

Milpitas Unified School District/City of Milpitas
Communication Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING
November 4, 2009, 4:30 p.m.
1331 East Calaveras Boulevard
Milpitas, CA 95035

Attending for MUSD were Supt. Karl Black, School Board President Mike Mendizabal, School Board Vice-President Marsha Grilli.

Attending for the City of Milpitas were City Manager Tom Williams, Vice Mayor Pete McHugh, Council member Althea Polanski, Police Chief Dennis Graham, City Counsel Michael Ogaz, Planning and Neighborhood Services Director James Lindsay, Parks and Recreation Director Bonnie Greiner, and Sean Simonson, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

2010 City/School District Disaster Drill

Sean Simonson reported that his group and the School District's representative Brian Shreve have started meeting to prepare for the City/School Disaster Drill and the mass feeding that goes with the event. This year the drill will be held at Burnett Elementary School. The organizers are trying to get an early start this year to try to overcome some of the financial challenges that were encountered last year. It was explained that historically the cost of providing the food is through donations from various businesses with the City picking up the shortfall. Last year, the City's Economic Development Director Diana Barnhart assisted in approaching vendors for donations. Wal-Mart contributed about \$3,000; Safeway \$600; and the City picked up the remainder of the cost to feed about 600 students, staff, and volunteers. Calls are being made earlier to various businesses to ask for donations so that an alternative plan could be made to cover the shortfall.

As was last year, obtaining donations from businesses remain a big challenge due to the bad economy. Dr. Black suggested that a joint letter be signed by both the Mayor and the School Board President to help the organizers as they try to approach businesses for donations.

Update on Joint Use Agreement

City Counsel Ogaz distributed copies of several joint use agreements between the City and the School District and asked the School District to review the marked changes.

Mr. Ogaz said that additional language was added to the Community Garden Agreement on what needed to be done when improvements were put in place. He stated that the changes are minor, and the City and MUSD are pretty much in agreement with those changes.

The Facilities Use Agreement has a lot of changes from its original form. The changes were marked for the District's review. The schedule of fees needs to be reviewed to make sure that it is consistent with what the District wanted. Mr. Ogaz noted that language on the use of school facilities for care and shelter during emergencies was not included in the proposed revision. However it can be added if desired by both parties. Dr. Black and Councilmember Polanski both asked that it be discussed and be included and hoped that the Agreement could be wrapped up before the year ends.

The revised MHS Tennis Court Use Agreement will be taken to the School Board for approval on November 24, 2009. The terms of the Bobby Sox field use Agreement still have to be worked out as the City would like to change the duration of maintenance responsibility for the fields.

Dr. Black said the District will review the proposed changes to the agreements and will be in touch with the City.

Update on Developments

Mr. Lindsay said that since the last meeting, no new applications have been received for new developments. He estimates that it will take another 3-6 months out before the City will see new residential projects because of the bad economy. Aspen is 90% occupied and the adjacent project is about 50% complete. Dr. Black said that Zanker has about 140 more students this year over last year – twice as many as the original estimate. Some are from mid-town developments and some students are coming back from private schools. Also there is no way to count or anticipate the number of students when there are two or three families living together because of the bad economy.

Possible MUSD Parcel Tax Initiative on the 2010 Ballot

Dr. Black said that financially, if everything stays the same, for the year ending in 2011-12, the District will face nearly a \$3 million deficit. By that time, all the available District reserves would have been used with only a small amount of money left in its Building Fund. Because of this the School Board is seriously looking at a parcel tax.

Dr. Black reported that the District did a survey to gauge voter support for a possible parcel tax in 2010. Four hundred six telephone interviews were made with the likely voters in Milpitas between Oct. 2 and 6, 2009. Dr. Black shared a copy of the survey results and the key findings of the survey, which are as follows:

- * Voters feel increasingly positive about the direction of the City and view both the District and the Board of Education favorably.

- Voters also give high marks to the District's quality of education and financial management.

- * However, three in five (59%) believe that public schools in Milpitas need more money, a 10% increase from 2006.

- * Though many program areas are valued, voters express particularly strong support for math and science education.

* Slightly less than two-thirds of voters (63%) initially support a \$110 parcel tax.

*After hearing potential statements from supporters and opponents, support reaches 66%.

- Though many arguments for the measure are seen as compelling, protecting science, math, technology and engineering resonate strongest.

- Concerns about the economy and the overall number of ballot measures raising taxes top the list of reasons to oppose the measure.

The pollster felt that if it is a “go” an aggressive community campaign needs to be waged to be successful with the initiative. Because there is +/- 4.9% margin of sampling error, between now and January 2010, the District will be talking with some key people in the City to get an idea of the level of support it has. The District is looking at less than \$100.00. The Board will make its decision in January 2010.

Vice-Mayor Pete McHugh floated the idea of possibly partnering with the City for a parcel tax initiative in 2010. Mr. McHugh said he will try to bring it up for discussion at the next City Council meeting and see how it is received. Dr. Black said that even if both parties decide to move forward with a joint parcel tax, it could require placing two measures on the ballot instead of just one, since the school district and the City have slightly different boundaries.

Dates of Future Meetings

January 6, 2010 – 4:30 p.m. – City Hall

March 3, 2010 – 4:30 p.m. – MUSD

May 5, 2010 – 4:30 p.m. – City Hall

Adjournment

The meeting ended at 5:10 p.m.