

**Point Loma Cluster Schools Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2009**

Introduction of Executive Board

Christy Scadden

Christy Scadden	President
Polly Traylor	Vice President
Karen Barton	Marketing
April Dorman	Learning Communities
Teresa Drew	Treasurer
Vicki Moats	ITC
Matt Spathas	ITC
Julie Cramer	District Relations
Marvin Estrin	Learning Environment
Shelli Kurth	Secretary

Quorum Established (21)

Overview of PLCSF

Polly Traylor/Christy Scadden

See cluster website

Business:

Bylaw Changes:

Teresa Drew

- Address Change: to PO Box 7866, San Diego, Ca 92167
- 4.3.12 Change: to district staff (from school superintendents)
- Change: First meeting of the year changes to the first Monday of October (from 2nd Monday of September.)
- Change: Meeting dates: First Monday of October, November, January, February, March and May
- Change: Bylaws Amended Date to October 5, 2009 (from May 2008)
- Resolution for our authorized number of people on the board is 21

Motion to approve changes to the bylaws: Vicki Moats

Second: Andrea Justis

Motion passed

Motion to approve minutes from May 2009 general meeting: Andrea Justis

Second: Polly Traylor

Motion passed

Reports:

Cluster Governance

Matt Spathas

- Cluster governance being discussed at district level. Hope that PLCS can model a synced type of cluster governance.
- Our cluster gets certain things first (or only) due to our cohesiveness
- Looking at different models of cluster governance: Charter is one option, Extreme cluster governance with control of our own budget (under district guidelines)
- There are other ideas out there that we are waiting to explore

- Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teacher Union being discussed right now with board.
- Worthwhile for schools to get smarter about what is going on.

- PLCS talked to the board asking for the negotiations to be transparent. Due to our urging the board has agreed.

Prop S

Matt Spathas

- PLCS was critical in the wording and passing of prop s
- What has happened due to Prop S so far....
- 3rd and 6th and 9th get 1 to 1 laptop and promethean boards in the classrooms. Broadband included in all the laptops so digital divide is solved.
- All schools are getting new technology wireless
- Go to www.sandi.net/i2/ to find out more information about Prop S
- As curriculum becomes web based we can get teachers out of inventing lesson plans and manually correcting things there will be more time for the students.
- 10% of PLHS are taking courses online this year (including credit recovery)

Websites

Matt Spathas

- District has chosen a different provider that some of our cluster schools will try beginning Nov. 1
- This provider website is not as deep and not ready for our “big” users (like PLHS)
- Some schools will be using Educational Networks with the district paying half this year. Expires June 30th and then we will have to re-evaluate
- If you have already paid for this year email Matt Spathas and he will make sure you get paid.

Mandarin Program

- Barnard goes K-5 this year and then K-6
- They will filter into Dana, Correia and PLHS with the continued Magnet language class as well as a world language elective.
- We are working Confucius Institute at San Diego State to bring teachers to other cluster schools offering Mandarin and possibly send our teachers to China.

Cluster

- Other schools are trying to form models similar to ours
- John Lee Evans (Board Member) is encouraging the schools he represents to organize in groups like ours. We have representatives going to those meetings to help them get established

Principal Meetings

Diane Ryan

- Ideas that Came from Principal Meeting:
 1. Get a gate team leader from each of our 10 schools to figure out how we can hold 3 or 4 GATE meetings pushing up the cluster
 2. Doing something similar for K-12 Special Education..
 3. Menu of workshops and presenters
 4. Collaborative input from staff and parents will create the program
 5. 3. Training for our elementary library techs (via Barbara Forester at Dana) to be able to do more teaching/learning in the library
 6. 4. More cross school visitation (examples: visit 5th grade at Dana so that the elementary schools know what the students need to prepare for.
 7. Lots of positive energy and spirit of collaboration

Sub Committee Updates

Treasurer:

- Balance 10/5/09: \$610.50

- Upcoming Costs:
 1. Liability Insurance Cost TBD
 2. CA Statement of Information (yearly charge for a foundation filing fee)
\$20.00

ITC Vicki

- Eblasts on 1st and the 15th from the cluster
- Make your school eblast as specific to your school as possible and use cluster eblasts for others.
- If there is anything great going on at your school pass on to Vicki for our cluster eblasts. We want to brag about our cluster schools
- All cluster schools are using eblasts except for Dewey and Cabrillo
- Sunset View parents are concerned that kindergarten parents don't know about eblasts. At parent president meeting we will discuss how to get this information out to all parents.

Learning Communities **April Dorman**

- Two very vibrant and active groups involved: GATE and Special Ed
- Goals for this year:
 1. Professional Development --to make Professional Development meaningful to our teachers and students
 2. English Language Learners—getting this population to be more active and involved

Learning Environment **Marvin Estrin**

PRIORITY 1: Establish and enforce behavioral expectations

Payoff: The character development programs initiated in our elementary schools and continuing in the middle schools are paying off! Dana, Correia, and Pt. Loma High School have indicated that the campus behavior is much improved over prior years. In the 2009/ 2010 budget process, formula funds for Campus Security – which was not needed at Dana and Correia – were better utilized for full-time Librarians, health care, and operational staffing.

Elementary School Character Development Coaches: Coach Geoff McCloud (Silver Gate) is taking the lead and will be getting the cluster elementary schools together to select five core values worthy of our attention as a cluster. Each school can then focus on one core value each month during the school year. In this manner, our students will have similar behavioral expectations when they come together at Dana Middle School. The coaches will also brainstorm the most effective ways of reaching our kids with these values.

Dana Middle School implemented the John Wooden Pyramid of Success program last year. Language Arts teachers incorporated “character traits” into their narrative units; and plan to expand upon the use of the content during the 2009-10 school year. The material appears in the planner, was discussed during behavioral assemblies, and will be part of the P.E. curriculum.

Correia Middle School

Mini-Electives at Correia: Students who are achieving at or above grade level in English Arts and Math, as evidenced by the California Standards Test, are able to enroll in a daily 30-minute “mini-elective.” Students not yet performing at

grade level will receive extra time and support from English Language Arts and Math teachers during the daily 30-minutes allocated for mini-electives. The goal of both teachers and students is that every child becomes eligible to participate in the selection of a mini-elective as a result of academic achievement. Mini-electives are scheduled during a student's advisory period. Some of the mini-electives will run for 9 weeks; others for a semester. Students were asked to select their top three choices, and every attempt possible was made to place students in one of their top three electives.

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) This Federal grant program is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP serves an entire cohort of students beginning in the seventh grade and follows the cohort through high school.

Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) provides the information and tools that parents, especially low-income immigrants need, to become more involved in their children's education. PIQE believes that parent involvement begins at home and must continue at the schools—that every child is in crisis if their parent/guardian is not engaged with them at home and in the schools. Through the 9-week PIQE training program, parents learn how to improve their child's performance in the classroom, enhance the parent/child relationship, motivate their child to stay in school, and identify steps to help their child attend college.

Pt. Loma High School

Link Crew: Link Crew is a school community-building program, where the experience of successful upperclassmen can help guide and support freshmen. At the same time these upperclassmen gain leadership experience. The program aims to increase academic achievement and increase interaction among the grade levels. The upperclassmen chosen for these posts are selected based on communications skills, responsibility, self-confidence, organization and enthusiasm.

PRIORITY 2: Increase the safety of students arriving and departing school

We have initiated traffic discussions with the City of San Diego Traffic Engineer responsible for Pt. Loma; and gradually developing a relationship. We are starting with Dana and Correia Middle Schools; since there are several serious issues that need to be resolved ASAP.

Kerri de Rosier, Monte Swann, Stephanie Woodle and Marvin Estrin began meeting with our Principals last Spring to finalize the issues relating to traffic safety at each cluster school; and will continue that process this Fall.

Fundraising/Marketing

Karen Barton/Polly Traylor

Goals

1. Basic operations like insurance
2. Develop a list of projects to fundraise for (websites?)

Most other schools in the state have an overarching foundation that fundraises for all of their schools

Hoping schools don't see it as "competition" but as supplementing each schools income.

Lots of community support for example: Fresh and Easy, Jamba Juice

Go Green **Polly Traylor**

Axle Cramer is starting a Green Club at PLHS. There will be many Green projects happening there

See Polly Traylor if you have any questions regarding Urban Corps recycling programs.

Blood Drive

Are we interested in having a Blood Drive for Cluster with anyone affiliated with the cluster being able to use the blood from the blood bank.

Michelle Huburt willing to chair this position as long as there is cooperation from all schools.

PLHS

- New structure being built
- State of the art music center on upper floor and State of the art Motion Picture Center on the bottom floor.
- 9 merit scholars from PLHS
- 47 AP classes offered now.
- LINK program offered
- Counseling center is offering new programs (grief counseling one day a week)

Barnard:

- High School Graduates from Confucius Institute working with Barnard. If any other schools want to use them the PTA paying for lunch only.