

Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
November 7, 2011

Roll call: Quorum Met

Robert Dorsey motioned to approve the agenda, Sandy McClure second, motion passes

Treasurer's Report – Marvin Estrin

Matt: (See attachment)

Voting guidelines for the board members. Bylaws issue. Present to vote, by proxy?

Equity into voting. HS 1/3 of the vote. Middle school, 1/3 of the vote,

Do we want to continue as a non-profit or become an agency?

Delving into policy may be murky waters for a non-profit.

Synergistic.

Q&A

Do we want to be a communication organization or a policy-oriented organization

3. School Board Update, Scott Barnett

Presentation on Power Point.

The only facility in our cluster being looked at for closure is Barnard. The facility would be closed and the program would be moved.

There will be a meeting at Barnard on the 17th to discuss the future of Barnard's program.

Sobering Realities Ahead:

Shortfall will be closer to \$75million. Part of that cost is the fact that the five day furlough day is set to end at the end of this year. Negotiated salary increase that will also be in effect in January. This is all part of the increase in our shortfall. "Step in column". These are legally obligated costs.

Threat of mid-year cuts of \$30million. We will know this within the next month or so. We would have to make those cuts by June, and it's almost impossible. We'll likely have to roll it over to next fiscal year.

Major cuts over the past five/six years, haven't helped.

Charts put together by SI Kowba. 92% of our budget is people and benefits. Whenever we deal with what to cut, most of the concessions are in that area. Transportation and cuts by teachers, but as we know transportation cuts were voted against at the last BOE meeting.

In order to make the proposed cuts, employee concessions and layoffs are the only solutions that remain.

Board is looking for incremental cuts. If the employees agree to the concessions, no raise, furlough days, we'll still have a ways to go. The only way to get there would be layoffs. [Which means more students per class].

More problems are created with the lowering of our credit by Moody's and S&P.

Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
November 7, 2011

Barnett's plan: 1. Staffing levels remain status quo. 2. We don't dip further into our reserves. 3. No closing of schools, at the same time, extending the school year to 180 days (eliminating furlough days).

If furlough days are returned, there will be no savings. Teacher raises will also incur costs.

Average 10% in pay cuts after those concessions. Would be dependent on what employees make. It will likely be the only way to save \$60-\$70million next year.

At the end of the plan, in order to make up the pay cuts (put a parcel tax on the 2012 Nov ballots that will raise the money to replace those cuts). The cuts would be for just about 6 months.

After this, it won't really be enough. We may have to look again at class size increases.

Matt: State budget revenues are set to be off by \$7-\$8billion shortfall. State revenues are projected to be \$25million less than what we are normally making. The Ed spending is lining up to what we made in 2000.

This budget stuff is real stuff and it's going to hit our state's economy. We need to be real about what we are doing.

We can't criticize, we need suggestions.

Q&A with Barnett:

Q: If class size in K-3 went up to 29:1, would that save us \$\$.

A: It wouldn't save us \$75mil. If we went from 24:1 to 29:1 it may save us \$25mil. We do get a bonus from the state for having lower class size. We have to put more \$ out to get that, but we do get a bonus from the state.

Q: What is the discussion is on transportation, i.e. athletics?

A: We can go down to \$21 mil in general funding but cutting here and there, but there hasn't been any support from the BOE to cut transportation.

Q: Could we have one day less of school and one day less of transportation.

A: Not sure if there are legal ramifications involved in that.

Q: Refuse to accept that it's the only option to save money in the budget.

A: The other idea is laying off teachers, closing schools. The way to get the biggest savings is to lower benefits and lay off teachers. I don't want to reduce the number of teachers because that harms overall education.

Note on construction: the dollars we spend on construction are bond dollars that we can't use for education.

Q: Option of selling unused properties?

Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
November 7, 2011

A: 26 unused properties, we haven't leveraged well. If we sell those sites for \$4 or \$5 million, we only get a once time revenue.

Q: What about renting the properties?

A: We are doing that, but we are barely covering our costs. We aren't making any money. We are developing for the very first time a comprehensive plan for generating revenue.

Q: Looked at the district website. Saw a policy that the district wouldn't take money for naming a building. Why not remove the policy and think of creative ways of making money?

A: Mr. Barrera and I have looked at advertising revenues. Maybe Nike could pay for every uniform in the district? Sure, there are other things we can look at. WiFi. These are mostly multi-year

Q: Not just a district problem, a state problem. Colorado is going through the same issue. When enough people get hurt, will the state finally get the hint? Face the reality and let the state face it head on. Maybe insolvency is the best bet.

A: Maybe so. My view, I believe I have a responsibility to save this district. But there are a lot of mouths to feed in this state. Who are they going to take from to save us? I have to do everything I can to maintain local control.

Matt: Some board members are going down that road, playing chicken with the state. We're handing out these big IOUs and it's going to catch up with us.

Q: Is half-day kindergarten still being looked at as an option? Many district's use this option. I'd rather have a half day of 21:1 than a full day of 29:1

A: It is an option to be considered, but how much would it save us?

Gilbert Gutierrez (Area Superintendent): Note, back when there was ½ day Kinder, it was still one teacher teaching all day.

Q: What about putting solar panels on the schools.

A: The district has a deal to put panels on 20 schools. We can get them installed through a company and get our savings through the overall savings. We spend \$18 mil/year on electricity and sewer.

Q: How do we find those who are responsible and how do we hold them accountable for these shortfalls? I think it's despicable to propose this solution to destabilize the middle class even more. Maybe offer a cut at the top. What about all of the other cost saving ideas.

Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
November 7, 2011

A: Everyone in this room knows someone who has lost a job, in dire straits. Your anger is fair. What I'm proposing is awful. I wish things would move faster. Ideas have been presented, but things move slowly. We have a budget to balance and we are running out of time.

Matt: the state has to balance its budget, we can't have a deficit. We need something that will balance the budget this year.

Q: Why do we have to wait?

A: It took us a month to get someone to look at real estate. Things are taking too long.

Matt: We have lots of issues, complicated by the state.

Q: Choice revenue. Why not generate revenue there?

A: By law we cannot charge for anything other than transportation. The law doesn't allow us to do that. You cannot charge for education. You can only charge for things according to whether or not the family can pay. You cannot charge for education.

Q: Parcel tax, why only fifty dollars and save salaries this year?

Michelle Huber: \$92 was voted down last time.

Matt: There are people who poll this and they'll figure it out. Parcel tax is failing all over the country.

Q: Childcare. Why not district run?

A: It's the law. By state law we are prohibited from charging.

Q: Breaking the district up into smaller pieces.

A: The analysis hasn't been done.

Matt: We have asked USD to do an analysis on what it would take to make our own district or our own charter. Budgets aren't that impacted at local charters. There are options and other ways to do this.

Sandy McClure (Silver Gate): My concern with the proposal is that SDEA has to approve this. It seems far-fetched that they'd approve 10%, they are out there asking for an increase. I foresee a stalemate.

Barnett: The bargaining is all done behind closed doors. The process needs to be transparent. The parents, the public don't know what's going on. I believe that the public needs to be aware of the options. Under this proposal we'd have the furlough days extended. There are pluses and

Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
November 7, 2011

minuses. When the plan comes out in the next few weeks, we'll see where everyone sits. The unions can refuse to even bargain with us.

Sandy: Benefits, some employees can opt out of their benefits. Many get benefits from their spouses. That's a \$9,000 savings per person there.

Barnett: What I'm proposing as part of this plan is a change in the benefits. We need to look at dependents.

Q: Parcel tax is hard in this community where the incomes aren't as high. Can we make sure the parcel tax comes back to our community? The property taxes sure don't.

A: I believe asking the voters to pay a parcel tax will affect teachers all over the district.

Q: Cell towers, could we look at getting a tower on the point? \$6,000 per tower.

Q: Why isn't the lottery funding the schools?

A: We get 1%.

Matt: Thank you to Scott for coming out and coming out for our community.

Fields: Creating a regional sports complex at Correia, would cost \$7-10 million (no money in Prop S), and would relieve needs. Put it in another bond and fundraise. Lights on PLHS, we need to put lights there. Would like to have the cluster decide whether or not that is something we want to do.

Andrea Justus (Correia): The idea is that each PL school offer up some of their discretionary Prop S funds to help with the athletic fields.

Principal's Report

2 minute report out – school snapshot (overview, budget, programs & achievement)

Sandy @ Silver Gate: School cluster report out. Our API is 918; we rank at the top of our cluster but when you look at similar schools nationwide, we rank at the bottom. When you look at subgroups comparatively you don't get the same picture. SDUSD schools rank lower because we test all of our second graders for GATE across the board. Compared to other districts around the state, we don't rank as high. Other schools pick and choose their students to test, pulling the ones they feel will test higher.

Look at the difference between how each subgroup performs. The subgroups are primarily socioeconomic status and general demographics. For example comparing a Hispanic subgroup to an Asian subgroup, you are comparing apples to oranges.

**Look at the API per school on the www.poinlomacluster.com website.

Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
November 7, 2011

Bobbie @ PLHS: Our focus is student achievement. Challenging curriculum, students connect to high school and parents connect, pathways. Recently attended a superintendent's forum and learned that we are doing very similar things. We are getting smarter at things and its showing. We have a strong advisory program, where sophomores get linked up with juniors and seniors. We have a strong athletic program, drama program. We have a great team of parents who are always involved, in the office, maybe not in the class. Career pathways, motion picture, automotive, medical, music production. New grant for the automotive program. 10% of students are enrolled in classes online, either at home or in blended classrooms. Great choices.

Nestor @ Cabrillo: Marketing in the wake of the closure discussions. New German program since January; Partnership with a German school that goes back to the origins of the school. Mondays and Tuesdays the kids in the Kinder classes learn German. Thank you for your support during the closure crisis. It's been a real enlightening experience. We don't feel isolated anymore, no longer the step-child down the hill. We now know that we won't survive without your help. We also need your marketing skills.

Matt: We need to help fill Cabrillo. We need to put best practices and innovation on our agenda.

Marti: Suggesting a unified presence at the Choice fair this year, demonstrating our greatness. Margaret: Please note that some of us [principals] are being told that we have to limit our Choice numbers.

Matt: Creating a brochure for the cluster or for the individual schools. *Some schools have already created something like this. We need to put a little elbow grease into branding and marketing.

Barbara: Elem. students partnering with the high school students. Sharing the wealth, unified cohesion. Inner school support.

Matt: CAN YOU HEAD THAT UP?

Diane @ Dana: Digital commitment. We haven't really skipped a beat with this whole closure thing. Imagine how much has happened since we were last in this room. Thank you for all you do, your commitment and affirmations.

School Closures / Realignment Update

The discussion may not be over; we need to stay ahead of it, and not behind it. In order to do that, we'll keep up with our workgroups.

Work Group Report Outs

- Choice / Enrollment (Arielle Sykes / Laura Caffo)

We asked seven questions to Sandy Robles who is in charge of the Choice department.

- Preferential treatment with siblings, then PI schools, then general neighborhood schools are last if there is space available.
- Once a student from outside the district is enrolled, they are considered a resident.
- Students automatically get in the feeder pattern for the high school in the cluster once they've Choice'd into a school.
- Can be a space-available issue, no cases of not enough space to keep the student in the feeder pattern.
- Numbers on students that come from outside the district.
- A lot of these questions came from the angst over whether there would be issues with Choice after the district's proposal was revealed.

- Facilities / Capacity (Suzy Reid)

All school data was compiled into a spreadsheet that shows where the numbers fall at the different sites and where there is (or is not) room to grow. Will use this data to inform the Barnard SWAT Team.

- School Boundary's (Erin Ellis)

Maps online, boundaries are set by the district. Anecdotal, Barnard has the second largest population of students within their boundary and the lowest enrolled according to boundary. Cabrillo has a larger in-boundary enrollment compared to its boundary size. It will be interesting to follow the boundaries if and when Barnard closes.

- Cost Savings (Melinda Albright)

Spreadsheet created based on the following:

- Took figures from the district's budget on how much it took to run the schools.
- Took out what the district said wouldn't be a source of savings.
- Added an X-factor for costs associated with the schools being run regardless of being closed.
- Cost of educating a student is dramatically different by school.

**Barnard: Email from Eddie Parks.

Matt feels like we're in a holding pattern.

Do we want to be proactive or do we want to track it and wait to see what happens?

Darrel: For the cluster it is [the Mandarin program] a positive thing to have. Separating the Mandarin program from the cluster may do us more harm. Maybe get the cluster to start

Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
November 7, 2011

advertising more AS A CLUSTER. Felt bad for Barnard, we were pulling together but not with Barnard. Maybe we need to rethink what we feel about having it in the cluster.

Q: Will the district require them to become a Pacific Rim program or will they allow it to stay a Mandarin program?

Gilbert: When they say the facility is decrepit, they mean it. When they say they are turning away 100 students, in a K-8 that's 900 students and the facility can't take that.

Marti: When visiting Barnard I didn't see a decrepit school. How can we say that there is no room to grow when they are on the largest plot of land in the district? It may take a paradigm shift from the school, repurposing the classrooms for other reasons.

Gilbert: Facilities people have never called it decrepit. Prop S doesn't have any more money to build out Barnard. It's easier for the district to close the campus and find another location for the program.

ACTION ITEM: Creation of a Barnard SWAT Team. Let's figure out how we can keep Barnard here in the cluster.

Marti (Cabrillo)

Lilly (Barnard)

Matt (PLHS)

Margot (Dana)

Suzy (OB)

Valerie (Silver Gate)

Erin Ellis: Figuring out how to keep Barnard in the cluster and working out a way to make the program work here is like running a business.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:31pm

**Remaining topics from the agenda will be rolled over to the next PLCSF Board Meeting