccum said he participated in the last reconfiguration committee which concluded that to gain public support, reconfiguration should improve the education program and or save money. He added his belief that the parents will support reconfiguration if the teachers support it. Bray said, “Do it gently, but do it.”

With Board members agreeing to move ahead with reconfiguration, Porras said he wants to first discuss the matter with management. After talking with management, he would like to talk with teachers, meeting them at a time that is convenient with their schedules then plan a Special Session that would also include Measure D since it is possible the elementary schools may need to modify their re/construction plans to accommodate the change in student grade levels.

IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

Reconfiguration

B. Future Agenda Items

tba

Bell Schedule
Green District
Instructional Minutes/Instructional Day
Measure D Special Sessions
Open Campus
Sufficient Textbooks

X. ADJOURNED

10:30 p.m.