

Oakland Unified School District

Board of Education
Paul Robeson Building
1025 2nd Avenue, Suite 320
Oakland, CA 94606-2212
(510) 879-8199 Voice
(510) 879-8000 Fax

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Minutes (Long)

Wednesday, March 03, 2010

5:00 PM

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

Intergovernmental Relations Committee

*Jody London, Chairperson
Jumoke Hodge, Member
Christopher Dobbins, Member*

A. Call to Order

Chairperson Jody London called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.

B. Roll Call

Roll Call: Present: Christopher Dobbins, Jumoke Hodge and Jody London

C. Modification(s) To Agenda

None.

D. Adoption of Committee Minutes



[10-0359](#) Minutes - Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting - February 3, 2010

Approval by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of Its Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2010.

Attachments: [10-0359 - Minutes - Intergovernmental Relations Committee Meeting - February 3, 2010](#)

A motion was made by Christopher Dobbins, 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 - Christopher Dobbins, Jumoke Hinton Hodge and Jody London
Nay: 0
Recused: 0
Preferential Aye: 0
Preferential Abstention: 0
Preferential Nay: 0

E. Adoption of the Committee General Consent Report

None.

F. Unfinished Business

**09-2602 City - District Education Partnership Issues**

Update on Board of Education suggested topic(s) for future meeting of the City - District Education Partnership Committee.

Attachments: [09-2602 - Draft Letter - City Council Members, Education Partnership Committee.pdf](#)

Chairperson London announced the City-District Education Partnership Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 9th at 4:00 P.M., City Hall. She said she believes the entire agenda will be devoted to discussing the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative coming from the Federal Government.

Director Hodge asked Laura Moran, Chief Services Officer, to talk about the Promise Neighborhoods and what's important for the Committee to pay attention to at that meeting.

Secretary Rakestraw reminded Committee Members the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative was not on the Committee's agenda for discussion and is a possible Brown Act violation.

Chairperson London suggested Ms. Moran provide Committee Members with a written communication before they walk into the Partnership Committee Meeting.

Secretary Rakestraw said there were two items on today's agenda, the Committee Work Plan for 2010 and the Education Partnership with the City. The Committee may briefly discuss the Promise Neighborhoods under either of these items.

Discussed

09-3357 District's Early Childhood Education Program

Discussion by the Superintendent of Schools or designee of District's Early Childhood Education Program, City's Head Start Program including funding sources - federal, state, private - and funding streams and collaborative issues.

Lynne Rodezno, Early Childhood Program Director, provided a status report on funding in the Early Childhood Program.

1. The District learned last week it would not be considered to participate in the pilot program with San Mateo and San Francisco Counties because the Legislature is not pushing forward anything that has an administrative cost of more than \$50,000. The cost for the pilot program is \$100,000.

2. District made an application to the State to reinstate our reimbursement rate back to where it was prior to July 1st. That application is going through its second appeal. We will know the State's decision by the middle of March.

3. District made an effort to stabilize Early Childhood Program enrollment making sure our sites are always full and since October they have. Through our partnership with First Five and Complimentary Learning the District was able to hire a Transition Specialist. The Transition Specialist has been working in partnership with the elementary schools programs helping families transition which helps us maintain our enrollment.

4. District continue with our Early Reading First Grants. Currently District has it's Early

Literacy Program at nine sites. Next year District plans to apply for the Striving Readers, the new Early Reading First Grant. With School Readiness and First Five District has funding this summer for a Summer Pre-K Program at four elementary schools. Summer Pre-K is for families who have not attended a licensed pre-school program. There is the possibility for the funding of two additional sites.

5. *Timothy White, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities Planning and Management has included Early Childhood Sites in the Measure "B" Bond Fund Program rebuilding four CDC sites; Stonehurst CDC, Arroyo Viejo CDC, Hintil Kuu Ca CDC and Laurel CDC. District have also applied for repair and renovation grants through the State of California.*

6. *The Early Childhood Education Department is facing financial issues because the cost for providing the program is greater than the revenue the District earns. District will need to do some reorganizing for the 2010/11 school year.*

Ms. Rodezno brought some of the District's Community Partners in Early Childhood Education to the meeting and asked each to talk about their program.

Melinda Martin, Consultant for the County Superintendent Office and the State, said these contracts are funded by the State and the rate per day has not been raised in the last four years. Ms. Martin talked about the Head Start Program, a Federal Program run by the City. The qualifications for the program are different than State run programs. Often they have a different school year with a shorter day and a shorter year.

Angie Garling, Coordinator of Alameda County Child Care Council, said the goal of the Council is to look at how to meet the needs of child care and Early Childhood Education for all children in the county. There are 43 different agencies involved in contracting in Alameda County and one of their responsibilities is to bring together all State contractors that have State contracts for the Child Development Division. School districts often have higher pay rates for their staff and they are experiencing more funding difficulty because the income is not matched with the costs. Oakland is the largest contract among the 43 contracts in the county serving about 2,500 children with a \$20 million contract.

Mark Friedman, First Five Executive Director, said they have been in partnership with the District for 10 years. Some of the programs First Five has supported include stipends to staff to further their education, help with facilities, funding of the Transition Coordinator and the Pre-K Camps.

Judy Kriege, Bananas Child Care Referral Agency, said besides giving referrals to parents they give parents information about child care in the area. Bananas operates subsidy programs to help pay child care for low income families. They also administer the centralized eligibility list which parents have to be on to receive any type of subsidy. They have concerns about losing the subsidized spots in the District's State subsidized program and the impact it would have on working families.

Cris Barajas, Bananas Child Care Referral Agency, talked about enrollment. Mr. Barajas said he does a lot of training with staff to assist them with filling the spots. He makes sure families are aware of the list so they can gain access to a subsidized program. He attends all the Secretaries Meetings to make sure they are familiar with the rules and regulations of enrolling children and the utilization of the data base.

Committee Discussion

Vice President Dobbins said every school now wants a Pre-School Program. He said one Principal asked him if it would be possible to put a Charter Pre-School on a campus.

Ms. Rodezno said what she knows about charter schools their focus is the K-12 program. She said they will do more research on this.

Director Hodge asked about the Head Start Program. She said her understanding is the Federal Government is providing more support to the Head Start Program and wishes to know how that will impact the District.

Ms. Martin said the Head Start Program recently received money from the Federal Government. She said all the money serves children from 0-3 years of age which the District does not serve. For the City of Oakland the grants will solve some of the needs for the 0-3 years of age group.

Mr. Barajas said currently in Alameda County there are 5,700 children waiting for assistance in child care and in the City of Oakland there are 1,715 children waiting for assistance in the 3-5 age group. He said this is an active list and does not account for families that are not that aware assistance is available for them. A benefit of the list is it puts children eligible for any State subsidized program on those lists too.

Jane Nicholson said some families are waiting on a specific site because of transportation and/or language needs and they may wish to stay in their own neighborhood.

Chairperson London asked if the summer camps were opened to any child entering kindergarten even if they don't go to kindergarten at the school where the camp is being offered?

Ms. Rodezno said generally the children will attend the kindergarten program at that site but it is not a requirement.

Chairperson London asked how the Committee could help them and how do we increase the program?

Ms. Rodezno said District needs to find additional funding that will support our classrooms. She said the District apply for various grants earmarked for certain activities that helps enhance the program but the program is very expensive to run. District tries to open classrooms in areas where there is not a program. District is trying to open sites at Greenleaf, Garfield and the Explore/Burbank campus. There has been a request to open a program at Sobrante Park.

Jane Nicholson said the Committee can help at the State level in terms of the reimbursement we get.

Chairperson London asked Ms. Nicholson to bring a Resolution and a staff report and the Committee may be able to do that at the next meeting.

Ms. Nicholson said a letter from the Board would be helpful in terms of the second appeal.

Chairperson London said the full Board meets on March 10th and March 24th and it would be helpful to have a letter to help with their appeal from the full Board; that Committee will think about how it moves that to the full Board.

Discussed



09-2834

Community Engagement Process

Presentation from Superintendent of Schools or designee of Progress Report and discussion by the Committee on implementation of the Community Engagement Guidelines approved by the Board on September 23, 2009.

Attachments: [09-2593 - Board of Education - 2009-2010 Community Engagement Plan1.pdf](#)

Chairperson London asked Ms. Moran if she had a staff recommendation on what the Spring Engagements may look like.

Ms. Moran said the funding is complete for each Board Member to have one meeting providing resources for food, child care, translation services and some incentives to help with the outreach. Staff can provide the Board a common set of materials like the last time. She and Sarah Nunoz can support Board Members who want to go back to their communities and follow-up.

Discussed



10-0201

Intergovernmental Relations Committee Work Plan for 2010

Adoption by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of its Work Plan for Calendar Year 2010.

Attachments: [10-0201 - Intergovernmental Relations Committee Work Plan for 2010.pdf](#)

Committee Members continued discussion on the work plan and included the Promise Neighborhoods and Choice Neighborhoods in the work plan.

Discussed

10-0355

Report on the March 4 Day of Action Plans

Update on District Plans for the March 4, 2010 Statewide Day of Action To Defend Public Education, supported by Board Resolution 0910-0000.

Ms. Moran said communications have gone out to Principals about the March 4th Day of Action and what the District wants.

1. *There will be a fire drill in the morning. There is a concern about 107 fire alarms going off at the same time. An update was sent out regarding how to do the fire alarms in a way that does not cause more disruption. In some areas it will be more symbolic than an actual fire drill.*

2. *Curriculum was sent to the schools that the All City Council helped develop.*

3. *Tomorrow many central office staff will be deployed at the schools to be extra hands during the day. District staff has worked with OPD and our own Police Department.*

Discussed

G. New Business

10-0354 State Legislative Update - Office of Assemblymember Nancy Skinner

Presentation of California Legislative Update, Field Representative, Office of Assemblymember Nancy Skinner.

Chairperson London reported the Superintendent, the Chief Financial Officer, and Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and the Director of Building & Grounds met with Assemblymember Nancy Skinner a few weeks ago and they had a productive meeting. On March 12th there will be a tour for our elected officials to various school sites and School Board Members are welcomed to attend.

Maha Ibrahim gave the Legislative Update from Assemblymember Nancy Skinner's office.

1. *Race to the Top passed and Assemblymember Skinner is interested in how schools handle the implementation.*

2. *ABX5 - Gives the State Treasurer's Office and the State Controller's Office the ability to make deferred payments to schools.*

3. *ABS8 - Authorizes various payment deferrals to counties for the 2010/11 budget year in the area of transportation, social services and Proposition 63 to insure the state has adequate cash flow through April 2009/10 fiscal year and the entire 2010/11 fiscal year. The Bill allows up to three payment deferrals to schools within a fiscal year beginning July 1st.*

4. *The Gas Tax eliminates the sales tax on gas but raises the Excise Tax on gas and diesel fuel. The purpose of this change is for the sales tax on gas to go into the General Fund. Excise Tax is collected outside the General Fund and gives more ability to use the money to fix holes that have been created for money pre-obligated from proposition and ballot initiatives. The Bill is still in the Senate.*

Discussed



10-0356 Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act

Public testimony and/or Staff Report on the proposed Local Control of Local Classrooms Funding Act, an initiative to amend the California Constitution so that special taxes for local school districts, commonly referred to as parcel taxes, can be approved by a 55-percent vote of the qualified electors, for the purpose of determining District's recommended advocacy for or opposition to said Act, if any.

Attachments: [CA Legislative Analyst Office Analysis of Initiative](#)
[CA Attorney General - Title and Summary of the Chief Purpose and Points of the Proposed Measure](#)
[Californians for Improved School Funding \(Information Site\)](#)

This initiative would amend the California Constitution so that a parcel tax can be passed with 55 percent of the voters in lieu of the current 66 and two thirds percent requirement.

A motion was made by Christopher Dobbins, seconded by Jumoke Hinton Hodge, that this matter be Discussed. The motion carried by the following vote:

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



10-0358

Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM) Act Proposals

Public testimony and/or Staff Report on the federal and/or state or other institutions proposals regarding the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM) Act for the purpose of determining District's recommended advocacy for or opposition to said proposals, if any.

Attachments: [Document\(s\)](#)

Chairperson London requested speaker cards first then Committee discussion.

Prior to calling the speaker cards, Secretary Rakestraw said for Director Gallo to speak on this item would make a fourth member of the Board attending a standing committee meeting and there is a Brown Act Requirement when a majority of the Board is attending a meeting. He noted that Vice President Dobbins had not left the meeting. Mr. Rakestraw said for Director Gallo to speak it would possibly run the risk of a violation of the Brown Act. The Brown Act says "The majority of members of the Board may attend the standing committee meeting provided they attend only as observers."

Public Comments

Noel Gallo, School Board Member, said this Board took a leadership role several years ago in passing a Resolution regarding immigration. He said at that time the reason the Board acted Immigration Officers were going onto our campuses and around the neighborhood removing not only the families, but removing the children from the schools. The Board made it clear that whatever child comes to our front door we will educate, protect and serve to the best of our ability and no Immigration Officer will be allowed on our campuses without the permission of the Superintendent. Director Gallo said what you have before you today are two requests that deal with immigration reform. Director Gallo asked Mark Airgood to make the first presentation dealing with the university level. He said when students get to that level they are not able to apply for or entitled to any scholarship.

Mark Airgood, Teacher, said we have thousands of students graduating from California high schools. He said AB540 passed in 2001 makes it clear the students have a right to residential tuition at the UC and CAL State Campuses but have no right to financial aid. There is a proposal being brought by Chancellor Black from UC LA and the Student Regents to the March 23-25 Regents Meeting held in San Francisco to create a UC Dream Act Program and a UC Institutional Scholarship Program for undocumented students.

Chairperson London asked how many students from Oakland are unable to attend UC or CSU because of their immigration status?

Ms. Moran said the District does not track whether the student is documented or undocumented.

Vanessa Borjas, Student at Life Academy, said immigration affects students in Oakland and in the United States. She said it not only affect immigrants it affect everybody; family and friends are being separated. She said it not only affects their education but also their mental health. Ms. Borjas said she would really like the Committee's support.

Aranta Martinez, Student at Bret Harte Middle School, said she is the daughter of immigrant parents. She said a lot of people don't know the pain a daughter and a son feels when their parents are taken away from them. She said this not only affects Latinos, it affects all races.

Aide Salcedo, Student at Rise High School, said students are going to Washington, D.C. to fight for this and appreciates the Committee's help. She said she has a lot of friends that have been in Oakland since they were two years old. The students have gotten good grades and they are close to graduating from high school and do not know what they are going to do.

Committee Discussion

Vice President Dobbins said he supports the issue because it is the right thing to do and he moved to approve both Resolutions and Director Hodge seconded the motion.

Chairperson London said the motion is to support both the Resolution from the Regents and a Resolution from this Committee.

A motion was made by Christopher Dobbins, seconded by Jumoke Hinton Hodge, that this matter be Recommended Favorably. The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: Adv Aye: 0

Adv Nay: 0

Adv Abstain: 0

Aye: 3 - Christopher Dobbins, Jumoke Hinton Hodge and Jody London

Nay: 0

Recused: 0

Preferential Aye: 0

Preferential Abstention: 0

Preferential Nay: 0

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

None.

I. Introduction of New Legislative Matter

Vice President Dobbins said he would like to introduce a Resolution in support of the United Nations International Day of Peace.

J. Adjournment

Chairperson London adjourned the meeting at 6:19 P.M.

Prepared By: _____

Approved By: _____