Title: Suggested Items for the City/Schools Committee

Subject: Colleague’s Memo from Vice Mayor Yeh and Council Member Shepherd to Request That the City Council Review and Comment on Suggested Items for the City/Schools Committee Agenda for Calendar Year 2011

From: City Manager

Lead Department: City Clerk

Attached is a Colleague’s Memo from Vice Mayor Yeh and Council Member Shepherd Regarding a Request that the City Council Review and Comment on Suggested Items for the City/Schools Committee Agenda for Calendar Year 2011.

Attachments:
- City-School Committee Agenda Items Colleagues Memo 022811 (2) (DOC)

Prepared By: Donna Grider, City Clerk
Department Head: Donna Grider, City Clerk
City Manager Approval: James Keene, City Manager
CITY OF PALO ALTO
COLLEAGUE’S MEMORANDUM

DATE:       February 28, 2011
TO:         City Council Members
FROM:       Vice Mayor Yeh and Council Member Shepherd
SUBJECT:    Request that the City Council review and comment on suggested items for the City/Schools Committee agenda for calendar year 2011

RECOMMENDATION

We ask our Council Colleagues to 1) review the suggested list of agenda topics for the City/Schools Committee and 2) make comments and/or suggest additional items to be considered by the committee.

BACKGROUND

Many important issues are facing the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Unified School District. Opportunities to dialogue and identify potential solutions exist through the City/Schools Committee. To ensure a thoughtful set of agenda items are taken up by the committee this year, we are seeking input from Council colleagues on the issues that are of the highest priority that would fit under the committee’s purview. This discussion will inform and help formulate a robust set of agendas to share with colleagues from the School District.

Currently, City/School Committee meeting agendas are established on an ad hoc basis. While appropriate for being responsive to issues, this memo intends to establish a process that is pro-active in identifying areas to focus efforts, coordinate resources, and enhance or improve collaboration between the two government entities that most directly serve the Palo Alto community.

PROPOSAL

Currently suggested topics include the following:

1. Public Facility inventory. As the committee responds to demographic and growth projections by PAUSD, the City should understand the School District’s interest in current Public Facility-zoned sites to address capacity needs for its long-term strategy. Agenda items already include identifying and taking stock of all zoned PF sites owned by both the City or District and adjacent properties to existing PF properties/sites for purposes of future expansion and a presentation by City staff regarding current PF sites. Land Use & Planning, Community Collaborative for Youth Health and Well-being
2. Cubberley. Ongoing dialogue on the issue of future site plans for the Cubberley site and potential for maximizing multiple community needs and opportunities: education (K-12 and Community College and life-long learning), community programs and classes. Understanding that the current covenant expires in 2014 and needs a 12 month notice to change, two areas that would benefit City planning could focus on PAUSD’s position on 1) when and if the district will need to reopen Cubberley as an active school site, 2) whether or not this needs to include the 8 acres owned by the City and 3) explore wins for multiple community interests? Land Use & Planning, Community Collaborative for Youth Health and Well-being

3. Budget Items. During budget discussions over the last several fiscal years, the areas where City expenditures benefited School District interests emerged as an important topic to explore further. Included in a preliminary list are programs that reflect ongoing City investments in school and educational programs and services. Potential agenda items include 1) a full cataloguing of these programs, 2) reviewing the shared cost of resource officers and crossing guards, and 3) review of the annual payment to PAUSD. City Finance, Community Collaborative for Youth Health and Well-being

4. Project Safety Net. One of the most recent areas of collaboration between the City and School District. The shared role of the City and PAUSD regarding the degree of responsibility for the social and emotional well being of youth on campus and in the community should be clearly defined and articulated publicly to make PSN meaningful and sustainable. Potential agenda items 1) long-term financial allocation for the PSN program, and 2) formalizing the roles for both the City and the School District to reflect the systemic shifts in both entities’ commitment to the program and efforts. Community Collaborative for Youth Health and Well-being

5. Information Technology. The creation of the City’s Fiber Optic Fund in FY 2009 provides a potential opportunity for the City to support the School District’s interest in securing a long-term affordable option to providing high-speed internet and multimedia access to all campuses. Potential agenda items include 1) how the City might expand its dark fiber network to local school campuses, 2) fiscal analysis to determine the feasibility of any expansion, given current and project market conditions, and 3) exploring precautions and advancements for securing mobile phone connectivity expansion. City Finances (Financial: Economic Development)

6. Energy Efficiencies and Renewal Resources. The existence of the City’s Electric Fund and interest in sustainability initiatives by both the City and the School District would benefit from identifying specific opportunities for collaboration. The City has maintained a state, national and international leadership role in setting aggressive milestones for environmental sustainability. Potential agenda items would include identifying demonstration projects contributing to increased energy efficiency, renewable resource development, educational projects preparing the community’s next generations, supporting the
students’ own innovative initiatives promoting environmental sustainability, and trip reduction management strategies. *Environmental Sustainability*

7. **Emergency Preparedness.** The City has widened its focus on EP over the last few years. The success of our active volunteer task force will depend on participation of the entire community when and if a catastrophic event may happen. At this point in time PAUSD has not officially engaged in the primary points of focus 1) the Citizen’s Corps Council (CCC), and 2) drills, best practices and coordination. The success of our City programs relies on the engagement of all community segments. Potential agenda items include 1) an update on District emergency plan, 2) teen CERT training, 3) a PAUSD decision maker appointed to the CCC, and 4) Safe-2-Tell program in conjunction with Project Safety Net. *Emergency Preparedness*

**Resource Impact**

These agenda items and initiatives will have an impact on City staff resources and Council members’ available time. The same will be true of the School District. Pending Council direction on helping array agenda topics in some priority, the City Manager has agreed to provide the Committee with a realistic staff resource “budget”.