

# Paramount Unified School District



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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*District Superintendent*

## **STUDY SESSION MEETING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES  
April 12, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Vice President Vivian Hansen in the Boardroom at the District Office, 15110 California Avenue, Paramount, California.

Pledge of Allegiance	Ruben Frutos, Assistant Superintendent-Business Services, led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll Call	Trustee Linda Garcia - 5:39 p.m.      Trustee Sonya Cuellar Trustee Vivian Hansen                      Trustee Tony Peña Trustee Alicia Anderson
Administrators Present	Ruth Pérez, Superintendent Ruben Frutos, Assistant Superintendent-Business Services Myrna Morales, Assistant Superintendent-Human Resources Ryan Smith, Assistant Superintendent-Secondary Educational Services Deborah Stark, Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services Cindy DiPaola, Director-Maintenance & Operations Greg Francois, Director-Secondary Ed. & Instructional Technology Renee Jeffrey, Director-K-5 School Support & Innovative Programs Margarita Rodriguez, Director-Research, Assessment & SIS Manuel San Miguel, Director-Student Services Beatriz Spelker-Levi, Director-Personnel Patricia Tu, Director-Fiscal Services Morrie Kosareff, Principal-Buena Vista High School Elizabeth Salcido, Principal-Paramount High School West
Approve Study Session Agenda April 12, 2017 1.132	Trustee Cuellar moved, Trustee Peña seconded and the motion carried 4-0 to approve the agenda of the Study Session Meeting of April 12, 2017.  Ayes: 4 – Trustees Anderson, Cuellar, Hansen, Peña Absent: 1 - Trustee Garcia

## **HEARING SECTION**

There were no speakers during the Hearing Section.

## High School Promise and Recommendations

Dr. Ryan Smith, Assistant Superintendent-Secondary Educational Services provided the Board with an update on the High School Promise and recommendations for a new High School.

Dr. Smith shared that the High School Promise Committee team met four times and visited four school sites in various school districts. This team was part of the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Smith shared with the Board Guiding Questions of the High School Promise that focused on the following: How can we improve upon our current HS programs?, How can we expand learning opportunities for HS students?, What can we learn from other districts? and What research-based practices are making a difference?. The team also reflected on the world of tomorrow – to prepare graduates for the future.

Dr. Smith commented to the Board of how quickly things change. Things that were useful and innovative at an earlier time are no longer in use. Examples: Blockbuster Videos vs. Netflix, analog cell phones vs. smart phones, Pontiac vs. 4 major car companies, Tower Records vs. Amazon Music.

Dr. Smith explained the reports of the “Best Jobs of 2015 and now.” In a most recent study of 2015 vs. 2020 it shows how creativity is a top 3 skill. There is a decline in the desire of skills in negotiation and flexibility.

A closer look at the Class of 2015 was; with a mind set of “no shame, no game, no excuses approach.” The graduation rate was of 86%, enrollment to a college was 68%.

An overview of Project Lead the Way, STEM, Linked Learning, Project Based Learning and the school visitations that the High School Promise Committee participated in was provided. The schools visited were High Tech High, which is a nationally recognized school; Del Lago Academy, which is a public school with a unique approach to Bio Medical; McBride High School where Linked Learning is used; Da Vinci Schools are geared towards Aerospace and are Project Based Learning.

Board member Anderson who is a High School Promise committee member commented on what she observed during the visits. She noted that at one of the high schools visited, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students were able to work based on what interested them. She believes that there is no reason why we cannot duplicate their work or come up with our own.

Dr. Smith provided key recommendations from the team as to how to improve the High School Program and how to transform. The highlight is modernized STEM (a small STEM High School.) The work has already started and needs to continue with the foundational pieces (i.e.; Lead the Way.) The keys are: Identity, Proximity to Potential Industry and College Partners, Maintain Enrollment and Reduce Flight, Facilities, and Impact.

The New High School Analysis for Potential Sites was shared which was used as a guide with a green light being the best site and in

addition, also provided in draft form was an overview of the New High School Potential Core Design Principles. The principles are: Authentic Learning Experiences, Excellence, Personalization, Skilled Professional Educators. Used as an example were the Del Lago High School's design principles, that it is a public high school, is open to all and it is impressive.

The District's next steps for new high school development included key recommendations that can be revised. The main components at this time are the hiring of the institution's leader and a strong team.

The full version of the presentation can be located on the District's website.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Hansen moved, Trustee Anderson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adjourn the Special Study Session meeting of the Board of Education held on April 12, 2017 at 6:40 p.m.

Ayes: 5 – Trustees Anderson, Cuellar, Garcia, Hansen, Peña

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Ruth Pérez, Secretary  
To the Board of Education

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President

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Vice President/Clerk