

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
PARTNERSHIP FOR LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS
March 2, 2011

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools (the "Corporation"), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, was held on March 2, 2011, at Edwin Markham Middle School in Los Angeles, California. The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:25 p.m. Board members in attendance were Melanie Lundquist, Trébor Jacquez, Lisa Alva and Joan Sullivan. Robin Kramer and Matt Miller were absent. The sequence of the agenda was modified to ensure a quorum for all action items because Joan Sullivan arrived a few minutes after the meeting commenced. Staff from the Partnership was also in attendance, including Harry Ervin, Kennon Mitchell, Melody Levine, Marshall Tuck, Mark Kleger-Heine and Arturo Nagar. In addition, Markham principal Paul Hernandez, Santee Education Complex music teacher Michael Tramm, Santee Education Complex teacher Robert Bosley, Santee Education Complex students Selena Cantera and Jessica Pineda, and translator Gloria Leonard were in attendance. This meeting was open to the public.

The Board reviewed and discussed the following resolutions:

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APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 8 MINUTES

There were no comments on the December 8th minutes. Melanie Lundquist made a motion to approve minutes. Trebor Jacquez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

WHEREAS, the Directors held a meeting on December 8, 2010;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors on December 8, 2010 are approved.

II

APPROVAL OF THE PROCESS TO RECRUIT A PARTNERSHIP PARENT
BOARD MEMBER

Marshall Tuck provided a brief overview of a proposed process to add a parent to the Partnership Board. Joan Sullivan stated she welcomed any other Board members assisting in the process of recruiting a Partnership parent Board member. Trebor stated that he was interested in doing so.

Joan Sullivan suggested discussing expanding the Board to include people who may have the kind of connections that may add philanthropic resources to the Partnership. Joan Sullivan pointed out that the makeup of the Partnership's Board is novel in its current state in that it does not include a large number of people who focus on fundraising for the organization. Melanie Lundquist stated that she would prefer to see the fundraising advisory board, which is a non-governing advisory body containing many current philanthropic supporters of the Partnership, remain separate from the Partnership's Board of Directors. Marshall Tuck and Joan Sullivan suggested the topic be added to a future Board meeting agenda.

Melanie Lundquist made a motion to approve the process to recruit a Partnership parent Board member. Lisa Alva seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

WHEREAS, the Directors have agreed that a parent from the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools should sit on the Board of Directors of the Partnership;

WHEREAS, the Directors believe that a parent will bring an important perspective to the Board of Directors that will help the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools accelerate student achievement; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership has developed a process to identify the most qualified candidates from which the Board of Directors can choose;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Directors agree to the process for electing a parent onto the Board of Directors proposed by management and attached hereto;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Directors seek to have a parent elected to the Board of Directors at the June Board meeting of the Partnership.

III

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF THE PARTNERSHIP 2011-12 AND 2012-13 GROWTH PLAN

After a closed session discussion, Joan Sullivan stated that the Board is enthusiastic about the prospect of serving the community at Jordan High School but that there are questions that require further exploration before granting final approval for the Jordan High School portion of the resolution.

Melanie Lundquist moved to approve the Public School Choice portion of the Partnership Growth Plan resolution. Lisa Alva seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

WHEREAS, LAUSD is requesting that school providers submit applications to serve new and “focus” schools in LAUSD as part of the School Choice Resolution;

WHEREAS, the Partnership would like to submit two Letters of Intent for Clinton Middle School and 107 Street Elementary School before March 1, 2011 as part of the School Choice Resolution;

WHEREAS, the Partnership currently plans to submit full applications for both School Choice schools to the LAUSD before the deadline of October 14, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Partnership plans to work with the stakeholders of Clinton MS and 107th ES over the coming months to develop a collaboration to improve student achievement;

WHEREAS, the Partnership plans to collaborate with other organizations that are committed to serving Clinton MS and 107th ES; and

WHEREAS, the Directors recognize the Partnership’s goal to effectively serve as many students as possible;

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, that the Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to submit letters of intent to the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) as part of the “School Choice Resolution” to serve and support the following two schools beginning in the 2012-13 school year: Clinton Middle School and 107th Street Elementary School.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board of Directors request that the Chief Executive Officer return to the Board before October 14, 2011 to secure authorization to submit full applications for the following schools: Clinton Middle School and 107th Street Elementary School.

DISCUSSION

Marshall Tuck recognized the commitment and accomplishments of Paul Hernandez.

Marshall Tuck recognized the need to change the dates of the remaining Board meetings so that the full Board could attend the remaining two meetings.

Marshall Tuck began his presentation on school data for the 2010-11 school year by explaining that most schools take multiple periodic assessments so some results would not be available until later in the school year. During the suspensions portion of the presentation, Trebor Jacquez stated that the number of suspensions would be useful to see. Mark Kleger-Heine added that the percentages refer to the number of days, not to the number of students.

Marshall Tuck reviewed the Partnership's attendance data, during which Joan Sullivan joined the meeting, called the meeting to order, and conducted roll call. The Board discussed the frequency and timeliness of the release of periodic assessment data, and how the turnaround of the data could be improved so that teachers receive more immediate feedback. Joan Sullivan stated it may be worth exploring how much teachers are using the data and what roadblocks slow the process. Marshall Tuck stated that current Partnership policy regarding assessments states that teachers need to use the District recommended assessments and that teachers may supplement those assessments with their own, if they meet criteria set by the Partnership. He added that the Partnership has formed a committee to weigh the benefits of different assessment strategies. Joan Sullivan and Trebor Jacquez requested that the next attendance report include a three year view to provide context for the year to date information.

Trebor suggested that the Partnership start with professional development sessions regarding data for all schools so that groups of core teachers are intimately familiar with the process and the expected progress. Joan Sullivan suggested a "state of the schools" process for school leaders to discuss data at the beginning of the school year and to establish goals for the upcoming year.

Mark Kleger-Heine reviewed the Partnership's financial position, stating that the Partnership's financials are on track and that fundraising is continuing for the current year's programs and ramping up for next year's programs. Marshall Tuck added that revenue is lower than expected and that costs have been cut accordingly.

Lisa Alva asks about progress of the Partnership's insurance pricing. Mark Kleger-Heine explained that the renewal period is forthcoming and that the renewal recommendations will be presented to both Lisa Alva and Melanie Lundquist.

Trebor Jacquez asked whether or not the APEX and AVID programs will continue to be funded. Marshall Tuck replied that, unless funding is secured for the programs, they will not be funded. He continued, stating that fundraising is difficult to secure beyond the first two years of a program. Mark Kleger-Heine added that APEX is now being funded by the District after LAUSD witnessed the Partnership schools' success. Trebor Jacquez stated that his concern is that APEX was a factor in increased graduation rates and, should it not continue, the graduation rates may be affected. Trebor Jacquez asked that the APEX program continue to be funded despite the economic climate or that the schools build the program into the budget. Marshall Tuck replied that the Partnership is encouraging all its schools to build programs into the school site budgets. Melanie Lundquist requested that the Board review APEX program data, including the number of students who participated, completed and graduated.

Marshall Tuck then discussed the Partnership's recommendations to expand to Jordan High School, Clinton Middle School and 107th Street Elementary School. Joan Sullivan clarified that the Public School Choice letters of intent for Clinton and 107th Street had moved to March 31st.

Trebor Jacquez asked whether or not the Partnership is hiring more staff to accommodate the needs of the Partnership's current schools while considering the needs made apparent in the growth plan. Marshall Tuck responds that as schools move into years four or five, they should require less support from the Partnership. He acknowledged that some schools may require more years of heavy support due to unique needs. Joan Sullivan concurred. Marshall Tuck stated that the Partnership is hiring for a few positions immediately, while pursuing fundraising in order to add more positions.

Melanie Lundquist stated that, when faced with a decision to fund student programs such as APEX or to improve the atmosphere for the adults, the funding for student programs should take priority. Further, Melanie Lundquist acknowledged the dire situation of the students at Jordan High School and stated the Partnership must help the students at Jordan High School.

Trebor Jacquez asked whether or not Alliance and Green Dot have agreed to take on Jordan High School. Marshall Tuck stated that verbal agreements have been made and Board approvals are forthcoming. Joan Sullivan asked that the commitments of Alliance and Green Dot be verified.

Lisa Alva asked whether or not the Partnership had assessed the financial impact of taking on the students at Jordan. Marshall Tuck stated that a \$1.2 million budget would provide both needed and preferred services to the students for several years. Lisa Alva asked whether or not the staff of other Partnership schools would be able to volunteer to help with Jordan. Lisa Alva stated she would volunteer her summer to assist the students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Sullivan recognized Michael Tramm, music teacher at Santee Education Complex; Robert Bosley, math teacher at Santee Education Complex as well as a member of the School Site Council; and Selena Cantera and Jessica Pineda, students at Santee Education Complex.

Michael Tramm requested funds for seventy new uniforms for the school band and three rolling racks, costing \$27,864.43 and \$360.00, respectively. If well kept, Mr. Tramm stated that the uniforms should last five to ten years. Mr. Tramm argued that the presence and quality of the marching band has grown significantly, both on campus and in competition. The band has performed in numerous parades, and school and community functions. Mr. Tramm also explained that the uniforms would inspire students to want to play more and would help stress core values of discipline and working hard. Mr. Tramm showed the differences between the uniforms, noting that the old uniforms are falling apart and that the bands against whom they compete have uniforms similar to those for which he is seeking funding.

Joan Sullivan asked how many students are in the band and Michael Tramm replied that there are thirty members. Joan Sullivan asked what the capacity is and Michael Tramm replied that it is seventy to eighty students. Melanie Lundquist asked why seventy uniforms are needed for thirty band members. Michael Tramm stated that he would like to grow the band and needs multiple sizes. He also stated that all uniforms would remain on campus. Joan Sullivan asked whether or not Mr. Tramm has attempted to secure funding through DonorsChoose.org and he replied that he must build up to the amount he is requesting.

Robert Bosley then spoke, stating that the band is important for two reasons. First, as a relatively new school, Santee is trying to build a sense of community and school spirit. The band is a crucial element to building a strong school culture. Second, the school is likely transitioning to zone of choice enrollment next school year and needs to attract students. Finally, the school is battling a negative image and the band's appearance will help that image.

Joan Sullivan asks if the school can contribute any amount to the purchase. Trebor Jacquez stated that the School Site Council suggested Michael Tramm submit a request for funding to the Partnership.

Trebor Jacquez recounted a story of an elementary school child excited to see the Santee marching band. He continued, suggesting that "PLAS" be printed on one side of the uniform and "Santee Falcons" on the other side.

Melanie Lundquist stated that she would be willing to contribute 25% of the cost if the school contributes 50% and another funder contributes 25%. Melanie Lundquist recognized the leadership shown by the teachers and students who presented.

Joan Sullivan thanked the teachers and students for their time.

The Board went into closed session at 5:25 p.m. The public meeting was reconvened at 5:55 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Mark Kleger-Heine, Secretary