

Pt. Loma Cluster Schools Foundation  
Board Meeting  
October 1, 2012

Members in Attendance:

Jack Vallerga	Diane Ryan	Leanne Tabiatowski
Ian Law	Christy MacAbe	Marvin Estrin
Bobbie Samilson	Jami Barr	Andrea Justus
Patty Ladd	Tanya MacMillion	Holly Johnson
Sabrina Buselt	Glenda Gerde	Kate Lubson
Laura Caffo	Barbara Hinman	Tracy Perez
Ann Tadder	Arielle Sykes	Rob Bates
Jackie McCabe	Valerie Miller	Margaret Johnson
Kristin Rone	Ken Lewis	Michelle Huber
Margo Thompson	Sandy McClure	Ruth Rappaport-Power

Meeting called to order, 4:41pm  
Roll call, quorum met.

Matt Spathas (out-going President): Welcome to new members. Thank you for representing your school and your children.

Barnard will be engaging in their own cluster this year so we will be 9 schools and 36 PLCSF members. One question the PLCS may like to ask this school year is:

Do we want a governance conversation to take place here in the Cluster?

On the agenda, you'll see a letter to the Board of Education that has been causing some controversy among parents and teachers, but we need to be on the same page in order to get this to the Board.

***Motion to approve the agenda, Arielle Sykes moves to approve the agenda.***

*Andrea Justus seconds the motion.*

***Motion approved.***

Matt: The first task for this new board: Electing a new president for the PLCSF.

**Laura Caffo** has volunteered to take on the role as President. Proper board etiquette requires a nomination.

*Sandy McClure nominates Laura Caffo as President of the PLCSF for the 2012-13 School year.*

*Arielle seconds the nomination.*

*None oppose, none abstain. **Nomination of Laura Caffo to PLCSF Board President passes.***

Laura moves to appoint **Marvin Estrin** and **Suzy Reid** to the respective Treasurer and Secretary positions, retaining the positions they held during the previous school year.

*Suzy Reid seconds the motion.*

**Motion approved.**

**Tracy Perez** self-nominates for the Communication position (eblaster) on the board. Motion to approve.

Arielle seconds the motion.

**Motion passes.**

Five more executive committee members remain:

**Michelle Huber** self-nominates for the Vice President as well as a the Safe & Supportive

**Ian Law** self-nominates for the Engaging and & Inspiring Learning Environment chair

Learning Communities: **Diane Ryan**

Marketing/Lobbying: Open

**Sandy McClure** volunteered to be a free agent on the Executive Board in order to allow for an additional position on the board.

**Treasurer's Report – Marvin**

Bylaws legal fees are \$1,000

Constant Contact is the next fee that we're looking at. It's looking like \$100 per school again.

**Leanne Tibiatowsky:** Have we surveyed the community for pro-bono legal services?

**Marvin:** It will be nice to have a fundraising/marketing person who can help the foundation raise money, so we don't have to let the cost of so many things fall to the schools (Constant Contact).

**Leanne:** How are we raising money so far?

**Marvin:** Donations from individuals, reimbursements from schools for certain things, etc.

**Leanne:** I will be able to help on a committee if they are formed in the future regarding fundraising and such.

**Laura:** What should our purpose be? WE need to have a real vision of what our cluster foundation should be. What our role is; what our purpose within the community is, and where we want to go from here.

**Barbara:** I would prefer to keep the charter discussion out of the foundation talk.

**Tanya:** I second her statement. I think the cluster foundation needs to focus on a particular purpose and vision. Our technology day and the idea of bringing technology into the classroom is one of the

things that I'd like to focus on. Nursing is also a big issue; counseling; these are things that we should be focusing on.

**Glenda Gerde:** I agree with Tanya.

**Valerie Miller:** What inspired me on this foundation board was the empirical data from our schools, exploring the data. I think we need to be focusing on a smaller purpose. Maybe we need to focus on the Common Core State Standards and math; something that we can all get behind.

**Michelle:** I think to take it a step further is to engage the parents in the discussion on the new math programs and techniques associated with Common Core State Standards (CCSS). We need to have some talks for the parents to help them better understand the changes and what the CCSS is.

**Kristin Rone:** As far as the vision, I think that we need to have a vote on the whole charter thing or the whole K-12 thing.

**Laura:** We need to change the mind-set of all of the parents and stakeholders in the cluster to have them understand that this is really a K-12 cluster and it's about the continuous experience. I would like to focus our energy on the K-12 mindset.

**Ian:** I think this group has the potential to do something pretty amazing. The eblast function, communication, is really a great way to communicate vertically from the top to bottom. It increases our capacity to get information across to people. If we can get this through to the Board of Ed.

**Kate Lubson** mentioned that she can help with eblasting, perhaps working together with Tracy Perez.

**Leanne:** There must be some sort of buy-in that is bringing all of the teachers and principals here; something that this group does. The mission is fairly broad.

**Arielle:** Initially this was created to engage parents and teachers and principals, so there wasn't any fear in the transition from K-12. Establishing a consistency in our communication. The work of this group really is to communicate to the stakeholders and make sure that there is a greater sense of community.

**Laura:** My goal as President of the PLCSF this year is to solidify the 5-8 experience.

**Gil Gutierrez:** Introduction to new members, he is our Area 3 Superintendent.

**Laura:** Meeting time. We need to make sure we all agree on the meeting structure. Once a month, day and time.

No motion necessary, meeting time will remain the same.

***Meeting stands at 4:30, the first Monday of the month, same place.***

**Margo Thompson:** A question about the eblast, does everyone in the cluster get it?

**Marvin:** Anyone who has signed up will receive emails from the cluster. When you go to your site webpage to sign up for their eblast, you can also opt to sign up for the cluster-wide eblast.

**Sabrina Buselt:** Concern over how we'll be bringing up the mission and focus idea again.

**Laura:** We'll have it in our minutes and we can bring it up at the next meeting. It'll end up on the agenda.

**Sabrina:** Can we have an additional person on the Exec Committee who can focus on the continuity idea; making sure that we are trying to establish a focus.

**Michelle:** That fits under our Engaging and Inspiring Learning chair, focusing on the continuity between the grades.

#### **Principal Reports:**

##### **Sandy McClure, Silver Gate Elementary**

Partnership with the Navy: In talking with Gil, he suggested we have our Navy volunteers come to the school in a group, as opposed to at different times and lead the kids in a physical endurance day. This frees up the teachers to have their collaborative training day. Our new liaison is Tina and she has been very supporting of our new physical boot camp day and has lined up all of the dates we have for the rest of the year.

We do it so every grade level can meet 10 times per year. Each Thursday two grade levels get in their planning time. It's about once a month that the kids get their boot camp time in. The goal was to get their heart rates up, and boy did they!

##### **Tanya McMillan (né Belsan), Dewey Elementary**

We have a new reading that area was created by Home Depot through a new partnership. The USS Dewey members also teamed up to help. We've been having Military coffees once a month and it's been great. Our connections corner is open every morning, because we are getting so many new parents in this time of year (start of the fiscal year). Tina has also helped with getting this rolled out. We've been using Active Parenting Now as a new resource. We were able to have parenting classes, free to our families, through Fleet and Family.

We were awarded a Mandarin grant for our Kinder and 1<sup>st</sup> grades (for now, perhaps 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> later).

##### **Glenda Gerde, Loma Portal Elementary**

Loma Portal is in the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile for reading and English Language Arts. It's a big deal for us and we are very proud.

**Diane Ryan, Dana Middle School**

Enrollment is up to 824, that's 50 more kids. Smooth beginning of the school year, we are fully staffed. 21% military families at Dana. Military club for kids is once a week and Tina, our liaison, will be instrumental with this.

We are focusing on how to get more parents to volunteer at the middle school level because it's different than what they are used to at the Elementary schools.

Another focus is the continuation of the technology in the classrooms. We've been figuring out how to continue to the LOGO program, ensuring net books for each child.

New business partnership, [AXA Equity](#), will be volunteering in our classrooms. They will be performing community service, volunteering in our classrooms to help our students and our teachers.

**Bobbie Samilson, Pt. Loma High School**

We got another Mandarin teacher at .4 FTE (part time)!

PLC model, working that into our schedule. Half-days are every other week.

It is college month. Please sign up for the eblast for PLHS to learn more about the school before you get there.

The hamster wheel is alive and well and we are taking donations to support and keep that up.

**Ian:** It's taken a school with destructive senior pranks and turned it around 180 degrees.

**Patty Ladd, Correia Junior High School**

In August I was notified that our Mandarin teacher was being held at the Chinese Embassy and we've been working with a sub. He will finally be arriving at the end of this week!

**Bylaws, Members, Voting structure**

**Marvin:** Wanted to introduce the concept of how we vote and how the board is structured.

We are minus one school, so we may need to look into that.

**EngagePL – Purpose and Report Out**

**Matt:** Thinks pulling the governance conversation out of the PLCSF is a good idea. EngagePL was created to make sure there was a place for other conversations. We can pull it out of the PLCSF and take it to another space.

Mollar charter came to speak at the EngagePL talk this past week. It was an interesting conversation.

**Sabrina:** Democracy isn't easy, it's an organic thing and it comes naturally. I wanted to thank you, Matt, for bringing up the awkward topic and running with it.

**Michelle:** I heard that Zengal program will be going down in January. It's a parent-connect program.

**Gil:** There is a plan in place to change over Zengal and Data Director, but the person leading that is no longer with the district. This will probably be held off until we get the staff in position to make those changes.

**Ian:** I suggest that we hold off until the end of the year, so we can get our grades out.

**Gil:** Because of the staff changes, the plan has obviously changed. I will be able to let you know at the next meeting.

**Jami Barr:** Did we cover 2.4 (Letter to the board regarding governance)?

**Laura:** I think we're going to not take any action and let that be handled by the EngagePL group.

**Scott Barnett:**

- I appreciate all of the hard work all of the teachers, parents and principals do to make it to these additional meetings on top of the work you already do.
- I am excited to hear the comments about the Mandarin in the various schools outside of Barnard. I commend you for keeping up with it despite Barnard moving out of the cluster. I want to work with the schools to make sure that we can continue to fund and support the language here in the Cluster.

**Prop Z** – another bond measure for 2.8mil

[www.sandi.net/PropZ](http://www.sandi.net/PropZ)

The Board worked on a needs list and we came up with about an \$8mil list.

Categories	Amount
Building Systems Repair & Replacement	\$574.6 Million
Quality Neighborhood Schools	\$561.6 Million
Student Health, Safety and Security	\$472.6 Million
Classroom and Student Technology	\$355.1 Million
Charter School Projects	\$350 Million
Energy Efficiency and Sustainability	\$210 Million
Accessibility and Code Compliance	\$208.9 Million
College, Career, and Technical Education	\$66.3 Million
School and Classroom Resources	\$25.8 Million
Special Education Facilities	\$20.1 Million
<b>Total Bond</b>	<b>\$2.8 Billion</b>

- The technology component is huge, the wiring and the background stuff that needs to happen to make the technologies work. It's a five year roll-out, and by that time, the money will have

run out. In a few years, the net books will be pulled and we won't have the resources to make this happen.

- By investing in more green, sustainable energy we could save a lot of money. We spend a lot on electricity.
- Prop Z will eliminate all of the deferred maintenance. My goal is to make sure that we are using more sustainable energy so we aren't
- \$10mil for the regional sports complex in Pt. Loma; there will be funds for PLHS to build a parking structure. It's one of the most impacted sites in the district.
- This measure will, for the first time, give every school in the cluster turf for their fields.
- Please support this measure and advocate for it.
- The downside is that your taxes will go up, if you are a property owner. It's \$60 per every \$100,000 of assessed value. About \$240 per year.
- However, there is something substantial that we can show the tax payers with this tax money.

**Christy McCabe:** Where does the grey water come from? Instead of it now going down the drain, it will be collected, recycled on site and will be reused on the school site.

**Jami:** Can you touch on the charter school projects part of this bond?

**Scott:**

- There are at least 40 public charter schools in the district. If there is unused space in a particular school, that "excess" space can (and has to be) used for charter schools. This bond would earmark funds for charter schools to purchase or acquire space for their schools, instead of taking space from existing schools.
- This money will only be used in the district for the schools; it won't go to the general fund. All local bond money stays in our local government. Our county treasurers hold on to it. Its money that we have the most control over; however it can't be used for teachers' salaries.

**Sabrina:** I believe this needs to be another conversation perhaps with EngagePL or even here.

**Scott:** It is a very complex topic and I'd be happy to talk about it at another forum.

**Matt:** Using our eblast system, we could easily put together a forum to hear about the Propositions as well as the candidates.

**Andrea:** Is this something we want to put on the Cluster eblast and not just the school eblasts?

**Scott:** Using a blog format as well may work for the communication and sharing aspect.

- I believe that everything should be wide open. It was said that Democracy is messy and it is. You all should be able to have any discussions about anything having to do with schools and

children and education. There are people down at the Ed Center who may not want you discussing charters or other forms of governance, but it should be

**Glenda:** We are mandated to come to these meetings, so if we are having a discussion about succeeding from the district than I think it's a bit unethical.

**Scott:** Even Superintendent Kowba believes that a cluster can put anything on their agendas as long as it pertains to making education a priority.

- Excess property – Barnard is being closed. The Board put \$20mil of land identified for land sales. I opposed that because it's one-time revenue for continuing deficit. The board is also pursuing a parallel idea to retain land-use in partnership with another entity. A park, meeting space, retirement housing, etc. As an owner we would have the ability to shape the conversation on use. We would also be able to retain revenue. On Oct. 9 the board will have a proposal before it to sell properties. I propose that we hold off for 90 days, to allow the Request for Proposals to be answered and allow us to retain some of this land and continue to make revenue.
- The offer was \$16.5 million for Barnard, which is \$7.5mil more than the asking.
- If Prop 30 passes, then we probably only have a shortfall of \$40-\$50 million, maybe as high as \$80mil. The Board negotiated a deal to shorten the school year by 14 days and we'd end up with a shortfall of \$35mil (which is about what we're at this year). We need to do everything that we can in order to make sure we don't take instructional days away from the children.
- Bottom line, we'll end up with a very high shortfall even despite the concessions made by the teachers.

#### **New Business:**

- Teacher, Ranger, Teacher Program at the Pt. Loma Cabrillo National Monument. Opportunities for schools to come and get tours for free. Please see (or email) **Jack Vallerga** for more information.
- Mark Powell who is running against John Evans for the Board of Ed seat in Sub District A.
  - Was a teacher here in the district, as well as a vice principal. I am a professor at National University, teaching education. I've been able to remain solvent in my real estate business through the toughest recession in years.
  - "I get it."
  - <http://www.markpowellforschoolboard.com/index.html>

**Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation**

**Corporate Resolution**

I CERTIFY that the following resolution was approved by the Board of Directors on OCTOBER 8, 2012:

Resolved: The President and Vice President are authorized to sign checks on behalf of the Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation.

The Chief Financial Officer is authorized to have access to the post office box, deposit funds, and verify account activity and balances.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the following persons have been appointed or elected, have qualified and are now acting as officers or employees of said corporation in the capacity set before their respective names:

President: Laura Caffo

Vice President: (to be elected at a future meeting)

Chief Financial Officer: Marvin Estrin

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Suzy Reid  
Secretary  
Point Loma Cluster Schools Foundation