

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD AND PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES COMMITTEE
and
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD PRESIDENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1994

CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Meeting of the Neighborhood and Public Safety Issues Committee and the School District Board Presidents was called to order by Chairman Steinberg at 6:35 p.m. on the above date at City Hall Council Chamber, 915 I Street, Second Floor, Sacramento, California.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Councilmembers Kerth, Ortiz, Pannell, Steinberg

School Board Members Present:

Harry Block, President, Del Paso Heights School District; Teri Burns, President, Natomas Unified School District; Shannon Davis, President, North Sacramento School District; Merrie O'Brien, Trustee, Grant Joint Union High School District; Edward Harris, Jr., President, Elk Grove Unified School District; Theresa Nutt, President, Robla School District

Councilman Steinberg welcomed members from the school districts and stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss strategies and forge solutions to issues facing both schools and neighborhoods including: sharing use of public facilities and services; reducing vandalism and graffiti; volunteer opportunities with neighborhood associations and local schools; and related issues. Councilman Steinberg introduced Mayor Joe Serna, Jr.

Mayor Joe Serna, Jr. discussed his hope that the school districts and the City of Sacramento will begin working in a more productive fashion. The City of Sacramento will have an issue on the June ballot that will allow the City to provide more public safety for the people of Sacramento. The crime package program includes a prevention program that involves the school districts' efforts and the question of whether or not to have curfew. The truancy laws will need the school districts' support. When truancy laws are enforced, incidence of home burglaries are reduced 30 to 35 percent. There will be a \$29 per year assessment for five years.

Mayor Serna added that joint use of facilities is something they want to explore with all the districts as well as begin discussions of how to jointly fund facilities. He said that Councilmembers have talked about night basketball being included in the crime package; libraries being used as homework centers; putting youngsters to work on anti-graffiti abatement programs. They would like to have the school districts work with the City on these programs. Mayor Serna stated that he wants to meet with the school boards individually and talk about what's happening to our kids in every school district in the City of Sacramento. Mayor Serna added that Elk Grove School District is a model for other districts to look at. Their program of "zero tolerance" has worked when it comes to anti-social activity on campus. Mayor Serna said he challenges all of the school district board members, as well as the City Council and Board of Supervisors, to a total and complete reform of our school system.

All school board trustees present expressed their pleasure in being invited to meet jointly with this committee and welcomed the Mayor's visits with their school boards. They were all very enthusiastic about working with the City of Sacramento.

Insurance coverage for joint use of facilities was discussed by the Councilmembers and School Board members. Suggestions and comments from Councilmembers, School Board members, and members of the audience: (1) Grant District has an insurance policy under the Civic Center Act which does open their facilities to the public. (2) Schools are insured. Put an inexpensive rider on the schools' insurance policies. (3) The School Insurance Authority is run by school board members and may be a source. (4) Use community organizations as resources for insurance coverage. (5) Work out a joint agreement for insurance.

School Board members talked about specific programs at their individual school districts:

Teri Burns, President, Board of Trustees with Natomas Unified School District, talked about a program called Linking Education and Economic Development. Their meeting rooms are in use by churches on weekends, civic organizations, community groups, and youth groups.

Shannon Davis, President, Board of Trustees with North Sacramento School District, said they are spending about \$20,000 a year on vandalism and keeping graffiti off their schools. They have spent \$1 million of their budget for social programs and social issues.

Edward Harris, Jr., President, Board of Trustees with Elk Grove Unified School District, stated they have a very interested and involved staff as well as parents in Elk Grove. In 1987 they passed the Mello-Roos Bond Measure which allowed them to do a lot of things where people were involved.

Merrie O'Brien, Trustee with Grant Joint Union High School District, said they have a long history of working with the City's Parks Department, particularly Mr. Joe Mims. The district also has the Las Palmas Health Clinic serving the area.

Harry Block, President with Del Paso Heights School District, said they also have been participating in joint use for years with the City of Sacramento. The district has a "shared government" process whereby parents get involved in hiring of the principal and teachers.

Theresa Nutt, President, Board of Trustees with Robla School District, said they just recently passed a bond measure with over two-thirds majority. They are restructuring their schools.

Volunteerism was also discussed. Everyone agreed that volunteerism needs to be promoted and include not only parents of school children, but also residents who are not parents. Inter-generational groups need to be encouraged to volunteer.

Councilman Steinberg announced the debut of "Late Night Sacramento" on March 4, 1994. This is a program for teenagers offering recreational, artistic, and educational activities from 8:00 p.m. to midnight at three schools - Grant West High School, Luther Burbank High School, and Hiram Johnson High School. It has taken a lot of effort and cooperation with the school districts, City Parks and Recreation Divisions, as well as many other agencies and private entities to put this together.

Robert Pernel, community activist in the Meadowview area, the Meadowview Community Action organization, addressed the sharing of public facilities and volunteerism. He thinks the reduction in vandalism and graffiti will take care of themselves if they do a good job on this.

Cheryl Zeh, resident in North Sacramento in District 2, stated she has been a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to Parks and Recreation since January 1993. The availability of the parks and quality recreation have a direct bearing on more than just quality of life in our neighborhoods but also in the guidance and direction our young people are taking. They are about to begin a pilot program with Vista Nueva High School on North Avenue and expand it as resources and volunteers become available. She would like to see the schools used as community centers for more than just recreation, such as health, education, cultural enrichment, and community activities. She realizes the biggest obstacle is money. She is active with the Robla School to pursue grant money from the Sierra Health Foundation. The initial grant proposal is awarded on April 1. There is grant money available. She hopes the City Council and School Boards will actively facilitate the expanded use of Sacramento schools.

Marie Dixon, Manager with the Neighborhood Services Department, explained that the Parks and Recreation Department is now a part of a larger department - the Neighborhood Services Department. She has been working as a liaison with Sacramento City Unified School District with the Superintendent of Schools and many of their executive staff. They emphasize the coordination of facilities and delivery of services. They are trying to clean up communication and coordination problems on both sides and have made progress. Their goal has been to insure access and the maximum use of schools and community centers to promote volunteer efforts and encourage positive alternatives for youth and discourage vandalism and graffiti.

Ms. Dixon stated the new regional managers are to be appointed in the next month. These four regional managers will be responsible for bringing all school districts, community residents, neighborhood associations, and business organizations in as equal partners in problem solving. The City's management staff met with Sacramento City Unified School District and worked out a plan to share staff and resources for the summer programs.

Lannette Werner-Tete, Elk Grove Unified School District, said the district has real concerns about safety for the schools in the Valley Hi area. Elk Grove is trying to educate the entire family. They have opened up twilight centers. They provide tutoring for children, translations, ESL programs for parents, parent participation pre-school classes. They have hired the Elk Grove security program to come and police the campuses. Another program is the healthy start center in the Florin area that services four schools that are in the county. They have a neighborhood adopt-a-school program. They are currently involved in the Sacramento Policy Academy Collaborative which is working on decategorizing funds and looking at the services of Sacramento as a whole. There are four staff members from Elk Grove School District who are participating in the Policy Academy. Tomorrow is the first meeting for all of the county, city, families, community organizations statewide. They want to develop a strategic plan by May 1 to take to the State. She asked if there is some way to come together to work on writing grants.

Merrie O'Brien suggested a survey of all the school districts involved to determine what is being done with facilities and programs; ask specifically how they deal with applicants for use in the school facilities for insurance purposes, can the board waive those fees, etc.

Councilman Steinberg introduced the people in the audience representing Sacramento City Unified School District: William Ellerbee, Area Administrator, Vanguard Cluster Schools; Nancy Pequeno, Principal, Will C. Wood Middle School; Paul Cronenwett, Principal, American Legion High School; Susan Kolch, Principal, Mark Hopkins Elementary School; Helen Ingram, Principal, Tahoe Elementary School; Joseph Bernal, Principal, Maple Elementary School; Laura Broussard, Principal, Earl Warren Elementary School; Michelle Hobza, Coordinator of the Healthy Start Project; Yolanda Luna, Vice Principal, Peter Burnett Elementary School.

Harry Block introduced the Superintendent for the Del Paso School District, Dr. Carl Mack, in the audience.

Pat Shelby, talked about the barriers they face when developing and extending a collaborative partnership. There is an irregular patchwork of access to schools depending on what school district you're in, City Council District, or if you are in a supervisorial district. She talked about Shirley Johnson's program in Colonial Park creating a small stipend program for summer youth so that older kids are helping younger kids. She also talked about interpretative services at the City Council meetings. Ms. Shelby asked where can they file questions with either this body or for future questions that might come up regarding current programs that we have that we might seek to enhance through these partnerships.

Councilwoman Ortiz mentioned the City has translation services available; Ramiro Jimenez on City staff for Spanish translation. We also tap into our Asian translators through Asian Resources as appropriate. She has talked with David Martinez about a telephone system that you could dial in and be connected to multilingual phone hookups with prerecorded information. There is equipment that can do simultaneous translation. She added the youth mentorship Ms. Shelby talked about in Colonial Heights under the leadership Shirley Johnson is relative inexpensive.

Councilman Steinberg said questions can be directed to City staff or any of the Councilmembers here or school board members. He is going to propose that this will be the first of a regular effort to meet jointly to continue this dialogue.

Robin Purdee, Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA), talked about a project called "Youth Fair Chance." Funds are available from the Department of Labor, to fund 25 demonstration projects across the country. The grant is being written and submitted by the County Office of Education and is due tomorrow. This model is a grant done in cooperation with Grant Joint Union High School District and Sacramento City Unified School District to target areas with a high poverty rate of over 30 percent. Objectives are to increase school attendance and completion rates, increase post secondary education enrollment, and increase employment rates among youth. This will also reduce young adult gang and drug involvement. We need to open up schools to be used as community centers for youth to go not just for education but also for sports, recreational, and academic activities. SETA is a partner in this as well as the two school districts, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, City Police Department, and County Department of Human Assistance. The grant begins in September of this year for a duration of 18 months.

The following members of the audience also addressed the committee and talked about volunteerism and problems with crime in schools: Paul Miguel, Betty Brill, Charles Wiggins, and Joseph Bernal.

Councilman Steinberg introduced Ramiro Jimenez with the Neighborhood Services Department to discuss the Youth Commission.

Ramiro Jimenez, Administrative Analyst with the Neighborhood Services Department, gave a status report on the Youth Commission. The members will be students from various schools. They will be coming to this committee in an advisory role. The commissioners will be looking at safety issues, curfew and truancy laws, etc.

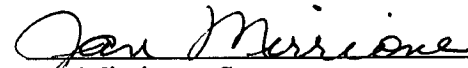
Councilman Steinberg asked that this be the beginning of a dialogue between the school districts and the City Council. He asked that they meet jointly on a quarterly basis. The next meeting would be the third week in June at which time they will have a more focussed agenda. He wants staff to look at what's working and what isn't working and make changes where it's needed.

Councilman Steinberg asked that between now and the next time they meet, City staff take the lead with members of the school boards and their staff to look at the following issues:


- (1) Do a survey of school facilities, their use, programs that involve other governmental jurisdictions; what collaborative efforts can we model in those areas where there isn't as much joint use.
- (2) Work with school districts to research the question of insurance as an obstacle for joint use of facilities; come back in three months with specific recommendations about what we can do to minimize, if not eliminate, that obstacle. Ask the County Counsel and the City Attorney for guidance.
- (3) Work with the school districts and look at the issue of volunteers; begin with the labor unions to insure that when it comes to community programs, we can allow the community to be responsible for opening and closing facilities and cleaning up afterward.

ADJOURNMENT - There be no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted:


Jan Mirrione, Secretary

Approved:


Darrell Steinberg, Chairperson