

PLCSF General Board Meeting
December 5, 2011

Roll call, quorum met.

Matt: Welcome. Thank you to the Board of Ed members present regarding the recent Title I vote.

John Lee Evans (District A)

Speaking on the power of the cluster general board, united voice.

Promoting collaboration between the schools, relating to the matriculation of the students from school to school in the cluster

Five year process of developing a quality school in every neighborhood.

Over 50% of our students in the district don't attend a school in their own neighborhood.

Many reasons for that.

Want to get back to the core of the neighborhood school. If the reason for not attending is because of the school's quality, we want to know about it.

Twelve different characteristics of a quality school.

Goals for Student Achievement.

Budget fatigue! We have to make do with what we have. We're facing \$100,000,000 shortfall this next year. Dec 15th is the due date for the preliminary plan for the budget. No way to balance it unless there are significant concessions from the unions. All things need to be negotiated. Submitted plan without negotiated concessions from the union. All jobs that can legally be cut will be. 800 or more positions could be eliminated. It's a big number only because it will be without concessions. Increasing class size, cutting nurses, counselors, police officers, etc.

Evans wants to work with everyone over this next year to make those cuts as minimal as possible.

Budget proposal needs to come with some shared sacrifice.

Matt: We are back to 2003/2004 levels of spending and money that was available there. Spending per student has gone up. [See SDUSD Budget Metrics](#)

Scott Barnett (District C)

Correia Fields issue: (will come back in Jan)

Regional complex for the schools. Right now there is no money for this. If you have children in elementary school now, they'll be able to use it in middle and high school.

To raise money for this we need either a big donation or a bond issue.

Lights on PLCH issue: Impact on the sporting events. Sit down with Bobby and the sports community and decide what to do to mitigate the impacts on the community. Closing off streets during the games and enforcing the parking. Barnett will go ahead on the lights subject, but we need to go forward with the community impact and how we solve problems.

Lights will cost \$125,000, will need to make it cost effective by allowing other community to groups to rent out the fields.

**Mr. DeBeck represented this community for 20 years and there are new buildings going in and it would be nice to have one of those buildings named after him.

Budget issues: Bad road ahead.

Cuts could be as bad as \$120mil. Board decided to recall 300+ teachers based on money that we didn't have. This could mean the difference between insolvency and making it.

Awful alternatives: We could maintain the level of services by instead of laying off people, reducing salaries across the board about 9%. Some employees (working $\frac{3}{4}$ of the time) may not receive reductions at all, highest paid managers would receive 13% reductions. Right now \$165,000 is being spent on health care. Proposal suggests everyone moves to free Keiser health care with some out of pocket expenses. Could save us \$12,000,000/year.

With Barnett's proposal we could save \$70,000,000/year.

See the plan here: <http://tinyurl.com/7mxl6rt>

Open Comment:

Evans: Final date for the budget is June 30th. We need to have things decided by then. All negotiating and workshops to educate people about the cuts and the budget will have to be done well before then.

Barnett: Transportation can probably be cut. Magnet programs have a lot of money that could end up being cut.

Sandy McClure: There are positions that we may not even realize exist, could those cuts be made there?

Barnett: We have a lot of work to do on how we run ourselves and try to do it better and more efficiently.

Sabrina (Sunset View): Let's try not to make the custodians the brunt of the budget gaffes. What about giving schools/families(?) incentives to stay in their own neighborhood schools?

Melinda Albright motions to approve the agenda, Michelle Huber seconds. Motion passes.

Treasurers Report (Marvin Estrin, Treasurer):

New board members will be issued cards from the bank.

There is an issue as to who the signers for the account will be.

Motion to approve the President and VP to be the signers on the account, Marvin made the motion, Jim seconds. Motion passes.

Website costs, how the schools allocate the expenses for keeping up the PL Cluster site. Donations from the schools: \$100 for elementary schools, \$200 for middle and high schools?

Andrea: Why is our insurance so high? If we only have \$2,400 in our account, does it make sense to spend \$1,000 on insurance?

Michelle: Look at PTO for better rates.

Barnard

Lilly and Jim: What the district is looking at so far. On the 17th met with parents and teachers to find out what they wanted to see. Given the state of the district, Barnard will likely stay where they are for another year at least. District is open to suggestions.

Matt: Timing of this group is good. Interested in doing all we can to keep this in the district.
See Barnard

Margo: Question about languages at the other schools. Are we offering it at all the schools.

Jim: The focus has been on Mandarin first, because it is a very difficult language. It's a 21st Century language. Barnard is pioneering a method of teaching based on Confucius while still trying to interject modern Western style teaching. The results from the immersion are mind boggling.

Michelle: They also offer it at PLHS as well as Correia.

Matt: Immersion is key. If Barnard moves to a K-8 it will no longer be offered at Dana or Correia.

Gilbert Gutierrez (Area Sup): Central office language can give us a better idea of the difference between a magnet and an immersion program, so we can have a better understanding of what programs and curriculum are based on.

Board meeting schedules:

Mondays 6:30, does this work?

Susan: Earlier meetings would be better, 6pm

Tanya: 4:30 would be a real nice time, especially for the teachers on the board.

Sandy: What about doing an early meeting every other month?

Melinda: What about 5:15. 5:30.

Jami: Moving it up, is great.

Marti: Lunchtime meeting??

Michelle: Maybe Thursdays would be good, since it's an early day

****Suzy** will send a survey to all board members to get a sense of a better time for the meeting.

Matt:

Check the site www.pointlomacluster.com to see what's happening with our schools.

Eblast: Dewey needs a parent volunteer to take on the eblasts.

Tanya: We have no man-power to do this. We need help with the content. The blasting isn't an issue.

Matt: Figure out a way to get us the content and we'll take care of blasting it for you.

Matt: How do we know how our schools are doing? When people ask, what do we say? Are they really asking what we think they are?

Denver, CO example. 11 high poverty schools in Denver. One school's rates went up dramatically in two months.

What are we measuring our schools on? How do we measure them? What are we talking about community-wise?

Example – PLHS grad rate is 97%, but only 42% are UC/CSU ready

We have information but it's cumbersome to get the data out. The issues at each school are different.

Let's have conversations about how we're doing in our community and how we measure it.

If we are looking at proficiency rates, are we measuring the right thing?

Check the Digital Filing Cabinet on the cluster site. We need to have some conversations about how our schools are doing.

***We should push this conversation back to the schools, so we can get updates on how the school is doing.

Maybe 2 or 3 schools report out on how they're doing at each meeting.

Gil: We're looking at math instruction at some of the elementary schools; why do scores decline as the students matriculate through the cluster?

--We may not be doing the best to teach the students the math skills needed to make it down the road.

We may be teaching the standards, but we may need to recalibrate and reemphasize certain skills.

We are developing questions, looking at instruction. We may have to bring in teachers to help us with this process.

We're looking at a K-12 model. What do we need to be teaching in order to prepare elementary students for Dana, then prepare them for Correia, then Pt. Loma, and beyond.

Laura: Something we haven't done is track our students through the cluster. Are the kids doing well?

Where is the drop off?

The plan was for the principals and teachers to visit other classes and see how they are achieving results. What data are we collecting from which groups of children.

Lack of inquiry in assessment. Concern with young children being turned off by math in elementary schools.

Gil: This is systemic across all of California. Could be the tests, the content of the standards or the way we are teaching the curriculum.

Susan: Since "Common Core Standards" have been accepted, the testing may change, as well as the emphasis on which questions will be asked. Rethink the way we do things.

Gil: Every curriculum will be impacted by these changes.

Matt: Just a thought - High Tech High doesn't pay attention to API scores. Their focus is that their students are 100% ready for college, UC/CSU schools.

Adjourn at 8:02pm

In lieu of a Principal's report, here are a few items from **Margaret Johnson**, Principal at Ocean Beach:

- Our principals are so thankful for the focus on data, and deep questioning our parents provided during the Title 1 decision making. We know the final decision was very much influenced by parents.

- As we move to the budget crisis and decisions ahead, it will be important for our SGT/SSC groups to engage in a process to determine what is important for our schools. A blanket % cut across all departments and schools will not necessarily mean we are focusing on what it will take to "run" a school. Will this research be done?

- The PL principals are focusing on engagement and understanding in math. We need to ensure our focus does not become splintered in several areas. What process will we use to determine what is important for our cluster meetings? How do we gain input from all stakeholders?

- More standardize start times for our schools. I support this concept for our school and would like to also recommend we move our start time to 8:00 or 8:15. Tardies are a constant struggle for Obecians. All too often when students are tardy, parents decide to keep students at home. We also have a very long walk time from the Barnard attendance area; 7:45 is quite early for this.