

City of Palo Alto

Date: September 1, 2010

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF September 1, 2010Opening

The City/School Committee held a special meeting in the Council Conference Room at 250 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto. The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m.

* All handouts can be viewed in the City Manager's Office 7th Floor 250 Hamilton Ave.

City of Palo Alto Representatives Present:

Greg Schmid, Chair of Committee, Council Member
 Nancy Shepherd, Council Member
 Steve Emslie, Deputy City Manager
 Rob De Geus, Community Services Division Manager of Recreation
 Jaime Rodriguez, Chief Transportation Official
 Katie Whitley, Administrative Assistant

Palo Alto Unified School District Representatives Present:

Camille Townsend, Board Member
 Dana Tom, Board Member
 Cathy Mack, CBO
 Bob Golton, CBO and Bond Manager
 Debbra Lindo, Secondary Education Director
 Amy Drolette, Student Services Coordinator

Public

Penny Ellson, PTAC Traffic Safety
 Becky Sanders, St. Mark Advocates for Youth
 Chris Kenrick, PA Weekly

Oral Communications

There were no oral communications.

Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2010

MOTION: Tom moved to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2010 meeting. Shepherd seconded. Minutes were approved 4-0

Chair Schmid changed the order of the agenda. Item 6 moved to item 4.

Review of Recent City Council/PAUSD Board Meetings

Tom said the PAUSD Board met at a retreat in August to discuss the goal/priorities for the year. Townsend said they going to meet again to finalize the goals and vote on them but one item that is of interest is emotional health. She also said the elementary school enrollment numbers appear to be up but will know more after the 11th day projection.

Chair Schmid said he'd read an article in the paper about the enrollment numbers in the elementary schools increasing and wanted to make sure that when the report on the housing element goes to Council in October, the demographer uses the same numbers.

Tom said the report from the demographer will not come out until January. Golton said the state uses the 1st Wednesday in October numbers for the projections for the year.

Chair Schmid said he would like to agendaize the 11th day enrollment projections and the housing element for the September 22 meeting.

Townsend said that 15 new administrators came to PAUSD over the summer and while it is a lot of transition, it is very exciting.

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Chair Schmid said there is a ballot measure on the November election to move the Council elections to even number years.

Townsend said there would be some impact on the District since we share election cycles.

Shepherd said it is on the ballot and no longer in Council's hands and it will be up to the voters at this point. She said the Council passed it 5-4 at the last meeting before Council went on break.

Update on Teen Mental Health

Emslie introduced Rob De Geus who has been working on this issue for the City. Golton introduced Debra Lindo, Secondary Education Director and Amy Drollet, Coordinator of Student Services who replaced Zepecki and are working for PAUSD on this issue.

De Geus said the Project Safety Net executive committee had a retreat yesterday that Kevin Skelly was able to attend. He said they identified 3 goals for this year.

1. A Sustainable Structure for Project Safety Net. They have asked every member of the committee to define what they are doing this year
2. 41 Developmental Assets- every adult is an asset builder
3. Gate Keeper Training – they would like to see all youth serving agencies have at least 3 hour training in this area

Shepherd asked if Project Safety Net was cued into a group called Parent Network. The idea is to have every class build a network in an informal way. It starts when the kids enter elementary school and continue to graduation from high school. De Geus said they had not heard of it but would be contacting them to get involved.

Drollet said she liked that the City and PAUSD are interwoven. She added that the retreat really put the priorities in place.

Townsend asked if Project Safety Net had members from the faith/medical/media and non-profit community. De Geus said yes but they are asking if they have the right members mobilized. He said for example that Palo Alto Medical University want to be plugged in but we don't know how they would fit in yet. He also said that they are not plugged into private schools and plan to reach out to them.

Shepherd said she though going to the PTA President's meeting would be a good idea for the Project Safety Net executive committee.

De Geus wanted to mention that the temporary teen center located at Cubberley had 55 kids the first day and thinks it is going very well.

Townsend said she wanted to let everyone know that some of the Black and White Ball funds raised would be going to Project Safety Net.

Chair Schmid said Project Safety Net has transitioned from emergency to ongoing structural and that is very important. He thanked them for their efforts.

Back to School

Golton said it was a great start and he hasn't seen us more optimistic. They hired new administrators and some new teachers. He said they finished all the construction projects that needed to be finished before the start of school including the 4 new classes at Ohlone and the set up of the portables. He said they also awarded contract to start work on 12 new (green) classes at Ohlone.

Townsend said there are 5 new principals this year that have either been brought in or moved around and they have already made put their stamp on their school.

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Mak said that they have rolled out a new student data system called infinite campus. IT is still working on the auto dialer feature but it should be rolled out this week. She also reported out that this year the District did a residency check on all 9th graders and there are still about 30 students that haven't gotten their paperwork in.

Chair Schmid said there has been an increase in the enrollment numbers in elementary schools over the past 5 or 6 years and wondered if the private schools have had the same increase and if we track their enrollment as well.

Golton said we do not track their enrollment.

Tom wanted to point out that the new software system that just rolled out is one integrated system rather than the multiple systems they were using before.

Traffic Safety Update

Emslie introduced the new Chief Transportation Official, Jaime Rodriguez. He said this was to give a general overview on the department and some projects. This item on the agenda is not to replace the annual Safe Routes to School item that is scheduled for the October meeting.

Rodriguez said he loves that we have a supportive community. The first project he wanted to talk about was the Arastradero Corridor improvements. He said the traffic calming and left turn lanes project was implemented this week. He said he has spent some time on the corridor and noticed a spike in traffic between 7:25 and 7:50. He said there has been positive feedback but he will continue to monitor. A community meeting will be scheduled on October 12th or 13th to hear from residents on this matter. He also noted that Transportation will be pursuing an application for a grant funding opportunity to make the trial improvements permanent including the installation of landscaped median island with shaded trees..

He said another area he wanted to cover was California Ave speed tables. The speed tables were installed over the weekend and that they were being painted with pavement markings today. He also noted new Sharrows being installed on the street which are 1.5 times larger than regular bike lane stenciling and are for the encouragement of "Sharing of the Road". He said in the bike plan they are developing they plan to use more sharrows.

Tom asked how a sharrow differs from a bike lane. Rodriguez said a bike lane is a dedicated lane 5-7ft in width marked by a solid line parallel to the curb. A sharrow is not a dedicated lane but a reminder to share the road.

Rodriguez noted that Transportation will be applying for a \$500k Suggested Route to School Program grant through the Valley Transportation Authority – Vehicle Emissions Reduction by Schools (VERBS) program. The grant, if received, would be used to tie together the various existing programs implemented by the City under one umbrella and include the development of Suggested Route to School maps, education materials, and benchmarking equipment including permanent count stations near schools to determine pattern changes in bike/ped activity.

Rodriguez said the goal of the Suggested Route to School program would be to develop and disseminate consistent information citywide and identify best practices for deployment in the City.

Chair Schmid asked if there was a way to distinguish the numbers from the substantial expansion on Arastradero and back to school. Rodriguez said yes, because the City collected traffic data at the end of the last school year that will serve as a comparison when new traffic data for post-construction begins in late-September.

Shepherd said she'd received 2 emails on Arastradero one saying it was a terrible project and one loving it. She said it seems like the project is very much in balance.

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Rodriguez said whenever he gets emails or calls and he responds back with a call he makes sure to tell people to wait and see until everything has been implemented to form your opinion of the project but encourages people to let him know since this is a trial.

Rodriguez also said that there is a \$400K grant earmarked to replace traffic signals. He said with the current signals and the interruption of the trains it takes about 7-8 cycles for the signals to reset. With the new signals, they will reset after one cycle.

Future Meetings and Agendas

The next meeting is scheduled for September 22. On the agenda will be

1. 11th day enrollment projections/housing element
2. Update on High Speed Rail
3. Update on Teen Mental Health and Track Watch

The October meeting is dedicated to the Safe Routes to School Update.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.