

Oakland Unified School District

Board of Education
Paul Robeson Building
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Minutes (Long)

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

5:00 PM

Committee Annual Organizational Meeting

**Board Room, Paul Robeson Building, 1025 2nd Avenue, Oakland, CA
94606-2212**

Intergovernmental Relations Committee

*Jody London, Chairperson
Noel Gallo, Member
Jumoke Hodge, Member*

A. Call to Order

Committee Chair Jody London called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Noel Gallo and Jody London
Absent: Jumoke Hodge

C. Modification(s) To Agenda

None

D. Adoption of the Committee General Consent Report

There was no Consent Report.

E. Unfinished Business

None.

F. New Business**Roll Call (Secretary's Observation)**

Jumoke Hodge present at 5:28 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Jumoke Hodge, Noel Gallo and Jody London

09-0057 Continuing Organization of the Intergovernmental Committee

Adoption of Committee's regular meeting date and time as 5 p.m., First Wednesday monthly or as published [in the Future Legislative Meeting Calendar Board's web site] by Secretary of Board, pursuant to Board Resolution No. 0809-0077.

Committee Chair London gave both the mission and the purpose of the Committee.

- 1. The purpose of the Intergovernmental Committee.*
- 2. Set a regular meeting time.*
- 3. Talk about the work plan.*
- 4. The resources we need.*

Mission: We shall review and/or propose policies fostering inter agency collaboration with City, Local, State and Federal Agencies, individual's public and private groups incorporation, recommend positions to be taken through the legislative process Federal, State and Local on behalf of the District, work on other matters as assigned.

Purpose - Develop a legislative agenda for the School District. Once we have the vision in mind we can decide how best to execute it. Committee Chair told Superintendent. Mayor the Committee may need her assistance in going back to the staff in hearing from them what they think the priorities should be aligning our effort that will be most useful to our staff.

Director Jody London said at the state level there are horrible budget situations going on right now in California. Interim Superintendent Mayor said tomorrow evening a report will be presented on the state of the budget. The report will be a status of the state's budget and its impact on the District. Superintendent Mayor said at this point the impact is estimated to be \$28 Million for the 2009-2010 school year and \$12 Million plus for this year in terms of mid-year cuts. Interim Superintendent Mayor said there are a number of ideas of how to mitigate this impact on the District. She said the mid-year cuts we are going to implement are some of the ideas that were earlier broached with the Board. In terms of the new year and the budget development, we expect to come back to the Board on January 24th at the retreat where orientation will be provided and a draft of a budget identifying our best thinking that we are going to propose to keep us whole next year.

Director London asked Superintendent Mayor when the information is presented will it be presented with a tool that lets the Board see how it is different from the current year? If we are thinking about this as a potential legislative priority it will be useful to us. Superintendent Mayor said on January 24th when the cuts are identified, we will identify those programs and services that we are recommending for elimination. Superintendent Mayor said preliminary contact with Assemblyman Swanson has been made and there were three (3) priorities if there became an opportunity for him to work on the District's behalf. The three (3) priorities are:

1. Provide budget categorical flexibility to the District for the carryover for the 2007-2008 school year. Last year the Governor did propose categorical flexibility but it never did come to pass. Superintendent Mayor said we were conservative in our spending with the anticipation there might be the flexibility waiver. We have not re-allocated all the carryover to the sites and if the Governor does provide the categorical flexibility that would be one way to mitigate the possibility of mid-year cuts this year.

2. We talked to Assemblyman Swanson about reducing audit penalties for school districts who are under state receivership because the penalties are assessed on non-compliant actions that occurred many years ago and it is this year's children and staff that have to pay for those mistakes.

3. The possibility of having the State forgive the state loan and if that was not possible, an interest free loan might be something that could be arrived at. Superintendent Mayor said we have not yet scheduled a meeting with Congresswoman Lee's Office but that is also on the agenda.

Director London said to the extent that staff has identified certain priorities, she thinks it will be useful to have this Committee review the priorities and confirm those are the priorities the Board wants to pursue. Director London said she has talked to many parents who are opposed to any cuts to education. She said last year the District was very active in a state-wide campaign opposing cuts to education and she thinks it would be appropriate for this Committee to see if they want to take that position. Director London said in a conversation she had with staff from Sacramento, they told her they did not know why there wasn't more public outcry about these cuts to education. She said she asked what should we do and they told her to write letters, faxes, and post cards - they need hard copies. Director Gallo asked Superintendent Mayor if there was a response from Assemblyman Swanson on the three points? Superintendent Mayor said he was in a meeting with them but he did not get back to them. Superintendent Mayor said Assemblyman Swanson did not think the forgiveness of the loan was doable but the interest rate part might have legs.

Director Gallo asked if there was any legislation drafted that would address the three points? Superintendent Mayor said not that she was aware of that. Director Gallo asked Superintendent Mayor out of the three points which would be a priority? Superintendent Mayor said the most immediate would be the categorical flexibility because it is going to affect the mid-year cuts and next year's budget development.

Director Hodge said she would agree with the categorical piece because on the Mayor's Task Force for Finance categorical was on there. She feels the staff could tell us the history of this argument. Director Hodge wants to understand about the penalties for audit during the five years when the State was assuming responsibility for the District; wants to know why they were late; and why are we paying penalties for that. Superintendent Mayor said the audit penalties are assessed by the State Controller's Office. Superintendent Mayor said every district must have an external audit every year and while the District has been under state receivership that has become the job of the State Controller's Office. The District has been very successful in appealing a lot of the audit findings and providing documentation to show we have remedied the findings. Superintendent Mayor said we have actually been able to mitigate most of the penalties. Every year the State Controller's Office identifies non-compliant issues and assesses what could be a large penalty. Superintendent Mayor said if we can show we have remedied the situation, we would not be assessed for something that happened in prior years for which we had no control. Director Hodge said we need to press for some joint responsibility within the City of Oakland, elected officials, and leadership to really look at education.

Director Gallo suggested that as a Committee, staff should write the three issues that are a priority and that would be something this Committee could carry back to the full Board, Assemblyman Swanson and State Senator Loni Hancock. Superintendent Mayor said she does not see the state forgiving the state loan, but the audit penalties are doable.

Director London asked Superintendent Mayor if it was possible at the next Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting to bring the Committee something in the form of legislative recommendations that the Committee could adopt if it chooses. Superintendent Mayor said yes and she would solicit help from the legal staff. Director London asked if the Committee wanted to pursue any action around the proposed budget cuts for 2009-2010. Director Gallo said categorical funds are designated to help students in the greatest need and now they are putting that money into a general pot. He said the students identified as in need of categorical funds will not get that special attention.

Superintendent Mayor said all the discussion on categorical flexibility is for certain kinds of restricted funds and the state cannot offer flexibility on Federal Funds. Superintendent Mayor said Specific State Funds would not be subject to flexibility such as Special Education. She said there were only a few pots that may be available for flexibility. Director London suggested the Committee look at the information from Superintendent Mayor at tomorrow's Board Meeting and the information passed out at the retreat on January 24th - the Committee would have a better idea of what the cuts are and what position would be taken as a district. Director London said the County Superintendent called her last week and said if Oakland can provide leadership the Alameda County School Board Association could bring other school boards along. Director London asked if there were other programs or issues that should be priorities for the Committee to be thinking about. Director Gallo said he felt the current issues are a priority and would take up most of their time. Director Hodge said she agrees this is a priority for right now. Director London said what has been a concern for her for many years is on the facility side you only get access to state matching funds for capital improvements once every 25 years and she will check with Assistant Superintendent Tim White to see if there are other issues related to facility funding that would be useful to him. Other issues for the Committee to take up on the Federal Level are:

1. No Child Left Behind
2. Green Buildings
3. Special Education Funding
4. Job Corps

Director Hodge said spending some time and research going through President Elect Obama's education policy recommendations would be a good idea and said she would like to see what the City's priorities are and if there was anything the District could piggy back on. Director Hodge would also like to see Measure 00 left alone. Director Gallo said that would have to be a personal vote and not a vote as a Board. Superintendent Mayor said her understanding of Measure 00 is that it designates up to \$25 million of the City's dollars for students and youth, but it is restricted money. Director Hodge said she would like to have a debate around this issue. Director Gallo said she could raise the issue as an individual but not as a Board Member. Director Hodge said she would raise the issue as a Board Member. Director London said it would probably be useful to have a conversation about it and said it was not uncommon for Boards to take positions on different pieces of legislation. Director London asked Director Hodge if she wanted to have the conversation now or see what the City brings forward before we launch into that. Director Hodge said based on this conversation and the other comments, she would want to see a study and some education on the issue.

Superintendent Mayor asked Director London what the next steps were for the next meeting. Director London said the next steps were:

1. Set a date for the next meeting and a regular meeting time for this Committee to meet.
2. Determine if many of the Committees are meeting twice a month and is it necessary to meet twice a month or should the Committee meet once a month?

After discussion among Committee Members it was decided the Intergovernmental Relations Committee will meet the first Wednesday at 5:00 pm. The next meeting will be

February 4th at 5:00 pm.

Director London requested Superintendent Mayor bring to the next Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting some greater details on the following two items:

- 1. The three state legislative priorities identified by staff - (craft some language).*
- 2. Look at the Mayor's School's Finance Task Force*
- 3. Recommendation from staff if OUSD wanted to modify NCLB*

Tasks for Committee Members:

Director London said a recommendation will be ready for the February 11th Board Meeting.

Director Gallo will get the City's priorities.

Director Hodge will follow-up around Measure 00.

A motion was made by Jody London, seconded by Jumoke Hinton Hodge, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: Adv Aye: 0
Adv Nay: 0
Adv Abstain: 0
Aye: 3 - Jumoke Hinton Hodge, Noel Gallo and Jody London
Nay: 0
Recused: 0
Preferential Aye: 0
Preferential Abstention: 0
Preferential Nay: 0

Roll Call: Present: Jumoke Hodge, Noel Gallo and Jody London

G. Public Comments on All Non-Agenda Items Within the Subject Matter Jurisdiction of the Committee

None.

H. Chairperson's Statement Disclosing Item(s) to be Discussed in Closed Session Today

None.

I. Closed Session Item(s):

None.

J. Recess to Closed Session

Not applicable.

K. Reconvene to Public Session

Not applicable.

L. Second Roll Call

Not applicable.

M. Chairperson's Statement of Reportable Action Taken in Closed Session and the Vote or Abstention of Members Present, if any.

None.

N. Introduction of New Legislative Matter

None other than those mention in Legislative File ID 09-0057.

O. Adjournment

Chairperson Jody London adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Prepared By: _____

Approved By: _____