



**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible



**MINUTES OF THE CITY-SCHOOL
LIAISON COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING**

Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 11:45 a.m.

Members Present:

City of Santa Clara Council (CSC) Committee Members:

Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor

Vice Mayor Raj Chahal

Councilmember Kathy Watanabe

Chief of Police Pat Nikolai

CSC Staff

City Manager Deanna J. Santana

Assistant City Manager Cynthia Bojorquez

Director of Parks and Recreation Jim Teixeira

Director of Community Development Andrew Crabtree

Assistant to the City Manager Robyn Sahid

Executive Assistant Julie Minot

Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD) Present:

Board President Jodi Muirhead

Trustee Albert Gonzalez

Trustee Andrew Ratermann

SCUSD Staff

Superintendent Stella Kemp

Chief Business Official Mark Schiel

Director of Facility Development and Planning Michal Healy

Director of Bond Projects Larry Adams

Public Information Officer Jennifer Dericco

Roll Call and Call to Order

The meeting to order at 11:47 a.m. Assistant to the City Manager Robyn Sahid did the roll call; all Committee members present.

Public Presentations

Board President Jodi Muirhead introduced public presentations. Community member Mr. Ganesh Sanap gave a presentation on the request by Santa Clara Cricket Club (SCCC) to use SCUSD fields for their youth cricket programs.

Discussion ensued during which Trustee Ratermann commented that there are no exclusive use agreements and that the fields are open as first come-first served. Director Michal Healy provided clarification on the two groups that use fields at Wilson Adult Education Center and that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is only for the purpose for the District to accept the site improvements made by the groups, and not for exclusive use. After further discussion and clarification, it was determined that this matter should be referred to City and District staff for a follow up on what potential options exist to accommodate SCCC.

Item 1. Approval of Minutes from 3/3/21

A motion was made by Mayor Gillmor, seconded by Vice Mayor Chahal, and unanimously carried to approve the meeting minutes of the March 3, 2021 City-School Liaison Committee meeting.

Item 2. Update on Status of Returning to School in Person

Superintendent Stella Kemp provided updates on the then current blended model of both in-person and home-based learning and that the SCUSD Board has authorized the District to pursue full reopening of school sites in Fall 2021 if permitted by County and/or State Public Health rules. A full update to the Board of Trustees and community was planned for May 11, 2021. Trustee Albert Gonzales thanked City staff for ensuring student safety while travelling to and from school.

Item 3. Discussion on SCUSD Cost Sharing/Contributions for City Services

City Manager Deanna Santana opened the discussion on potential opportunities to coordinate on covering the cost of the D.A.R.E program, recognizing that the program had not been happening since the pandemic. A letter was sent to the District by Chief Pat Nikolai with the intent to start a conversation about cost sharing. Superintendent Kemp stated the conversation is timely in that the District is in the process of their budget development.

Item 4. Update on Fee based After School Programming

Parks and Recreation Director James Teixeira explained the process of determining a need for programming, which resulted in an identified need between the hours of 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The focus of site identification was on City facilities adjacent to school sites since the District is unable to provide transportation services. The City then offered a program at the Youth Activity Center with a capacity of 14 students, but this resulted in registration by 2 students. As the enrollment was not cost effective it was canceled. Director Teixeira also elucidated on programmatic needs, such as the hiring of new staff and ensuring Wi-Fi services so that students could continue their school program activities while on site. Board President Muirhead clarified that the focus of the initiative was not for cost recovery but to provide a needed service that the District would fund; the only ask from the City was for a space. Mayor Lisa Gillmor asked if the City has capacity to provide the service if the District covers the cost? Director Teixeira responded that capacity limitations due to the pandemic has severely spaces. The Youth Activity Center (YAC) and the Community Recreation Center (CRC) have some capacity, however the main concern is adequate staffing and proximity to these locations to school sites. Those facilities adjacent to school sites are already filled. It was determined to hold ongoing discussions on this matter.

Item 5. Status Update on Youth Activity Center (YAC) Agreement

Director Teixeira shared that the current YAC agreement expires next year, and City staff are drafting master Joint Use agreement templates, which are currently under review by the City Attorney's office. The plan is to meet with the District with the goal of having a draft agreement by the end of the summer, which would go to the respective governing bodies for review and approval by the end of the calendar year. Board President Muirhead asked if separate agreements will be presented all at once. Director Healy responded that the Master Agreement would be presented first and individual site agreements later; the YAC agreement is the time sensitive one. CBO Mark Schiel commented that the foundation document is based on neighboring city/school district agreements. Trustee Ratermann conveyed his hope that the new YAC agreement will reflect the impending change in

ownership from the City to the District and further inquired if YAC was built according to DSA (Division of the State Architect) standard for schools. CBO Schiel and Director Healy responded affirmatively.

Item 6. Use of SCUSD Facilities and Non-Permit Users of Facilities

Director Healy opened the discussion with a request for assistance from SCPD to address the situation at Wilcox High School particularly, due to an increase in weekend gatherings, including barbecues, drinking and drug use, paint ball etc. which results in vandalism, littering and other problems. She stated the District plans to install cameras. Chief Nikolai suggested chaining off access to the parking lots as this should curtail most of this activity. He also offered to have SCPD do extra patrols on the weekends near the school sites. Trustee Muirhead commented that there is also a problem of people climbing school fences, and that there is a blind spot from the road located in between the theater and classroom wings. Trustee Ratermann echoed these concerns. Chief Nikolai reiterated his recommendation to install barriers to the parking lots and consider hiring private security. SCPD would assist to the extent feasible but warned that the 4th of July weekend would be a very busy time for them. The Committee determined that respective staff members would meet to determine possible solutions and the District would investigate resources. CBO Schiel shared an aerial view of the location of the problem areas.

Item 7. General Updates from Attendees

Director Andrew Crabtree provided planning and development updates, including new development applications, updates on the El Camino Real Specific Plan, and the Downtown Precise Plan. Director Healy reiterated the District's wish for a school site in the Patrick Henry Specific plan to house up to 600 students on approximately 5 acres, and adjacent to parkland for joint use agreement.

Director Teixeira gave an update on recent park grand openings and completed park rehabilitation projects. He also shared that the new dog park is slated for a grand opening in approximately 6 weeks. He further commented on the status of the Magical Bridge playground at Central Park and spoke about a goose management plan to address the droppings at Central Park.

Chief Nikolai stated much of his update has already been covered in the earlier discussion. He reiterated that PD staffing is an issue, and it is down by over 40 positions. It is uncertain if PD can staff a full complement of D.A.R.E officers and asked for the District's patience.

Mayor Gillmor commented on the San Francisco 49ers tax appeal case that the County of Santa Clara has appealed. The County asked the Santa Clara Stadium Authority and City to prepare amicus briefs in support of County Assessor's appeal. The City Attorney's office will be in contact with the District to join in City's Amicus brief. CBO Mark Schiel reported having submitted amicus briefs in the last year and will continue to cooperate.

SCUSD Facilities updates: Director Healy thanked Chief Nikolai and staff for the return of all crossing guards. The District will resume in person graduation. These events will be ticketed and will comply with public health guidelines and limited guests and shared the 2021 graduation dates.

District fields and hard courts will be open for community use, however indoor spaces (classrooms, Multipurpose Rooms, Gyms) will not be open this summer. The lunch program will operate throughout summer and is free to families through Nutrition Services. The design of the all-access playground at Montague Center is at the end phases and the facility should be ready by the end of the summer. Hughes Elementary School has a cricket pitch and Director Healy had already contacted public presenter Mr. Ganesh Sanap to meet him at the site. The District has been ensuring the gates at the sites are open during the off-school hours and they have not received any recent complaints. Councilmember Watanabe thanked Director Healy for the updates and asked about possible prom activities, however Director Healy responded that unfortunately there would be no prom this year. Board President Muirhead conveyed that some of the PTAs are arranging alternate

activities.

Trustee Ratermann commented that there is an exercise structure being installed on Townsend field, and asked for details on this project, and whether it is a City or District project. Director Healy responded that it is part of the District's bond project and Director of Bond Projects Larry Adams provided detail; similar structures are being installed on all middle school campuses.

Assistant City Manager Cynthia Bojorquez shared information on Library news, updates and programs.

Director Larry Adams shared that the District gave a presentation to the SCUSD Board on the condition of tennis courts at Wilcox High School and proposed a project to rebuild courts and related projects; the Board will be considering this proposal at its next meeting. He also shared that the District will soon be selecting consultants for the upcoming modernization projects at three school sites under the Measure BB bond program.

Board President Muirhead shared her thanks for a productive meeting. It was moved by Mayor Gillmor, seconded by Councilmember Watanabe, and unanimously carried to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.