

March 30, 2009

RE: Partnership Board of Directors meeting on April 2, 2009

Dear Members of the Partnership Board of Directors:

Enclosed please find your packet of information in preparation of the next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools. This meeting is scheduled on April 2nd, 2009 from 4:00 – 6:00pm at the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library at 2200 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles CA 90033. Please note that we have extended the meeting time by 30 minutes because the agenda is very full.

Our Board meeting agenda is attached to this document and contains a number of areas we would like to cover. Our action items include some strategic areas we are seeking the Board's approval, including the approval of the profiles of potential new Board members, and serving and supporting Mendez schools in Boyle Heights. Our action items also include a number of operational items around insurance, leasing terms and a grant reallocation. In addition, we would like to update the Board on a number of topics. We will focus on the LAUSD budget crisis, the Partnership financial status, the transformation of Roosevelt High School, our collaboration with other network partners, and our family and community engagement program. Additional detail on these agenda items is provided in the attachments enclosed.

Please find the following materials:

- Attachment 1: Agenda for the Board meeting
- Attachment 2: Resolutions for the Board
- Attachment 3: Minutes of the Board meeting of January 29, 2009
- Attachment 4: Powerpoint slides on action and discussion topics

We look forward to seeing you later this week.

Best regards,

Marshall Tuck

Marshall Tuck
Chief Executive Officer

Angela Bass

Angela Bass
Superintendent of Instruction

Mark Kleger-Heine

Mark Kleger-Heine
Chief Operating Officer

Attachment 1
THE PARTNERSHIP FOR LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 2, 2009
4:00 – 6:00pm
Benjamin Franklin Branch Library
2200 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles CA 90033

| |
|--|
| Agenda item |
| I. Open public meeting and roll call |
| |
| II. Action items |
| a. Approve minutes from January 29 |
| b. Approve profiles for potential future Board members |
| c. Approve Partnership serving and supporting Mendez schools |
| d. Approve insurance renewal guidelines |
| e. Approve equipment lease |
| f. Approve expenditure reallocation |
| |
| III. Discussion items |
| a. Update on LAUSD budget crisis |
| b. Update on Partnership financials |
| c. Discuss transformation of Roosevelt High School |
| d. Discuss network partners collaboration |
| e. Update on Partnership operations |
| f. Update on family and community engagement |
| |
| IV. Public comment |
| |
| V. Adjournment |

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools Board, including those submitted after the initial distribution of materials, are available for public inspection prior to the meeting at www.partnershipla.org and at the meeting at 2200 E. 1st Street, Los Angeles CA 90033.

**Attachment 2
Resolutions for the Board**

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Background

The Partnership held a Board meeting on January 29, 2009. The minutes for this meeting need to be approved.

Resolution language

WHEREAS, the Directors held a meeting on January 29, 2009;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the
minutes of the meeting of the Board of
Directors on January 29, 2009 are approved.

II. BOARD MEMBERS

Background

Since its inception, the Partnership has sought Board members who are aligned with the values of the organization, committed to accelerating student achievement in the Partnership schools, and represent the different stakeholders in the Los Angeles public school community. Now that we are in our second year of operation, the Partnership team believes that it is the right time to add new Board members.

Currently, the organization has three Board members. The Partnership team recommends expanding the Board, and believes that it would be valuable to have representation from a teacher, parent, business representative and community member/advocate. The Board of Directors would need to appoint/approve any new Board member, consistent with the Partnership's bylaws.

Resolution language

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Partnership stipulate that the Partnership must have between three and eleven Directors;

WHEREAS, the Partnership Directors believe that the Board should broadly represent the Los Angeles education community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Directors intend to expand the Board and would like to see representation from a teacher, parent, business representative, and community member/advocate.

III. PARTNERSHIP SERVING AND SUPPORTING MENDEZ SCHOOLS

Background

LAUSD is opening two new small schools in Boyle Heights that are co-located on a new campus called the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez Learning Complex. Both of these schools will relieve Roosevelt High School and each will house approximately 400 students in grades 9-11 next year, growing to approximately 550 at full capacity the following year. The vast majority of students will come from Roosevelt High School and Hollenbeck Middle School (both Partnership schools), with a smaller number drawing from Utah Street School, a smaller K-8 school.

Given that most students attending Mendez are already being served by the Partnership at Roosevelt and Hollenbeck, the Partnership believes that it makes sense to serve and support Mendez. Therefore, serving Mendez will not increase the number of students served by the Partnership, but will add two new schools to the existing Roosevelt family of schools. In addition, the approach used at Mendez (two small schools co-located on a campus) will help to accelerate student achievement and is consistent with the Partnership's Schoolhouse framework. Finally, by serving and supporting Mendez, the Partnership will be able to maintain the consistency and alignment of instruction in the Boyle Heights family of schools.

We have been discussing the Partnership's involvement with Mendez since October with LAUSD. Recently, the Superintendent agreed to establish a collaboration between the Partnership and the Superintendent's Office to serve and support the two schools.

Resolution language

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of LAUSD is opening the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez Learning Complex (Mendez Learning Complex) in 2009-10 as two new schools;

WHEREAS, the Mendez Learning Complex will draw students from Roosevelt High School and Hollenbeck Middle School, which are both Partnership schools;

WHEREAS, the LAUSD Superintendent and the Partnership have discussed collaborating to serve and support these schools; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership seeks to be a model for effectively opening quality new schools in LAUSD;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Directors approve the Partnership signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to serve and support both new schools in the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez Learning Complex in Boyle Heights;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Chief Executive Officer is authorized to execute the MOU on behalf of the Partnership.

IV. INSURANCE RENEWAL

Background

The Partnership's general liability insurance carrier is no longer insuring organization's like the Partnership. The current policy expires in April. We have plenty of time to secure new coverage and are actively seeking new carriers. We are seeking Board approval because we will sign a new agreement before the next Board meeting.

Resolution language

WHEREAS, the Partnership seeks to cover its general liability needs;

WHEREAS, the Partnership must renew its general liability insurance package in order to maintain coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership must adhere to its contractual requirements in its Memorandum of Understanding with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
Directors direct the Chief Executive Officer
to obtain general liability coverage that
meets the needs of the corporation.

V. EQUIPMENT LEASE

Background

The Partnership would like to lease 31 new Apple computers to create a new, state-of-the-art computer lab at Santee Education Complex. The lab would be a multi-media center and would help students create innovative media as part of their standards-based graphic design and film production coursework. The Partnership instructional team recommends this investment as a strategy to accelerate student achievement at Santee.

The Partnership staff is considering leasing this equipment in order to preserve our cash flow. We are seeking the Board's approval to lease this equipment if that proves to be the best economic decision for the Partnership, since this expenditure would cross fiscal years.

Resolution language

WHEREAS, the Directors endorse the investment of Partnership funds in technology that improves student achievement;

WHEREAS, Santee Education Complex has been identified by the Partnership staff as needing a new multi-media computer lab; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership is currently negotiating possible leasing terms for 31 new Apple computers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Directors approve the leasing of 31 new Apple computers if the Chief Executive Officer determines that this is in the best economic interest of the Partnership.

VI. APPROVAL OF REALLOCATION OF PASS-THROUGH EXPENSES

Background

At the Board meeting on October 23, 2008, the Board approved \$730,000 in new expenses to the Boston Consulting Group based on a grant received from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. Fortunately, the expenses for the Boston Consulting Group were only \$660,828, which was lower than anticipated. This leaves a remaining balance of the Dell Foundation grant of \$69,172 for the Partnership to expend in other areas. We have agreed with the Dell Foundation to use the remaining balance to support performance management initiatives, which is consistent with the original intent of the grant.

We are asking for the Board to authorize the reallocation of \$69,172 in expenditures since the previous Board resolution required that the full grant be used to support the Boston Consulting Group.

Resolution language

WHEREAS, the Board approved \$730,000 in new expenditures to be used to pay for the Boston Consulting Group because the Partnership raised funds in the amount of \$730,000 from the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation to support the development and implementation of the Report Card and MyData initiatives;

WHEREAS, the total expenditures for the Boston Consulting Group were \$660,828, leaving a balance of \$69,172 from the Dell Foundation grant; and

WHEREAS, the Directors remain committed to the success of the Partnership's performance management program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Directors approve the reallocation of \$69,172 in expenses from the Boston Consulting Group to other performance management initiatives.

Attachment 3
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
PARTNERSHIP FOR LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS
January 29 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors of Partnership for Los Angeles Schools (the "Corporation"), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation was held on January 29, 2009 at the Mark Twain Branch Library in Los Angeles, California. The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:24 p.m. Board members in attendance were Robin Kramer, Melanie Lundquist, and Carolyn Webb de Macias. Staff from the Partnership was also in attendance, including Marshall Tuck, Angela Bass, Mark Kleger-Heine, Saskia Pallais, A. Je-nee Tyson, Paul Escala, Henry Hipps and Tad Parzen, legal counsel. Members of the public were also present at this meeting as the meeting was open to the public.

The Board reviewed and discussed the following resolution:

!

Approval of the October 23 Minutes

There were no comments on the October 23 minutes. Robin Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes. Melanie Lundquist seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

WHEREAS, the Directors held a meeting on October 23, 2008;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that
the minutes of the meeting of the Board
of Directors on October 23, 2008 are
approved.

There were several other agenda items discussed by the Board.

Six-month Priorities for Partnership Staff

Marshall Tuck updated the Board on the strategic focus areas that Partnership staff would be concentrating on for the next six months. Each activity was aligned against an outcome that the Partnership would like to achieve. The four outcomes presented were: 1) improving student achievement in current school year (and beyond); 2) build priority foundation for long-term improvement of student achievement; 3) drive change in public education in Los Angeles. The initiative discussed are included in the Board materials.

LAUSD Financial Crisis

Mark Kleger-Heine informed the Board that the State of California is facing a \$15 billion shortfall this fiscal year. This could impact classroom teachers at Partnership schools negatively. He indicated that the request had been made for the district to protect Partnership schools from layoffs and bumping. He also told the Board that the Partnership is recommending that schools conserve their funding provided by the Partnership to help protect against the budget cuts. Robin Kramer remarked that the Partnership should develop a legal argument to protect schools.

District Report Card and Dashboard

Henry Hipps presented the new District Report Card and MyData program, which tracks student-level data on academic achievement and other areas. These initiatives were initiated by the Partnership and embraced by

LAUSD, and both will ultimately roll out district-wide. The current pilot of the MyData system involves 31 schools, including all 10 Partnership schools, with the intent to begin making data-driven decisions at school sites and in classrooms. To date, teachers and parent teams have been trained. Melanie Lundquist asked how much public funding was used to support this initiative. Mark Kleger-Heine responded that he believed that the district had spent approximately \$1 per student on the Report Card.

Facilities and Technology Assessments

Paul Escala discussed facilities needs and improvements at Partnership schools. He stated that the Partnership school buildings range from four years to one hundred years old. He also told the Board that 6 out of the 10 Partnership schools are considered in a “critical” condition, and 3 are considered “fair” based on the district’s Facilities Condition Index. He also discussed the current status of the deferred maintenance program, capital improvements, and maintenance. Finally, he discussed some progress that the Partnership had made. Based on data to date, 50% of schools inspected as part of the County Williams inspections received a higher rating than the year before. In addition, the Parent Centers at all 10 schools were recently renovated.

Following that, Mr. Hipps discussed a technology survey that the Partnership had conducted. He noted that in the Partnership schools, there are many more students per computer compared to the national and state averages. Markham Middle School had the highest ratio at approximately 15 students per computer compared to the national average of 4 and California average of 5. In

addition, he described the lack of local support to maintain the equipment and software.

Alternative Bilingual Report at Ritter Elementary School

Angela Bass discussed the current status of the Dual Language program at Ritter. She described events leading up to the decision to put the program on hold, including a vote conducted by teachers at the school site.

Open Comments from Partnership School Sites

Teachers and a Principal from Partnership schools provided feedback on the transition from traditional LAUSD operations. Mrs. Webb de Macias thanked everyone who shared.

Closed Session

The Board had nothing to report from closed session.

The floor was opened for general public comment at approximately 6:07 p.m. There were no comments to Board members or Staff.

After the public comment period and there being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:08 p.m.

Mark Kleger-Heine, Secretary