



City of Newark – Newark Unified School District
Liaison Committee



Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Minutes Report

Newark City Hall
City Council Chambers
37101 Newark Boulevard
Newark, CA 94560

A. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. Present were School Board Member Jan Crocker, School Board Member Francisco Preciado, City Council Member Mike Hannon, City Council Member Sucy Collazo, Superintendent Patrick Sanchez, and City Manager John Becker

B. MINUTES

None were available to approve

C. OLD BUSINESS

C.1 Traffic near Birch Grove Intermediate School

Superintendent Sanchez updated the Committee members on the traffic issues related to drop-off and pick-up at the school. The wait times have improved since the light timing was changed at the intersection of Central Avenue and Birch Street. School administration has increased teacher parking on the site and is also looking at options for improving the onsite drive isles.

Superintendent Sanchez inquired about the possibility of adding a gate at Byington Park and allowing drop-off and pick-up on Byington Drive.

Susan Condon, President of CSEA supports the installation of a gate at Byington Park to help alleviate the traffic pressure during pick-up and drop-off.

Cindy Parks spoke in support of additional improvements to the school site to reduce traffic congestion.

City Manager Becker expressed his concern about transferring traffic from Birch Street onto Byington Drive. He stated that Byington Drive is currently a quiet street and he does not believe that the neighborhood residents would support the street being used for drop-off and pick-up during school hours.

Board Member Crocker stated that she would like to discuss the idea further at the next meeting.

C.2 Update on the timeline for housing in Areas 3 and 4

Superintendent Sanchez asked about the timeline and status of the school site related to the Area 3 and 4 housing project.

City Manager Becker advised the Committee that the Development Agreement between the City and the Developer (Newark Partners LLC) requires the dedication of six acres of land for the construction of an elementary school. The Development Agreement requires the offer of land dedication to occur immediately after the issuance of the first building permit in Area 3. The Developer is also required to improve and dedicate a three acre shared use (neighborhood/school) park. Area 3 includes 77 acres located on the corner of Stevenson Boulevard and Cherry Street.

City Manager Becker advised the Committee that the Developer is currently negotiating with home builders to purchase the property and that no specific timeline for housing construction has been identified. Mr. Becker agreed to provide Superintendent Sanchez with a copy of the Development Agreement.

Tony Doot asked about the location of the potential school and whether future enrollment would support a new school.

In response, City Manager Becker stated that the potential school site is along Cherry Street. The potential school site location was approved by the City Council in conjunction with the approved project map. The location was also reviewed with the previous Superintendent (Dave Marken) prior to the approval by the City Council.

Superintendent Sanchez stated that additional analysis would have to be completed before any decision was made regarding construction of a new elementary school. Funding availability and enrollment would be evaluated before a final recommendation would be made to the School Board.

Angela Akridge asked about the number of housing units that would be constructed in Area 3 and 4.

In response, City Manager Becker stated that the Area 3 project (Sanctuary) consists of 385 single family detached homes. No specific project has been submitted for Area 4. The Specific Plan approved for the entire Area 3 and 4 Project allows up to 1,260 housing units.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D.1 Discussion of a potential Memorandum of Understanding between the City and School District as a result of the passage of Measure GG

Superintendent Sanchez asked about the timeline and status for the Civic

Center Project which is moving forward as a result of the passage of Measure GG.

City Manager Becker advised the Committee that the City was moving forward with the detailed design phase of the project and that the initial feasibility study design included an option to add 13,350 square feet of office space to accommodate the School District's Administrative offices. The estimated price for the construction is \$8.4 million dollars. A decision on whether the District wants to move forward with the option would need to be made within the next 3 months in order to keep the design/project on schedule.

Superintendent Sanchez agreed to meet with the City Executive Project Team as soon as possible to review the initial design and the cost estimates and then agendize the item for discussion with the full School Board.

Cindy Parks expressed concern about the state of the School District's budget and a continuation of deficit spending.

Rob Sorensen expressed concerns about the use of the District's Bond funding. He also expressed concern about the District's budget.

Mark Lopes asked how the School District could get Ohlone College more involved with the School District. He would like to see more cooperation between all educators in the area.

Marek Yarbrough expressed concerns about the long-range budget issues facing the School District.

D.2 Discussion of the current Memorandum of Understanding between the City and School District for the MacGregor Site

Superintendent Sanchez asked about the current agreement with the City regarding the maintenance and use of the MacGregor Playfields site. He also suggested that District and City staff review all agreements and update and consolidate the agreements where appropriate.

City Manager Becker advised the Committee that the current MacGregor Playfields agreement was approved by the City Council and the NUSD Board of Trustees in 1987 and that the agreement expired in June 2007. The terms of the agreement have been honored since that time. He concurred with Superintendent Sanchez' suggestion to have each agencies staffs meet to discuss current agreements and to update and consolidate where appropriate.

Angela Akridge expressed concern about MacGregor Playfield being converted for the School District's Corporation Yard.

In response, Superintendent Sanchez stated that there were no plans to convert the Playfields for other use.

D.3 Update on current enrollment and capacity of schools

Superintendent Sanchez reviewed the current enrollment numbers with the Committee and discussed his concerns over declining enrollment in the District. He also discussed some ideas for reversing the trend.

Terri Marzano expressed her concerns about the “exodus” of students from the Whiteford Preschool.

Superintendent Sanchez advised the Committee that he was reviewing the issue and had no solution at this time.

Marek Yarbrough expressed concerns about school performance (Test Scores).

Angela Akridge stated her support for secondary (accessory) unit construction in the City to help alleviate the housing shortage and address the affordable housing issue.

D.4 Update on test scores

Superintendent Sanchez reviewed the School District's most recent test scores for the District. He stated that the scores are relatively flat with some lower and some higher than the previous year. He acknowledged that the test scores are not where he wants them to be. He stated that the graduation rates were in the high ninety percent.

Superintendent Sanchez advised the Committee that the District is in the process of preparing a Strategic Plan and it is expected to be completed by the end of the current school year.

D.5 Update on School Bonds

Superintendent Sanchez provided the Committee with an update of the use of the District Bond revenue and the expenditure of the funds from the sale of the Ruschin School property. He advised the Committee that an informational handout/sheet was being prepared for public distribution that will provide information on how the funding has or is planned to be spent.

E. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noelle Doot urged the Committee to provide more advanced notice prior to future Committee meetings.

Council Member Hannon asked that any future agenda items be provided at least 7 days in advance.

Superintendent Sanchez suggested that the Committee consider a name change to better reflect the purpose of the Committee.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
at the Newark Unified School District Offices.