

Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation
Board Meeting 8/30/12

Meeting called to order, 4:40pm

Roll call, quorum not met

PLCS Bylaws

Procopio (our lawyer) is working on the bylaws, which has to do with the Board Members' voting rights. Hopefully we'll have them by the next meeting. If not, Matt will communicate with the in-coming president to ensure we get them in a timely manner.

Finances – Marvin Estrin (PLHS)

We now have officer and liability insurance from a Philadelphia insurance company. Both are paid in full for the year and will be due again in the fall of next year.

Our bank balance is \$2,000.

We will have a bill coming for legal fees. Constant Contact (our eblast system) fees will be due this fall.

The Foundation is a non-profit, and as such we can act as a conduit for fundraising for schools that may not have foundations.

2012-13 Slate, In-coming Foundation Board Members

Election information for the new cluster board has already been sent to the Principals.

We need to ensure that the October meeting has 40 people, 4 from each school, principal, teacher and two parents.

Melinda Albright: What time should have for the meeting? Last year it was changed to 4:30 and we noticed a decline in the number of people who were able to attend.

It was noted that it wasn't all parents who weren't able to make the meetings, but a combination of parents and teachers. Most principals were always in attendance.

Laura Caffo: It was mentioned that perhaps we should have meetings every other month. Matt, what is your opinion?

Matt Spathas (PLHS): Only if the Cluster is planning on a more passive stance and only handling fewer things.

Gil Gutierrez (Area Superintendent): Part of the work is the cluster governance for the board.

Matt: Because there isn't a quorum anyway, we'll have to curb it until the next board meeting.

Cluster Governance – Action Item

A meeting was held over the summer for an idea session on governance and charter options.

The conversation was more specifically around charter. There have been more questions that have come out of that meeting. Several teachers have volunteered to act as liaisons for the discussion. They also reached out to the principals and teachers at their school sites, to get an idea of what their thoughts and ideas/questions were.

This group was rather small and the letter was drafted by a 'workgroup'. See the letter [here](#), in draft form (pending approval).

Ian Law (current Board Member from PLHS) was one of the liaisons included in this workgroup (as are teachers at Dana and Correia). The letter addresses the staff and teachers with the intention of eliciting any ideas, thoughts and questions from teachers and whether or not they were interested in creating a common vision around the cluster.

Scott Barnett's (our area Board of Ed. member) note: [Regarding the mention of La Jolla's Autonomy Agreement with the Board of Education ten years ago] The La Jolla "Autonomy Agreement" is a misnomer. It really isn't autonomous and it isn't truly legal or enforceable. La Jolla has no more rights than your principal at Pt. Loma has. There are perceptions that have developed over the years. The Agreement was in essence a document creating a truce between the Board President and La Jolla ten years ago and hasn't been looked at since. It was a Political document, in essence.

I would be happy if this community decided to create a Road Map to Success and we could have a more in-depth conversation when necessary. Mira Mesa has a Memorandum of Agreement, which is one thing we could look at as a model.

Barnett is working on a Road Map for the La Jolla cluster which would help define the new agreement.

Revision of the first paragraph (with assistance from Melinda Albright):

"The PLCS recognizes that teachers are essential to our schools performance. Any adjustments to our structure must be teacher driven and parent supported. We wish to communicate our concern, both academically and personally to the teaching and clerical staff of our Point Loma Cluster Schools for this year's budget and staffing chaos. It hurts you, our children, schools and our community."

Patty Ladd (Principal, Correia): What is of most concern is the maintenance of who is in the schools (teachers). The most concerning is the state of affairs in Sacramento and the new agreements with SDEA.

Barnett: Notwithstanding the agreement between SDEA and the District, we still have an underlying structural deficit. If the Governor's tax measures fail, the Board had agreed with the SDEA, the school year starting this week would be shortened by 14 days. If the taxes don't pass, we will have to reduce this school year by those 14 days. Starting next year we'll have a \$100 million shortfall. Mind you, this is with the concessions that the teachers have already made. IF the taxes pass, we'll still have an \$80million shortfall. The school year won't be cut, but we'll have to issue pink slips in excess of 1000 teachers. We are still looking at a huge deficit.

I'll be coming out to you all soon, to get your help convincing my colleagues that we have to look ahead further than this train ride. We need to bring in new revenues and learn to do things more efficiently.

Bobbie Samilson: We lost teachers this year. We'll be running at a smaller numbers and it won't cost as much to run Pt. Loma HS. Even though the teachers were returned, I had teachers who said they were done with the pink slips and they went to High Tech High and other schools.

Barnett: Our financial situation is even worse (\$20mil). We have finished off our reserves, we've sold properties and we've also got health care costs rising.

Thank goodness we have more teachers in the schools, because that's really the only good thing that came out of this because we're in a worse financial state.

If revenues stay the same, we'll have a \$80million deficit. If not, it will be a lot worse.

John Murphy (PLHS Athletic Director): We started last year with school closures, 8-10 but it was shelved.

Barnett: Right, but we've closed two here in my district: Barnard and Bay View Terrace.

John: Well, if it is about generating revenue, what about marketing? Some schools in some districts are having businesses put advertising on the schools, buses, to help pay for things.

Barnett: The Board has shelved that for now, but they are looking at the sponsorship things. The district is really more open now, to other revenue options.

John: Health care benefits are also being looked at right?

Barnett: Yes, there is a plan. Kaiser is being offered for free. There are currently three options, and appealing to teachers to take the less-expensive option will help. I'll be coming out again in September and November to talk with the clusters about this. We spend \$170,000 on insurance every year.

Bobbie: This doesn't happen anywhere outside of the district; I don't know of anyone else that gets their whole family insured for free. I mean, it seems like we're giving away a lot here.

Community Forum on Governance Models – Last week of Sept/Oct – For Discussion and Action

**Matt's suggestion is that there be several forums on different governance models so we can inform the community about what options we have. There are some options out there for us to research. There is a school in Chula Vista (Kevin Riley, the principal has written a book), as well as others that have converted to charter. This is something that can be brought to the Board.

Patty: What I think we're most concerned about is being able to maintain the teachers we have in the schools right now that are working and doing well.

I think it's a good idea to see other models so we can have a better conversation.

Cluster Schools Website – Edlio Schools

Matt will send out an email to the principals with the contact info.

School Board Election

If you want to find out more on the people running for seats on the School Board, there are three spots available, one is uncontested (Barerra's) see link:

[Candidate Scorecard - Voice of San Diego](#)

Principal's Update:

Patty: Enrollment is up. We're excited to start the new school year.

Bobbie: A lot of new facilities opening up, it's very exciting. The fitness center is incredible, as is the motion picture. Our enrollment is up to 2,000. We have a wait list. We're still trying to fill positions.

Margaret Johnson (Ocean Beach): Excited to start the new school year. Our enrollment is over what our low ball projection was. Whole staff is back so we're really happy.

Nestor Suarez (Cabrillo): Our enrollment is up; we may even qualify for a new teacher. We're at 234. We have about 17 transitional Kindergarteners.

John: Excited, new teams, have a partnership with Sports Chalet. If you use your action pass to buy any Pointer gear, 10% will go to Pt. Loma HS sports. 40% off footwear for the kids.

We're trying to get more kids up to the games for free in the cluster.

Gil: Busy time of the year. State has us down to three days to prep our classrooms, instead of a week.

Sandy McClure (Silver Gate): Enrollment is strong, everything looks great.

Facilities:

John: Brand new turf for the field. We tried to put as much turf behind the field as possible. We sent the additional turf over to Dana's field. It's a joint use facility, so it's important to have it be kept up. The David Wells project will be put on hold for a bit.

Barnett: Mr. Wells is going to put in a new baseball fields over at Dana and it's open to the public, but we want to make sure that the field is used properly. Looking at requiring major deposits because there are some adult leagues that use the field and they don't always leave it in good condition.

John: Wells wants to see more youth use on the fields. This is Petco Park Bermuda grass, good stuff, well maintained.

Barnett: The best decision we can make is to remove the joint use contract and just work with the community.

Scott Barnett SDUSD Board Member

Update on the budget and the bond measures and some building projects.

Prop Z: Money for Pt. Loma HS a parking garage, facilities.

Barnett wants to come back to the cluster and talk with everyone about the bond issues.

For the first time we have a true real estate director who is looking at our assets and real estate. The Board sold seven parcels, without the support of Barnett, including Barnard. He wants them to look at sites and see what can be done to retain revenue at this site; own the property as well as control the use and rent them out.

On Sept. 11th we'll approve a measure that will help us move forward with this.

Bonds:

Prop S didn't raise taxes, it just extended them.

The new bond will increase property taxes. The argument: the naysayers will say we're saddling the future generations with new debt but the supporters will say that we need to raise tax revenue to support our schools.

Sales and Income Tax ballot issues:

[The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012](#)

[Our Children, Our Future](#)

New business:

Melinda: TB testing cluster wide? We can get man-power from the Balboa Naval Hospital.

Introduction: Miles Durfy, Manager and Regional Director of the *California Charter Schools Association*

Next meeting of the new board will be October 1, 2012

Meeting adjourned 6:22pm