

PLCSF General Board Meeting
Correia Library
11/5/12

4:35pm *Meeting called to order*
Roll call via agenda, quorum met.

1. *Roll call and Introductions:*

Superintendent Bill Kowba:

Thank you for your interest [in the cluster], your leadership and your collaborative efforts. I try to go out to a different cluster every month; we have 16 high schools in the feeder pattern. I'm here to observe, and take back with me what I learn. Thank you for what you do.

2. *Summary of discussion of October Exec Board meeting:*

Laura Caffo, Board President:

Exec Board met in October, talking about our Strategic Plan, marketing, how we can make our cluster a more cohesive one, and different skill sets we want our kids to have when they leave the cluster schools.

1. Scott Barnett – Board Contingency Plans re: Prop 30, 38, and Z

Scott Barnett, Board of Education Rep, Sub-district C:

Glad to see Superintendent Kowba here today. I've never seen a harder working public servant than Mr. Kowba.

Dana field has been recently added to our Board agenda, knowing that there will be some changes to maintenance/management.

David Wells (former Padres/Yankees pitcher) approached the district some time ago to donate a field, the maintenance of, and the use of the field. On the agenda tomorrow, I'm working on having the board remove the "joint use" status of the field, making sure that we have control over who uses the field. It's the next step in moving ahead for ground breaking.

Michelle Huber: Will we be able to use Prop S funds from Dana and use them here at Correia.

Barnett: Probably not, the Prop S funds stay with the school. But, with Prop Z will be able to contribute to the fields here at Correia.

We cannot borrow using conventional borrowing under Prop S. So, if Prop Z doesn't pass, Prop S will essentially be done. The money is slowly running out. The current projects will be stopped and shut down.

Prop 38, every poll shows that it's losing badly. If it did pass, it wouldn't do anything to affect this school year, it raises income taxes. But in the long run, it would raise more taxes than Prop 30. This money would also not be able to be deferred to the general fund (like Prop 98).

Prop 30 will have an immediate impact on this school year. If it doesn't pass, the contingency that the board agreed on (and I didn't) was that the school year would be reduced by 14 days.

If Prop 30 fails, we will need to find the money to make up for those 14 days. It should be our number one priority. Starting July 1, we could also have another short fall of at least \$80-\$100million. With it, we still have a \$40-\$50 million short fall.

There are no contingency plans currently in place, but we do have options.

Kowba: It may be more like a \$40

Laura: What could we do to raise money if that Prop fails?

Barnett: It would depend on the board and the classified employees. By law we aren't allowed to lay off teachers, nurses, principals, etc. in the middle of the year. We can however lay off bus drivers, janitors, etc. in the middle of the year with a 45 day notice.

There could be an agreement to reduce compensation mid-year, change health-care benefits mid-year (which could save us as much as \$10million per year), or even a change in the benefits received by employees.

The Board has a meeting set to be clear on the consequences and what we have to do after the election. It means a pay cut for teachers.

Kowba: Prop Z, if it does fail, and because of declining value of property, we will have less money. In all likelihood we'll have to reset the scheduling of projects. If Prop Z fails, we'll have to readjust things. Prop S, when it passed, it was a tight 10-year schedule of construction. It unfortunately passed right before Wall Street and the economy failed. Property values sank and costs of construction changed. We'll have to go back to the trustees and ask them if they want to adjust it. We're about to go into our sixth year of a depressed economy and low budget. We've taken a workforce of 16,000 down to 14,000; our people accounts are all we have left. Our district is really a skeleton of what it was. We've taken everything that wasn't people away, trying to keep class size down and keep the kids

Sabrina Buselt-Carlon: Holding women and children accountable for the de-regulation of the banks.

Kowba: It's questioning society's value of education. It's a terrible mess. It's a somber moment.

Jack Vallerga: **See/email Jack to get a copy of the statement he read at the meeting**

I wanted to tell you about some stuff here at Correia. Thursday November 1st, teachers met to discuss making Correia charter school. Members of the faculty have explored the steps.

Jack has copies of the letter that the majority of teachers have signed if anyone wants to see it.

Matt Spathas: It was just a conversation that was had here at the school site. There will be lots of conversations about this throughout the school year. The information has been posted at www.engagepl.com

This conversation has been happening in this cluster for the last three years. One of the highlights has been a field trip to Mueller Charter School, where they have only laid off three people in the last ten (?) years.

Patty Ladd, Correia Principal: I want to make sure people understand a few things:

We're doing really great work here at Correia. We have a hard working staff. Five years ago our API was 760, now its 862. That's because of the staff, parents and students. The demands are high. We're all working hard to provide for the kids. The teachers' interest in exploring other governance models is not because of the lack of progress, it's primarily because of the frustration of receiving pink slips every spring. When you talk about a strong learning community and creating a cohesiveness that transforms your status as an educator, it really makes its mark on our children. This has not been easy.

The staff is feeling it too, they can't maintain this grip. 2/3 of my ELA teachers have received pink slips or are gone. If you look at the amazing growth in ELA in the past few years, it's amazing. But every year, there's a cloud. We run the risk of losing the folks we know who are able and willing to share our vision.

Jack: It's so frustrating to see all of the teachers I work with, go.

Patty: I don't want anyone to leave this room thinking that this intent to explore a charter has anything to do with me. This is coming from professionals, who still need to do their homework. Don't think that Correia is in trouble, we're doing great. We wanted you to hear it from the source as opposed to on the streets.

Sabrina: Would you say that the pressure has increased with the greater cuts to the budget?

Jack: Well, yeah. Three weeks ago I lost 4 teachers, when I only had 30 to start with.

Sabrina: I applaud you for taking your own professional future into your own hands, but I also warn that setting a precedent that we may not be able to predict the consequences of may be difficult.

Jack: That's what we don't know. We have some predictions for the future, and we don't really like some of those.

Sabrina: So this is a decision made by union members?

Jack: Yes.

Sabrina: But the whole idea against charter seems to typically be about union bashing. You should make that point when you put this information out there.

2. PLCSF Meeting calendar and times for Board and Executive Committee:

Laura: The meeting will be kept on the first Monday of the month, including January.

3. *Bylaws:*

Will be tabled until next year. The Exec Board discussed possibly making some amendments to our bylaws, including Barnard.

Amendment to include 4 community members on our Board.

What are the thoughts on this idea?

Melinda Albright: How do we determine if the community members are acting on behalf of their children or education or have an alternative

Kristin Rone: Would these members be voted on?

Ian Law: We have work to do here within our group that calls for votes, would we be allowing them to vote?

Tanya Belsan, Dewey Principal: Do we feel we can't function as a group of 36, instead of a group of 40? We came up with a formula...

Arielle Sykes: We obviously want to include Michelle because she is a community member, is this where this is stemming from?

Marvin Estrin, Board Treasurer: Well, this was discussed when we first created our bylaws.

Alexi Peters: I'd be willing to look at the bylaws and see whether community members can be included and whether or not they can have the vote.

Marvin: The motion that was approved last year was that we have 40 voting members, with a more weighted vote for the high school.

Melinda: We could have an application process or something that would allow us to make sure persons wanting to be on the Board were here for the right reasons.

Ian: What about having Emeritus members?

ACTION ITEM → Alexi: Follow up on the next meeting regarding the bylaw review.

1. *Marketing Brainstorming session:*

- Making sure stakeholders know this is a K-12 Cluster; looking outside own school and ahead to middle, junior, and high schools
- How can we make Correia and Dana look more like one school on two campuses?
- Development of informational template for all cluster schools to use?

Laura: Our website, for example, how we can make it more user-friendly.

A link from the website to something that shows what you'd get at Dana, Correia, etc. Strengthen our 5-8, make it more of one school on two campuses. For example, we need to know at the end of 6th grade what math skills the kids will need in 7th grade. The conversation should no longer be, "My kid's in 2nd grade, where will they go for 5th?" It should be, "My kid is going to Dana!"

Marketing at Sunset View – as an example. Perhaps fundraising for all of the 5-8. It takes communication for all of the schools.

Arielle: Dana Association president. Money can definitely be used to benefit. At an elementary school level it can be easier. At the middle school level it's a bit more different; you have to raise more money to have an impact. We're looking at something like a Lomapalooza for all of the schools, or a 5K, to include the whole community. Bringing in the community will strengthen the whole cluster feel. It helps everyone feel invested.

Alexi: The high school invitation to have the whole cluster to come to the football games was pretty awesome. Having the high school cheerleaders come to the Jog-a-thon

Andrea Justus: The eblasters disseminate that information, and I know we get some push-back because it isn't just for that school. But it really connects the community. We have to change the mind-set of the elementary school parents, so they understand that it isn't just a five year experience, it's a K-12 experience.

Sabrina: Renting a bus during the tours for Kinder; using it as a fundraising thing; parents from the high schools becoming mentors to the incoming parents. Intergenerational partnerships in schools, with elementary kids, middle school kids, and HS kids.

Melinda: What about having one mascot for the whole cluster, the same colors, etc.

Andrea: We are planning an elementary school track meet in the Spring.

Margo Thompson: For the teachers, can the PLCs combine on Thursdays? Like Dana, and Correia, or the elementary schools and the middle schools. Teacher collaboration.

Laura: Would anyone like to suggest a way to move forward on these things? Creating a committee.

Marvin: Also, how do we get information out to the cluster? Is eblast still the best way to communicate with people?

Tanya: We use ConnectEd, mostly. We don't have anyone to do the eblast at our site.

Jami Barr: We have a hard time getting parents involved, because they're there just for two years at a time. It all depends on deployment. A lot of them are single parents.

Tanya: When we have community meetings I am making sure we're functioning as a school site, we're down to no one in the office and I send out the ConnectEd myself. They have the option to get the cluster eblast.

Marvin: Let's talk about how we do that.

Kate Lubson: Is there a way to just get their email addresses and put them into the cluster system.

Laura: I am planning on meeting with Vicki, to learn more. She is also looking for a replacement.

Kate: I had said I'd be willing to help with that.

13. Point Loma High College Night

Bobbie: We have such a hard working team at Pt. Loma, we're now at 812 for our API. Communication is critical; we are on the right path. The eblast, connect ed, every avenue, we can't get enough.

College Night – with a change in counselors, I knew I needed to find out more. I went to a conference. Speakers from out of state colleges will be there. Over 50 colleges represented. November 13, 2012. There will be recruiters there.

Our USC film school (the actual USC Film School told us that we have some better stuff than them!) just opened and

We have started vertical teaming. All of the teachers got together to work.

Feb 2nd, the hungry dog dash. 5K.

New family tours are starting soon. 10:00 first Wednesday of the month.

We are on Twitter now. You're all welcome to the Pointer Association meeting, it's right after this one. It's a great group of parents. "Triple A's: Academics, Athletics, Arts" – fundraising.

Marvin: They have the parent's breakfast at Dana and Coffee at Correia, so you can get into those schools and check out what's going on there.

10. Financial:

Marvin: Constant Contact reimbursement request sent to schools.

11. Walk and Roll Wednesdays

Nicole Burgess.

– Silver Gate has been doing it for a year now, each Wednesdays.

I work with Sandag Bike/Ped Working Group

It's about healthy kids, keeping them safe while walking to school.

There can be some

Active Transportation

See power point

iCommute

We can get all of the schools on board, I just need parent volunteers!

Nicole23@cox.net

OB Elementary has a bike rodeo on November 29th.

Nicole is trying to create a safe bike/ped route for all of the bikers in the OB/Pt. Loma area.

Sabrina: Do we have a t-shirt or anything that we can wear on the days we ride to school? Neons perhaps, or one of those scare assemblies where the guy in the wheel chair comes out to say that he didn't wear his helmet.

Dewey doesn't have bike racks.

Cluster Gate/Seminar – tabled to next meeting for Kristin

The cluster has done testing in 4th grade for seminar previously, now it is being done in 5th grade so it aligns with the district. The idea is that we want to approach the district to see if we can change it back to fourth grade testing.

Diane Ryan, Dana Principal: This is actually the second year that the testing is done in 5th grade. Part of it is about re-testing. The GATE office at the district looks a bit different, it's a skeleton crew. It's really about changing the testing process entirely. If you are new to the district at 6th grade, you aren't tested. What is the policy for re-testing?

Kowba: Contact Dr. Joe Fulcher, we oversees some of the child psychologists in the district or Sid Salazar who oversees the testing.

14. New business/Old Business

Patty: We're having a mock election here tomorrow. The kids have been doing a lot of work on this. It's abbreviated from the grown-ups ballots. The district media dept will be here.

Kowba: I would suggest, that when you brainstorm your marketing to reach out to other clusters – Clairemont or Madison for example.

From Margaret Johnson, OB Principal:

Discussion about streamlining the special ed classes in the cluster. We are getting an increasing number of special ed kids in classes and we just don't have the support.

Sabrina: Another thought on the unintended consequences of charter: leaving the special ed kids out. Charter schools don't always have to take every kid.

Next Meeting: December 3, 2012 4:30 pm, Correia Library