

Milpitas Unified School District/City of Milpitas  
Communication Meeting

MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 3, 2010 - 4:30 p.m.  
1331 East Calaveras Boulevard  
Milpitas, CA 95035

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Attending for MUSD were Supt. Karl Black, School Board President Marsha Grilli, School Board Vice-President Michael Mendizabal, and Milpitas High School Principal Ken Schlaff (present for “Every 15 Minutes” only).

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, and Parks and Recreation Director Bonnie Greiner.

### **Teenage Binge Drinking - “Every 15 Minutes”**

Milpitas High School Principal Ken Schlaff has been working with the Milpitas Police Department on this anti-drinking program and provided an update. This joint activity will be held on May 12-13, 2010 for seniors at Milpitas High School. The event is meant to be an emotionally charged experience that will help students recognize all of the choices and safety considerations related to drinking and drunk driving.

On day one of the event 20 “living dead” students -- donned in unique clothes and who will not speak to their classmates – have been preselected to represent a young person killed in an alcohol related auto crash. They will be pulled from a class every 15 minutes by a “grim reaper” figure to symbolize the fact that across the country every 15 minutes someone is killed by a drunk driver. After school, the “living dead” students will be involved in activities or field trips to such locations as the county morgue, or hospital, or courts, or a jail facility – anything related to the consequences of drunk driving. On May 12 students will have a chaperoned overnight stay either on campus at the gym or at a local hotel and there will be discussion periods during that experience and other activities.

Police Chief Graham shared that on day two, there will be an on-campus exercise for students to experience simulated impairment. Officers will be giving field sobriety tests to volunteer students who would wear something on their face which simulates disorientation and blurred vision that can come with intoxication. Visual aids will include a crashed car that was involved in drunk driving and tombstones. Day two will culminate in two school assemblies for the 645 seniors attending MHS. Chief Graham noted that this is good timing to have this program before the senior ball.

### **MUSD Parcel Tax**

Dr. Black thanked Vice-Mayor Pete McHugh for speaking at the Democratic Committee for MUSD and for bringing the proposed measure to City Council for its consideration and support.

Dr. Black updated the group on the proposed Parcel Tax. He explained the reason for having this measure on the June 8 ballot. The District is projecting over \$6 million deficit for school year 2011-12. This situation is pretty much the same across the board with most revenue districts in California.

Because the projected deficit is so large, even if the District were successful with the tax (which would only bring about \$1.2 to \$1.5 million), Dr. Black said he will still need to recommend to the School Board next week to cut another \$1.2 million from its budget. He shared with the group a list of the recommended cuts, which includes raising class sizes in grades 1 and 2 from 20 to 24; closing the Community Day School and finding other options for its services; cutting Adult Ed. course offerings; not filling an administrative vacancy in Maintenance and Operations and not filling the At-Risk Specialist position when the incumbent retires at the end of the school year.

The tax proposes a 5-year at \$84 per year, with no escalators at the end of 5 years. There will be an independent financial audit of the funds, a citizens' oversight committee, exemptions for seniors, and no money to be used for District Office administrators.

Dr. Black stated that normally when a public agency goes for a parcel tax, it is to pay for a specific project(s). However this parcel tax, if successful, would just help keep the District's head above water. It would also help prevent shortened school year for the kids from 180 to 175 days. Cutting the school year by 5 days would mean 5 days unpaid furlough for all employees.

MUSD is a highly decorated school district (8 of its schools are California Distinguished Schools). Dr. Black passed a list of MUSD accomplishments and asked the group to feel free to share the list with those seeking information. Part of the information therein is a list of what the District has been doing to balance its budget, and a list of what can be lost if the Parcel Tax does not pass. He also provided an endorsement page for the Parcel Tax for people to fill out and return to the Parcel Tax Committee with, hopefully, some monetary support for the campaign.

Principals are working with parents to help pass this measure. Dr. Black will also be speaking to PTAs and other interested service organizations to explain the need for this tax. Dr. Black noted that they are doing large registration campaigns at schools, especially at the high school, trying to register first time voters this year (registration forms are available in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Chinese languages). In May, Parcel Tax supporters will be going door to door to spread information about the measure. There is organized opposition to this measure that is why hard work is needed to get 67% of the votes.

## **Update on Joint Use Agreement**

The Bobby Sox and Milpitas Community Garden joint use agreements have been approved by the School Board and the Milpitas City Council. Only one joint use agreement remains but is ready to go with one clarification. City Attorney Michael Ogaz called attention to language on page two of the draft agreement – as to who makes the call in case of contract disputes. It was agreed that both the City Manager and the Superintendent will decide on any potential dispute. Mr. Ogaz will make the required language change and will forward the contract for School Board approval.

A question was raised regarding the joint use of the Aquatic Center. Dr. Black said he has not been able to take care of that due to all the work on the parcel tax. He did share that the District's CBO has been looking for a possible joint use grant and a reading on whether re-development funds can be used for such an undertaking. Dr. Black will get together with the City Manager to try to find avenues for money for this project. Ms. Polanski also wanted to be sure that the joint use of facility for emergency uses is addressed in this agreement. Staff indicated that it is in the agreement.

Ms. Polanski shared that one of the City Commissioners has raised the possibility of the City and the School District talking with some of the "green" companies that are coming into Milpitas, as it might be a good idea to see if they would be willing to help support something of this nature down the road.

## **Update on Developments**

Planning and Neighborhood Director James Lindsay said he met with MUSD demographer Tom Williams two weeks ago and discussed Mr. Williams' 5-year enrollment projections. He said there are no new developments approved since the last meeting, but there are two projects that are anticipated to come on line soon – the apartments by the Great Mall and Abel Street and Fairfield apartments.

Mr. Lindsay shared that City Council recently approved the alternate Transit Center Layout for future Milpitas BART station as newly proposed by VTA utilizing some land for transit uses to the east of the future station. The area affected is near Montague, southeast of Capitol Avenue. Surface parking in a corner area was eliminated and the encroachment of transfer facilities was onto land designated for private development (to the east of the station). Regarding the coming of BART, because greater amount of transfers is anticipated from bus and light rail onto BART, the planners determined that it would not fit all that was needed for support on the west side. Therefore, a new layout displayed the move of some of the support of the activities onto the east side of the station.

VTA indicated that all activity on the west side would not fit. On that land the City had revealed it wanted to put some housing on the side that VTA wanted for buses because of need to keep people moving into/out of the station. It was felt that a high rise parking garage could not fit on the west side of the station, as designed, with no reason to limit development on the east side land.

Dr. Black shared that demographer Williams has expressed the opinion that from the Aspen apartments of about one hundred 2-bedroom units, there are at least 2 children per unit, which is over the original estimate. That alone would fill up Zanker School and would create a need to bus students to Spangler School. Mr. Williams felt that the children are just finishing up their school year elsewhere and would start enrolling in Zanker in 2010-11.

Mr. Lindsay said that this past summer, a revision was made to the plan for the development north of the Aspen project. Now approximately 1/3 of the future housing in that location will be senior housing, so enrollments that would come out of this area should go down

## **Next Joint Meeting of the Milpitas City Council and the MUSD School Board**

Dr. Black reminded the group that at last year's joint meeting of the two agencies, it was tentatively agreed to hold the next joint meeting on March 30, 2010. Ms. Polanski suggested holding the next meeting at City Hall.

### **Date of Future Meeting:**

The next meeting of this group will be on May 5, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at Milpitas City Hall.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 5:10 p.m.