



PORT OF LOS ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL

**Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday, January 14, 2009
4:00 - 5:30 PM
Minutes**

PUBLIC SESSION

Trustees Present: Camilla Townsend, Sandy Bradley, Dick McKenna, Lanny Nelms, Eric Eisenberg, Al Fasani, Stacey Jones, Tim McOsker, Elise Swanson

Trustees Absent: Esther Espinoza-Ek, John Ek, John Delgado, Victoria Carrolle, Nick Tonsich, Joe Awad, Joe Gatlin

Staff Present: James Cross, Erin Loveridge, Tom Scotti, Pam Costa, Lori Armas, Linda Grimes

Public Present: Christie Rochte, Sonali Tucker

- I. **Public Session called to order at 4:05PM by Townsend** *Camilla Townsend*

- II. **Approval of Consent Calendar** **ACTION ITEM** *Camilla Townsend*
 - a. November 12, 2008 Minutes
 - b. January 14, 2009 Agenda

McOsker motions to approve consent calendar, Bradley seconds.

PASSED 9-0

- III. **President Report** *Camilla Townsend*
 - a. Discussion of graduation date and time. Officially set for Friday, June 12th at 3:00PM. Awards ceremony scheduled for May 29th in the Warner Grand Theater.
 - b. Townsend has asked for a scholarship report to be made at the next board meeting.

- IV. **Executive Director Report** *James Cross*
 - a. Building Purchase Status: Cross has been working on appraisal; approval has been received from Port. We need to receive an updated appraisal. We have several lenders interested in providing a loan, report to be made at next meeting.

- b. Maritime Program Status: Maritime Sub-Committee (Dick McKenna, Anthony DeSanto, Tom Scotti, James Cross, Stacey Jones) met to discuss the curriculum document and various deliverables. Within the next few weeks, committee will meet again to follow up and figure out how to submit proposal for funding to the Port. The Port has offered to pay approximately \$60,000 for a consultant to help us with maritime curriculum/program enhancement. In addition, hundred of thousands of dollars will be needed from the Port for the program itself. McKenna says that DeSanto has completed a lot of great work on the curriculum to date. Jones has been in contact with the Director of El Camino's Business Center, they have developed a virtual enterprise program for the import of products. It may be valuable to have him speak to the faculty/staff and/or the Board.
- c. Staffing and Facility Priorities: Cross will be meeting w/ personnel committee to discuss hiring a second academic counselor for the spring semester. We have 600 students and our current counselor is not able to spend enough time with the 9th grade students, as attention is vital for our 11th and 12th graders. We are also hoping to hire a full-time school psychologist. For facilities, we would like to expand the lunch room. We have too many students and too little space for lunch. The expense of removing walls and fixing floors etc. would be minimal. In addition, many of our students cannot afford to purchase lunch, and the creation of a food storage and prep area would allow eligible students to receive free or reduced lunch. We also need a second biology classroom to accommodate our current 9th graders next year.

V. Financial Report

Victoria Carrolle

- a. Sonali Tucker has joined us from our accounting company, CSMC. Our annual audit was received and approved by the State Controller. We are working on a new budget format; we have tried to strike a balance between the detail report and the new format. Tucker walks board through budget, examines budgeted items and year-to-date expenditures.
- b. January check register is distributed. Register will need to be approved by the board in future meetings.
- c. Cross discusses SB 740 Facilities Grant. POLAHS needs to appeal findings to receive full funding, approximately \$230,000. POLAHS was rejected for \$370,000 from mandated programs by the State. Charter schools have recently been made ineligible to receive funding for mandated programs.
- d. POLAHS has approximately 100 students graduating; every classroom is full and occupied. If we graduate 100 and allow 100 freshmen to enroll next year, we will be

able to operate without expanding. If we expand the incoming student class size, we will be forced to expand our classrooms upstairs. The cost of expanding upstairs further would be near \$1 million. Discussion of raising class sizes from 25 students to 26 or 27 students per class.

- e. Townsend recommends that the finance committee and personnel committee meets to discuss staffing, student enrollment and financial decisions.

VI. Acting Principal Report

Tom Scotti

- a. Report deferred to Counselor, Lori Armas. 250 POLAHS students attended Cash for College. 30 students attended Teens at the Table Leadership Conference, students then brought conference to POLAHS and recreated for freshmen students.

VII. No Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment of Public Session by Townsend at 5:10PM.

NEXT MEETING: February 11, 2009