

**CITY OF PARAMOUNT
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE
July 18, 2024**

City Hall (Downstairs Conference Room)
16400 Colorado Avenue, Paramount, CA 90723

CALL TO ORDER: Assistant City Manager Grissel Chavez called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL PUSD Board Members Present:
Diane J. Martinez, Board Member

City Council Members Present:
Isabel Aguayo, Councilmember
Vilma Cuellar Stallings, Councilmember

PUSD Staff Members Present:
Johua Lightle, Superintendent
Isela Preciado, Senior Executive Assistant
Patricia Tu, Asst. Superintendent – Business Svcs.

City Staff Present:
Grissel Chavez, Assistant City Manager
Yecenia Guillen, Community Services Director
Maggie Matson, Public Safety Director
Kelly Tatman, Deputy District Attorney
Gaby Paredes, Executive Assistant

Absent:
Alicia Anderson, Vice President/Clerk
John Moreno, City Manager

Public Present:
There were none.

Assistant City Manager Chavez requested that the City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee consider adding Item – Tennis per Councilmember Cuellar Stallings request to the agenda after Item 5. Hearing no objections, the Item was added.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings and seconded by Board Member Martinez to approve the City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee minutes of May 9, 2024.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. STAR Program
Contracting to a CBO
Update

Assistant City Manager Chavez introduced the item, and Community Services Director Guillen gave the report.

Community Services Director Guillen provided an overview of how the City and Think Together, the new Community-Based Organization (CBO) for the four Middle School sites, have been working together to ensure a seamless transition. Both will continue to meet monthly to coordinate for the betterment of both programs, STAR and Think Together.

2. Notification to City for
Planned School Traffic
Closures/Circulation
Changes

Assistant City Manager Chavez introduced the item and gave the report.

Assistant City Manager Chavez emphasized the importance of communication between the City and the District, specifically regarding events that impact traffic. Councilmember Aguayo indicated that there was a last-minute change to the designated drop-off zone at Alondra School during the year-end ceremonies, causing traffic congestion and raising concerns for the safety of students and parents. Public Safety Director Matson mentioned that there is ongoing communication with PUSD's Safety & Security Director, Jessie Flores, who was notified that the City's Community Safety officers responded to the location on the day of. Superintendent Lightle was not initially aware of the situation but assured that communication between the two organizations would continue to improve.

3. Bond Update

Assistant City Manager Chavez introduced the item, and Superintendent Lightle along with Assistant Superintendent Tu gave the report.

Superintendent Lightle shared that the District has been working with parents, community members, and PUSD staff to develop a fiscally responsible Repair and Safety Measure that will positively impact Paramount schools. Assistant Superintendent Tu provided an overview outlining how PUSD will benefit from this Measure, including the community's educational priorities based on a recently completed survey in April. The Measure is scheduled to be presented to the Board on July 24, 2024, with the possibility of being placed on the November 2024 ballot. (handout provided)

4. Anonymous Reporting

Assistant City Manager Chavez introduced the item, and Superintendent Lightle along with Assistant Superintendent Tu gave the report.

Superintendent Lightle provided a brief introduction of the two programs available to the community for reporting information: We-Tip and Text-A-Tip. Assistant Superintendent Tu distributed a handout that explained the distinction between the two programs. We-Tip is a district-paid service that allows anonymous online submissions or calls to a specific phone number. This resource is accessible to all school sites districtwide. When tips are received, notifications are sent to the District's Safety and Security Team, as well as the Assistant Superintendent, and followed up accordingly. Text-A-Tip is another method of reporting via text to a unique cell phone number available only to high schools. Although texts are not anonymous, they are confidential and are forwarded to the Sheriff's Department and the District Attorney's office. Between 2022 and 2024, data provided to the District by the Sheriff's Department revealed that We-Tip received a total of 21 tips districtwide, while Text-A-Tip received two tips classified as serious incidents. Both programs are promoted at all the school sites through posters, flyers, and the District website.

5. Text-A-Tip

Assistant City Manager Chavez introduced the item, and Public Safety Director Matson along with Deputy District Attorney Tatman gave the report.

Public Safety Director Matson elaborated further on Text-A-Tip, revealing that the program has been a part of the Public Safety Department since 2013. The program was initiated in Orange County and was introduced to the City of Paramount by District Attorney Tatman. Although the program is only available to the high schools at the moment, the intent is to make it available to all school sites districtwide. The unique cell phone number for Text-A-Tip, previously managed by a School Resource Officer (SRO), is now under the responsibility of a Deputy Special Assignment Officer (SAO) based at the City's Substation. District Attorney Tatman emphasized the instant receipt of texts, enabling the SAO to respond promptly. In contrast, We-Tip takes 24 hours to respond to tips. However, there's great value in having both programs available to the community simultaneously, providing options for those who prefer using the We-Tip portal or sending a text through Text-A-Tip. Before COVID-19, approximately 20 tips were reported quarterly (handout provided). Unfortunately, the numbers declined due to reduced program promotion during COVID-19. Nevertheless, there's a strong interest from both the City and the District to collaborate in promoting the program and keep each other well-informed of the tips that come in to be able to face them together.

District Attorney Tatman and Public Safety Director Matson inquired about the possibility of rolling out Text-A-Tip to all the schools; the City had made this request in the past, but the School District rejected the request. The City suggested that the School Resource Officer receive more training on the system and notifications to help ensure the proper routing, follow-up, and communication are being done.

Superintendent Lightle said he had not received information about the tips received from Text-A-Tip. Public Safety Director Matson advised that the information was being received by the School Resource Deputy and shared with School Safety Director Flores; the City was under the impression that he was communicating the info with the District. Superintendent Lightle advised that he would evaluate the data and consider rolling out the Text-A-Tip program to all the schools; he agreed that it would be a good initiative to involve the entire community.

Councilmember Cuellar Stallings suggested advertising the program on the City's street banners or at City events. Director Matson confirmed they would promote the program with flyers at the upcoming National Night Out booth.

6. Tennis

Assistant City Manager Chavez introduced the item, and Councilmember Cuellar Stallings gave the report.

Councilmember Cuellar Stallings mentioned that she was notified by a few parents that the High School Tennis Team had been asked by one of the coaches to practice at a park in Downey because the school tennis courts were unavailable. Superintendent Lightle expressed not being aware of the situation but would look into it. Community Services Director Guillen added that the Tennis Team expressed interest in building a tennis court in Paramount and requested a meeting with the team to explain the process and timeline for projects to come to life. In this meeting, Community Services Director would also inform them of the City's current Parks Master Plan process so they can be involved and provide input in the plan development. Both organizations agreed to work together to accommodate each other's needs when such situations arise.

7. Comments from
Committee Members

Board Member Martinez asked about the City's Heritage Festival and Back to School Event so she can add it to her calendar.

8. Comments from Staff

Executive Assistant Paredes asked the Committee if they would like to proceed with the scheduled City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee meeting on August 1st, given that it would take place two weeks from now, or if they prefer to skip it and reconvene at the scheduled September meeting on September 5th. The Committee agreed to postpone the meeting until September.

Assistant City Manager Chavez informed the Committee that the City has started the installation of the smart water meters at the school campuses and has been in communication with the District. The installation will be ongoing for the next couple of weeks. In addition, the City has started its PEP Scholarship Recipient research project, by contacting previous recipients to conduct interviews about their current status and how the scholarship has benefitted them. Lastly, Assistant City Manager Chavez disclosed that the City plans to present a Business License Tax ballot measure at the next City Council meeting for the City Council's approval.

Superintendent Lightle stated that the District plans to introduce a Voluntary Payroll Deduction program at the beginning of the school year for all employees to contribute towards PEP Scholarships and would value collaborating with the City to use the PEP Scholarship recipient interviews to help promote the program to District staff.

Comments from the
Public

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Assistant City Manager Chavez adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.