

MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
of the City of Hermosa Beach, California, held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009, at the
hour of 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Hermosa Beach City Council:

Present: DiVirgilio, Keegan, Tucker, Mayor Bobko
Absent: Reviczky

Hermosa Beach School District Board of Trustees:

Present: Greg Breen, Lisa Claypoole, Lance Widman, Barbara Zondiros
Absent: Dr. Linda Beck

Also present were Project Forward Committee members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Dr. Bruce Newlin, Superintendent of Schools

ANNOUNCEMENTS – School Board Member Zondiros read a letter from Dr. Beck expressing her thoughts since she was unable to attend this evening's joint meeting.

Mayor Bobko announced that certificates of appreciation would be presented at the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

PRESENTATION OF PROJECT FORWARD COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT.

Project Forward Committee Chair John Sandoval discussed the mandate that the Committee was given and the process they used to complete their work, expressing his appreciation for the public input. He then discussed the guiding principles they formulated as follows:

- (1) Transparency – The District and the City will conduct their business in a clear, open and transparent manner;
- (2) Communication – The District will establish and implement a clear and consistent communications policy;
- (3) Cooperation – The District will endeavor to collaborate with the City, community, local community organization, and nearby districts to share resources and programs;
- (4) Accountability – The District and City will be accountable for their actions;
- (5) Excellence in education – The District will offer a curriculum that will create well-rounded life-long learners;
- (6) Performance – The District will go beyond the mandated methods to evaluate the students' performance during and after they leave the District;
- (7) Revenue development – The District will seek to develop new and stable revenue sources to complement revenue received from the State and Federal

- Governments, the Hermosa Beach Education Foundation, and annual appeal and parent-teach organization; and
- (8) Efficiency – The District will make efficient and effective use of resources, facilities, human, financial and operational.

School Board Member Breen asked each Project Forward Committee member to provide by email the discoveries they made while serving on the committee and suggested that it might be a good idea to have a Project Forward-type group as a means of engaging the community, with annual or bi-annual meetings.

Project Forward Committee member George Schmeltzer said the school district budget format was very difficult and the State wanted everyone to use the same format, but it should be made easier to understand for the general public; suggested that a task force be established to redefine the mission and goals of the School District and to tie it to the budget; said it was important to keep the committee's report alive and moving forward.

School Board Member Zondiros praised the Project Forward Committee members and hoped they would continue to be part of the school community.

Councilmember Keegan asked if the committee addressed merging with Manhattan or Redondo School Districts; said it would be difficult for Hermosa residents to pass a parcel tax since only about 15% of them had children in the Hermosa schools.

Project Forward Committee Chair Sandoval said they did not spend a lot of time discussing the parcel tax because their mandate was to think ahead, not look back; said they briefly discussed the concept of merging with another school district but believed City residents wanted to maintain their own school district.

Kim Seacrest, school parent and fundraiser organizer of, said they had successful fundraisers but still six or seven line items were cut from the budget.

Mayor Bobko suggested another joint City Council/School Board meeting to make sure the principles established by the Project Forward Committee are followed.

Project Forward Chair Sandoval said even though the Project Forward Committee would dissolve, its members would be accountable to the community.

Action: By consensus, a joint City Council and School Board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2010.

School Board Member Widman expressed frustration that, despite the best efforts of the Project Forward Committee, there was still hostility between the City, the School Board and the residents because of the parcel tax and the gym.

Councilmember Tucker said the work of the Project Forward Committee was a start and a base for further growth toward commonality; suggested that a report on the

School District's activities be presented monthly at a Council meeting to reach out to the entire community, not just the school parents.

Councilmember Keegan agreed the District should have contact with residents who do not have children in the schools; suggested giving school awards at Council meetings or giving tours of the schools to make known assets such as the gym and to better engage residents with the schools.

School Board Member Claypoole said mandates given to the School Board through the work of the Project Forward Committee were worthwhile but difficult to achieve, but they would try to keep the goals in mind in the next two or three years; said even without a grant writer on their staff, they had been successful in obtaining some grants, which are very helpful revenue sources; said she would fight to keep an independent school district in Hermosa Beach.

Councilmember DiVirgilio said the Project Forward Committee was aptly named in establishing goals for the future; said providing financial information that was easier to understand was a huge step in reaching out to the public.

School Board Member Zondiros said they were committed to the guiding principles; said providing excellence in education was not easy but they would make sure excellence was maintained.

Mayor Bobko said the fact that the three groups had this meeting was a good start; said state funding might not ever be the same and creative ideas might be required for a stable funding resource; reminded the Project Forward Committee Members that they were now school experts and hoped they would continue to remain a valuable resource for the schools and the residents.

Project Forward Chair Sandoval read a statement from Committee Member Joe Marks, noting that the Committee had been charged with maintaining and improving the excellent schools, and the unbiased report submitted by the Committee met those objectives.

Project Forward Committee Member Peter Barsak said he hoped Hermosa schools could remain independent but, with or without a merger, cooperation with the neighboring cities was vital, especially if the news from Sacramento becomes more dire; suggested that the District rent out the gym to bring in revenue; said it was important for the School District and the school parents to communicate in every way possible to make known the District's activities to the 85% of the residents who do not have children in Hermosa Beach schools.

Project Forward Committee Member Lisa Newman said she helped write the budget summary and it was obvious that the schools did not have as much money for the coming year that they had for the previous year, and the goal has now become how to make up the difference.

Action: To dissolve the Project Forward Committee.

Motion Mayor Bobko, second Councilmember Tucker. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Before adjournment, members of the Project Forward Committee were presented with Certificates of Appreciation

ADJOURNMENT - The Adjourned Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Hermosa Beach adjourned, on Tuesday, June 30, 2009, at the hour of 8:29 p.m. to the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

City Clerk

Deputy City Clerk