

**MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
LA MESA-SPRING VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING: August 4, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. at the Education Service Center by the President, Mrs. Halgren.

CALL TO ORDER

The President led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmembers present: Madrid, Arapostathis, Sterling, Ewin, Allan

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Councilmembers absent: None

City staff members present on assignment: Kerl, Garrett, Humora, Kennedy

Board members present: Baber, Duff, Halgren, Turner, Winet

Board members absent: None

District staff members present on assignment: Bender, Marshall, Martinez, Walker

COMMUNICATIONS

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PowerPoint documents relating to Community Wellness and the Cities Counties Schools Partnership.

Community Wellness and CCS Partnership PowerPoints

HEARING SESSION

HEARING

The President announced a hearing for anyone who wished to address the Board on any topic relating to this agenda.

Kevin Smith, community resident, spoke of his interest to develop a plan for Highwood Park that would convert a portion of open space into a science and technology area that would support teaching students about native plants and water conservation. He expressed interest in discussing methods of funding District schools with science and technology labs.

K. Smith, community resident
Highwood Park

REPORTS

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Yvonne Garrett, Director of Community Services/Director, La Mesa Park & Recreation Foundation, updated the Board and Council regarding the “Live Well Initiative,” a collaboration among local governments, school districts and community partners working to increase community-wide support for healthy eating and providing opportunities to allow residents to lead active lifestyles. The Collaborative has recently developed a strategic vision and action plans. A funding opportunity search is underway.

Community Wellness

Greg Humora, Director, La Mesa Department of Public Works, updated the Board and Council regarding the “Safe Routes to Schools” and “La Mesa Walk & Roll to School” programs, promoting healthy living and increasing walkability and bikeability around La Mesa schools. Grant funds obtained by the City will focus on safety improvements at four schools this year and four schools next year. Grants awarded to the County of San Diego will also include Spring Valley schools.

Community Wellness (cont.)

Board member Duff distributed photos of a fence along the median at Bonita Vista High School. He suggested this would be a good way to deter pedestrian crossing issues at Fletcher Parkway and Dallas.

It was agreed the first step should be for the Steering Committee to establish criteria and obtain community input in order to determine school priorities.

The La Mesa Parks & Recreation Foundation (LMP&RF) has a successful track record in working collaboratively with the City and with other public and private entities. The LMP&RF’s first major capital effort was to complete the fundraising for a master plan called The PARKS Project, raising nearly \$8 million to create a youth sports complex at Parkway Middle School and revamp Briercrest Park. Jim Miller, President, LMP&RF, updated the Board and Council on its strategic plan and discussed how City and school facilities will be affected by its plans for the future. One of the first projects planned is the “It’s Childs Play” playground project, upgrading playground equipment in City parks.

La Mesa Parks & Recreation
Foundation Strategic Plan

Luan Rivera, California School Boards Association (CSBA) Governance Consultant and School Board Member, Ramona Unified School District, updated the Board and Council regarding the Cities, Counties and Schools (CCS) Partnership, formed through an alliance between the California League of Cities and CSBA with shared principles for reform in state government and the belief that local control should be the rule and state preemption the exception. Board Member Turner and Mayor Madrid both attended a Summit on State Governance and Fiscal Reform in July 2009 convened in order to find solutions to problems created at the state level. Ms. Rivera encouraged the Board and Council to inform and engage their communities.

CCS Partnership

The synthetic turf at the Jr. Seau Sports Complex, installed in 2003, has been maintained by the City and is in need of extensive repair or replacement within the next year. An outside field inspection report indicated that approximately \$100,000 in repairs is necessary to extend the life of the field by two years or a complete replacement of the field at a cost of \$378,000 (due to design and bid specifications, this figure will likely be \$500,000-\$1 million). There was discussion regarding various funding options (grants, LMP&RF, District and City splitting \$100,000 cost, community resources etc.).

Jr. Seau Sports Complex
Synthetic Turf Field
Replacement/Update on
Activity/Supervision

It was suggested a turf vs. grass cost analysis be done. If a joint task force is recommended, it would be comprised of the Superintendent, City Manager and users of the Sports Council.

It was moved by Sterling, seconded by Arapostathis, and carried unanimously to approve a joint task force to research other alternatives and report back to the Council within 30 days.

It was moved by Baber, seconded by Turner, and carried unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to work with the City as part of a joint task force and report back to the Board within 30 days.

CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Members and Councilmembers expressed their appreciation for the willingness of their colleagues to attend this joint meeting and look for solutions to common issues.

As suggested by Board Member Baber, the meeting was adjourned in memory of Harold Hilliker, long-time Board Member with the Lakeside Union School District and community supporter, who passed away earlier in the week.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Brian Marshall, Secretary to the Board of Education

Approved and ordered into the proceedings of the District at the next regular meeting of the Board of Education to be held August 18, 2009.

Rick Winet, Clerk of the Board of Education