

July 30, 2008 - **A.M. Session**

The City Council met in special joint session with the Fresno Unified School District Board of Trustees and District officials at the hour of 9:00 a.m., at Yokomi Elementary School, 2323 E. McKenzie, Fresno, CA.

Present were Councilmembers Dages, Duncan, Perea, Acting President Sterling, President Xiong, Mayor Autry, City Manager Souza, City Attorney Sanchez, City Clerk Klisch, Assistant City Clerk Salazar, and necessary staff. Councilmembers Calhoun and Caprioglio were absent. Present from the Fresno Unified School District were Trustees Asadorian, Davis, Johnson, Mills, Nunez, Ryan, Board President Vang, and Superintendent Hanson.

1. FACILITIES/JOINT USE AGREEMENTS
2. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME ACTIVITIES
3. SAFETY INITIATIVES
4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Xiong called the meeting to order, thanked everyone involved and especially Yokomi staff, for all their work and effort in organizing and setting up the joint meeting, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Autry, Board President Vang and Superintendent Hanson welcomed everyone and made opening remarks including the importance of this meeting and partnering/working together for the betterment of the community.

#### **FACILITIES/JOINT USE AGREEMENTS:**

FUSD Executive Director of Facilities Management & Planning LeBlanc gave a PowerPoint presentation which consisted of District Facts, What is a Facilities Master Plan?, Objective of a District-wide Facilities Master Plan, FUSD Current Feeder Progression, Facilities Master Plan Process, Areas of Mutual Interest Being Reviewed/Assessed, Joint Use Agreements, and Joint Use of High School Athletic Facilities.

General comments were made and/or questions presented by Superintendent Hanson, Councilmember Dages, Acting President Sterling, Trustees Mills, Davis Nunez and Johnson, Councilmember Duncan, Mayor Autry and President Xiong which included the current feeder progression, need for a west Fresno middle school, need to set goals and continue to work together, need to make a west Fresno middle school a priority, need to build strong neighborhoods and schools, number of elementary schools, the two agencies being tied together by demographics and growth, need to do more in the area of housing, education and jobs, need to invest in the west area, district challenges and support for Superintendent Hanson, declining enrollments, support for the computer labs, concern with politics affecting progress being made and the focus on children being lost, need to make athletics a part of the strategy along with academics **(2 - 0)**, time line for the joint use agreements, and if the district was considering bonding. Ms. LeBlanc, Superintendent Hansen and Trustee Nunez responded to questions throughout.

#### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME ACTIVITIES:**

Administrator of Curricular Instruction Reciniti and PARCS Director Cooper gave a PowerPoint presentation which consisted of Program Vision and Description, FUSD: ASES and 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, ASES/21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Agreements (PARCS, CSUF, Fresno Art Museum and Fresno County Office of Education), PARCS Programs -- Providing a Common Thread of Success for Youth, and numerous photographs taken from various programs and activities.

General comments were made and/or questions presented by Trustees Asadorian, Ryan, Mills, Davis, Nunez, Councilmembers Perea, Duncan, Dages, Sterling and President Xiong which included the need to work collaboratively to identify funding sources for programs, support/appreciation for the existing partnership, current number of school sites, commendation to computer lab staff, financing assistance, suggestion to develop training for students to become public servants, need for safe places for kids to play, if a policy was in place for making school fields accessible after hours and on weekends, the after school reading program and increased reading scores, request for information on reading scores, commendation to city staff on the success/progress of the PARCS department, need to look further into having programs that run later into the evening, support for partnering in educational opportunities/apprenticeship

Reciniti, Ms. LeBlanc and Mr. Cooper responding throughout to questions.

**SAFETY INITIATIVES:**

Deputy Police Chief Foster introduced the issue and gave opening remarks, and along with Associate Superintendent of School Support Tucker gave a PowerPoint presentation which consisted of Safe & Civil Schools: Social Emotional Tiered System of Support, Cycle of Continuous Improvements, Planning for Action (3 - 0), Joint Strategies & Programs, Working Towards a Safer Community, Mayor's Vision/Goal, Police Chief Statement, Enhanced Partnerships, After School Programs, Safety Initiatives (Mayor's Gang Prevention Initiative/MGPI, Life Skills, Police Activities League/PAL), and Future Strategies.

General comments were made and/or questions presented by Councilmembers Perea, Duncan, Sterling, Trustees Asadorian, Ryan, Mills, Nunez, Board President Vang and Council President Xiong which included surveying principals and teachers about safety issues on campuses, partnering with the District on needed services and campuses lacking infrastructure (curbs/sidewalks), youth empowerment, status of the Junior City Council, desire to have more officers on campuses and need to find a way to increase officers without charging the District, the Roosevelt High shooting incident and status of identifying at-risk youth, sharing safety concerns with parents at community meetings, concern with children traveling to other schools, need to make the west Fresno middle school a priority, infrastructure needs at Addams Elementary, importance of, and support for, the Safe Routes to School program, support for a Junior Council, partnering with the City and County to utilize dollars in a better way to help the children, need to make a commitment to continue to work together, need for a joint meeting at least once a year and including the "right" people to solve problems, thank you to the police department and officers, need to move forward with the recommendations of the Safety Commission Report, attendance problems, children missing school when an adult can not walk them through high crime areas/areas with child predators/ molesters, concurrence on the need for additional police officers on campuses, school traffic and congestion being a real safety issue in the mornings and afternoons, and need to continue this dialog and include the Clovis and Sanger school districts. City Education Liaison Arambula, City Manager Souza and DC Foster responded throughout to questions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Clovis Unified School District Superintendent Terry Bradley spoke to Clovis schools being a major part of the education program and commended Fresno Unified on the direction it has taken.

Chris Bremer, parent of an Edison High School student, spoke to the need for a community aquatics center.

Cathy Caples, Volunteer Center, spoke in support of the school programs, suggested engaging the volunteer community to help solve problems/address issues, and spoke to the high cost of background checks conducted on volunteers, with Superintendent Hanson and Trustee Nunez responding.

Rosemarie Amaral, Fresno County Department of Health, spoke in support of the joint use of school sites (4 - 0).

Luis Santana, Executive Director of Reading & Beyond, spoke in support of the joint use of facilities and suggested engaging the community to supervise at school sites.

----

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to bring before the joint bodies, Council President Xiong declared the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. and the City Council recessed to 2:00 p.m. for a special Council meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

*Approved* on the \_\_\_\_\_ 19th \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ August \_\_\_\_\_, 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Blong Xiong, Council President

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Yolanda Salazar, Assistant City Clerk