

PLCSF Board Meeting  
April 9, 2012

4:40 Meeting called to order  
Roll call, Quorum met

**Ballot Measures** -3 could be potentially on the ballot this November  
All three raise taxes.

*Scott Brennan* (guest) – PTA sponsored ballot initiative designed to raise taxes so money goes directly to the schools. Our Children Our Future.

\$\$ can be allocated to schools, language, arts, programs. It would end up in the local school district, \$ would be audited at the state level.

[www.OurChildrenOurFuture2012.com](http://www.OurChildrenOurFuture2012.com)

This will put big chunks of money right into the hands of the schools.

On top of Prop 98 baseline funding. It doesn't affect Prop 98 funding.

Puts 15% of the money into Early Childhood Education. CA First 5 supporters. This would in effect double the current budget for ECE. Would currently fund programs not protected with Prop 98. For the first three years a percentage of the money will go to paying down bonds, after that all of the money will go directly to the schools.

Signature gathering is under way, with a goal of 556,850 state-wide. San Diego PTA district 9 is working to gather 10,000 signatures by April 24<sup>th</sup>.

“Munger” ballot measure. In order to pass the measure needs 50% plus 1 in order to pass.

The Governor's initiative has to go through the general fund, which means schools may not see much money.

An eblast to the cluster with a recap would be beneficial for the entire cluster. Action Item: Suzy

**Finance Report:**

Moving forward on the insurance

**Bylaws & PLCS Governance:**

Price-quote for a non-profit lawyer's rate to redo our bylaws. \$800-\$1,000 to Procopio to redo our bylaws, to amend them to enable to weighted voting.

Our voting system is complicated (see bylaws to explain) and requires the knowledge of someone with non-profit law experience.

**Discussion:**

Nestor: When we say we want an outside entity to draft our bylaws, what are we saying?

Matt: Right now we have 1:1 voting on our board. We have a weighted voting measure in our bylaws where PLHS for example has one-third of the vote.

Marvin: Do we want to make sure the student reps and the area sup are included in the bylaws? Do we want to have higher voting rights for the middle schools and high school or more voting rights per person?

Matt: We need to move on the board's direction to get this done.

Ian: Should we allow for other stakeholders to have votes/input? Members of the community may have a say in what happens.

Sandy: Why the need for the attorney?

Matt: When you're a 501c3 there is a complicated structure with the weighted voting, which requires a lawyer. You want a lawyer to look over the requirements and the fine print.

***Motion on the floor:*** To allow the allocation of funds to pay for the lawyer in the amount of \$800-\$1000. None opposed; None abstain; Motion passes.

### **Board Slate and Election**

Nomination package on the website.

We know the principals are appointed, but we need to look ahead to recruit new board members for next year. The recruitment should be between now and the date of our next meeting; with elections happening between May and June. By the June meeting we could anoint this new board.

Melinda: What about the two-year schools [Correia and Dana] that would be limited to representatives from the upper grades.

Matt: Does this time-frame work for the schools?

Bobbie: We do our mailing in June, so this time-frame is a bit tight. This year we did it, but we didn't get enough feedback. We need a better way to get information out.

Glenda: We usually do our voting in the fall, because we know who our student population is.

Arielle: We do our foundation voting in the Spring.

Melinda: What about [having reps serve from] January to January? That way we aren't pushing people onto the board immediately in the beginning of the school year?

Barbara: Beginning our recruitment now wouldn't hurt.

Kristen: A cluster-wide eblast would allow parents to see what is coming up and what positions they can self-nominate for.

Gil: It sounds like this group is weighing whether or not to allow any parents with a passion for the education of their students to be on the board *or* we want to hit the ground running in September. Either way, it will send a message. Do you want to exclude the kinder parents or the new 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents?

**Straw poll** - 10 board members believe a fall start would be best.

Robert: A spring vote would be best, so we can get started in the fall right away.

PLHS table: Two-year staggered terms.

Gil: If you plan ahead, every school has a first day of school packet. You can send out the ballots then and have them back within a week or two.

Melinda: Exec Board should maintain their positions for two years and then fill in the other members as necessary.

Majority of the board believes the board should have the voting in the fall. The first board meeting will be the handoff.

### **Barnard Status & PLCS Position**

Position Letter to the BOE, Superintendent Kowba emailed back in response and asked about the status of Board. Barnett and Phil Stover also responded. The best that Matt knows is that Barnard will relocate in the 2013-14 school year. The Board supports the sale of the building and land and the proceeds to pay down the District's deficit.

I think we have a chance to influence where the proceeds go. We didn't really discuss it in detail here but generally decided that we didn't want the proceeds to go to paying down the debt.

This will be discussed at the Board Meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Matt will make a point to be there or have someone there.

Robert: We heard about the school moving. We're optimistic about it. Until it's in writing, personnel and stuff are moving, we don't have anything to go on. Our enrollment is up, three kinder classes. We are trying to save money and get things up and running for next school year.

We hear things, but we're more concerned that the kids have a quality education and we don't want the rumors to affect the day-to-day operations.

We have the Mandarin program here in our cluster. Will we keep it here in the cluster for the middle-schoolers or high-schoolers that want to continue with it?

Patty and Bobbie, if we don't have 36 students for a class, we don't have the funding to pay to teach the class. There are no FTEs for it, and we won't know until the end of the year to see how many kids we have enrolled.

Matt: Comment for Gil – If there is a future for this program, there needs to be funding at the higher levels in the cluster. Are we just cutting off the kids at 6<sup>th</sup> grade, saying, "Sorry no more Mandarin."

Gil: Any electives can exist as long as you have a full class and the staff to support it. Whatever site it goes to, the middle school and high school will need to make accommodations for them.

Patty: The unfortunate thing is that we are getting these students from 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Barnard who went through this program and are pretty much fluent in Mandarin and they have no option. I just wish we could do something for these kids so they don't fall off the cliff. We need to decide what Mandarin means to us here.

Matt: We need to bookmark this subject at this time. The Barnard work group needs to work with Patty and Bobbie on what

\*\*Gil has a realignment committee meeting tomorrow morning and he will take our comments to them.

**Gil Gutierrez:**

A-G CTE (Career Tech Education) requirement is being discussed tomorrow. HS grad requirements were changed per a vote last year. The change was made to keep students in line with grad requirements/college entrance requirements.

In A-G requirements all students must take 2 required classes in CTE.

A-G for all students, CTE highly recommended. 98% of students will earn their CTE requirements without even being aware of it.

CTE – all project-based learning, whether it's in career or college-based curriculum.

Why Career Technical Education? The intent is to prepare kids for university work or a career track.

98% of students take these classes without a requirement.

Misinformation caused some issues.

Bobbie's expectations for the A-G qualifiers – more than double what they have currently.

Matt: It seems that here in our cluster we are behind the idea that all of our kids graduate UC/CSU-ready. The support from schools and communications with parents is essential to this.

**Committees**

Bell Schedules...Gil got information on the process for changing the bell schedule.

There has been some conversation about aligning the bell schedules to having elementary schools start earlier [than 9am], to allow them to get out earlier.

Kristen: Could we get the schedules on the website; so we have an idea of when they start now?

Patty: Haven't we tried to change Correia's start time years ago and it came down to funding and bussing? Frankly, I think we've missed out on the deadline for next year.

Gil: Haven't heard about deadlines. If you're interested, I'll get you the process of how to change bell times. What will affect it is funding in the district and the transportation schedule.

**Governance/Empowerment Framework:**

La Jolla Cluster is working on an autonomy framework with the District right now.

There's been a very big change in SD Teachers Union, and the conversations may have more to do with collaboration. There may be an opportunity to have more conversations in a less-combative environment. The SDEA board elections turned out a new VP who has a more collaborative attitude. SG Kristen Brow, was voted to the board on SDEA. Historically, it's been hard to have any conversations with teachers that doesn't turn into negotiating.

Check out the framework, what would it look like at the school level? Would it look the same over the cluster. Is this something this group wants to take on?

Refresh your knowledge of the Empowerment Framework.

Opening up conversation.

Arielle: Do you think that the conversation will be different than it was last year? We have all of the responses from the discussion at the site level from last time. Should we just revisit that? I would like to see the responses and feedback narrowed down and synthesized into something tangible.

Valerie: A lot of the feedback we got was, "Well, we don't have a voice in that!" A lot of people at our foundation meetings didn't feel like they had a voice in this. Accountability.

Matt: Seniority skipping at various lower income schools?

Gil: No that won't be happening here. In LA there is no system for replacing newer teachers, we do here in SD.

Matt: There are things we can start to work around. Staffing, for example, we at the cluster level could help vet the next area superintendent. The school could help decide who the next principal is. "Low-hanging fruit" we can take that and work on it. Vertical planning.

Arielle: Has anyone ever thought of just picking one area. Math, for example, maybe hitting all six areas under the umbrella of math. There seemed to be a wide range of things to cover and it was very overwhelming.

Glenda: We need to synthesize the feedback and data. I don't want to take any more steps with this before we see that data. Action needs to come from that feedback we got.

Matt: My only reason for bringing this up is to ask the group if we want to re-open this conversation and one of the first things we should do is to look at the feedback.

Glenda: We've been looking at vertical planning under mathematics for a while now. If we looked at the feedback we got last year, we'll see that there were already some suggested focal points.

Sandy: I want to make sure that this is advertised to our parents and our teachers so they are aware that the changes are being made with their input.

Margaret: We have some very pressing issues that we may want to discuss first, like nursing services. There are some medically fragile students that we aren't

Gil: You'd have to influence policy. With a united voice you may be able to influence those policies.

Margaret: Didn't Barnett say at our last meeting that things are happening; principals are being bashed when they can't put enough in the budget for a nurse. We are a small school, it's not realistic to pay for a nurse when it should be provided. What we're being told is just wait until next year.

Jackie: We're being told its being worked on.

Gil: A lot of things are going to be rough and over-taxed.

Matt: Principals, what can we bring back to the cluster as far as a need or a decision on the issue? We can create a united voice around the nursing issue.

We may be able to seek a grant from San Diego Foundation for a roving nurse.

**PRINCIPALS:** Come back to the cluster with a list of critical issues that we may, as a cluster, be able to help with.

Robert: I think if we hear the data we can gain a general consensus on what to build the discussion on.

Diane: Many of us remember that this was a difficult process that brought up emotion and controversy. We came out with this framework, which caused a separation of stakeholders and a loss of trust. This framework brings about more negative emotions than positive. I'd rather see where we are, where we are going and move forward. In the fall with the school closures we all came together as a united voice about the closures. I'd rather not bring this all up again.

Glenda: I am now resigned to being a fundraiser which is unheard of in the past in the role of principal. We are funding school supplies until the end of the year on parent donations. This is the major issue.

Arielle: Why are the community members so apathetic about the budget? Is it because they think it won't happen?

Kristen: Maybe we can look at the feedback from last year and pick out three or four positive comments/responses and see about what we can do with that.

Matt: The budget bucket is obviously a big one.

I will get all of the feedback and responses from last year out to the board.

As a parent I want to know what's happening at the schools, like accountability and curriculum.

Maybe we'll just do away with the two-page document and focus on the blank slate of the

### **Old business/New business**

Suzy: They are proposing to close 25 child development centers in San Diego, two here in the cluster. Not many know about this, unless your child is affected. This is part of the Governor's budget proposal. There is a hearing in Sacramento tomorrow on the budget, please call your state senators to express your views on cutting funding for early childhood education. Ocean Beach is writing emails, sending Tweets, mailing post cards and posting on Facebook to get the word out.

Action Item, Suzy: Craft a summary of the Child Development Centers closing, impacting our Kindergarten, our children for an eblast.

Matt: **\*\*Principals**, what will the schools look like after all of these cuts. Perhaps you can discuss this at the next principals meeting and bring it back to the cluster.

Something will have to change at the State level.

Mayoral debate on education. All four mayoral candidates are running with education as a major component of their campaigns. They all have different strategies and they are making campaign noise about education.

Adjourn 6:26pm