



EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes

Tuesday, May 7, 2019 – 6:30 – 7:50 pm

Woodland Hills Library, 22200 Ventura Boulevard, Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Stakeholders and the public are permitted to address the Committee on any item on the Agenda prior to the Committee taking action on said item. It is requested speakers complete a “Speaker Card” and hand it to the Chair. Comments from Stakeholders and the Public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments within the Committee’s subject matter jurisdiction on other not appearing on the Agenda will be heard during the Public Comment period. Public Comment is limited to 15 minutes. Each speaker is limited to two minutes, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Committee. Opinions, positions or actions taken by the Woodland Hills-Warner Center Neighborhood Council do not represent or imply similar opinions held by the Owner, Landlord, L.A.U.S.D, Business or representatives of any venue hosting a meeting of the Council Board, or Committee.

Committee Members: Bill Anderson (Chair), Dan Chernow, Paul Lawler (absent), Gina Thornburg, Aaron Williams, Joyce Fletcher, Ex Officio

- Call to Order: at about 6:35 p.m.
- Pledge
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes, February 26, 2019 Committee Meeting
- **Public Comment: Items not on the Agenda (15 minutes)**

Stakeholders present: Karen DiBiase, Dick Sheinberg

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:

Items for discussion and possible vote:

1. Discussion of “Meet the Principals” Outreach Program

Minutes: Bill and Dan met with the principals of Lockhurst and Woodlake elementary schools. They are dynamic leaders; the community is lucky to have them. The purpose of the visit was to inform the principals of the work that the neighborhood council engages in. Outreach letters have been sent to other elementary schools in our district, too, to establish a relationship with them.

A discussion ensued about helping area schools by awarding them neighborhood purpose grants (NPGs). Gina noted that Taft Charter High School has a specialist counselor. Matthew

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Myers is a specialist in helping homeless students. Gina also suggested that an NPG could be awarded for the purchase of feminine hygiene products for female high school students, since data show that some low-income students skip school because they cannot afford such necessities. She said she would get in touch with Mr. Myers to discuss this matter. (She later spoke with him at the June 1 informational fair hosted by the West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness. He confirmed that such a problem exists at Taft Charter High School.) Joyce noted there's a group in the Conejo Valley trying to help homeless and low-income female high school students, too.

2. Discussion of Request to LAUSD for Information

Minutes: Bill asked whether the superintendent of LAUSD, Austin Beutner, was going to be evaluated. Dan wants to pose this question to our area's board representative, Scott Schmerelson. He noted that there seems to be no evaluation process for the current superintendent of schools.

3. Discussion of LAUSD Study Regarding Possible Use of Under-Utilized School Property

Discussion & Possible Action:

WHEREAS as LAUSD's 6-month study of the use of under-utilized LAUSD school sites for non-school purposes is scheduled for completion on or about 15 May 2019, before the LASUSD Board's regularly scheduled meeting on 21 May 2019, and

WHEREAS the results of said study will directly affect the education of the children who attend LAUSD schools in Woodland Hills both now and in the future, and

WHEREAS the results of said study will directly affect the quality of life of both the children of Woodland Hills and their families, both now and in the future,

THEREFORE, the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council Education Committee submits the following motion to the Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council for approval at its 8 May 2019 meeting:

“WHEREAS, in November 2018, LAUSD Board Members voted to conduct a six-month study of the use of their under-utilized school sites for purposes *other than schools*; and

WHEREAS, there were five school listed by LAUSD in the West Valley that would be included in this study (Collins Elementary School, Highlander Rd Elementary School, Hughes Middle School, Oso Elementary School and Platt Ranch Elementary School); and,

WHEREAS, these five school properties are needed to provide K-8 schools in Woodland Hills and West Hills, as there are no other LAUSD locations available in Woodland hills or West Hills; and

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WHEREAS, in February 2019, a group of concerned homeowners and residents of the Carlton Terrace area helped form a coalition of similar groups adjoining the four other similar unused or underused school properties in the valley, coordinated by the Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization (WHHO); and,

WHEREAS, petitions were circulated in the areas surrounding these school sites, and gathered over 1000+ signatures to date, including 646 signatures in support of rebuilding a K-8 school *only* at the Oso Elementary School site due to the location being entirely within a residential neighborhood; and,

WHEREAS, in Woodland Hills, the Warner Center 2035 Plan has resulted in high-density housing with 8,793 fully built residential dwellings and another 1,615 residential units that are currently under construction, with a total of 26,048 residential units to be built in Woodland Hills alone; and,

WHEREAS, additional residential units are planned and/or are currently under construction in areas near Warner Center and in West Hills; and

WHEREAS, there is an anticipated increase of 5,000 school age children in the West Valley due to these housing increases who will need local schools to attend; and

WHEREAS, most of the LAUSD existing schools in the West Valley are near capacity; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of LAUSD is the education of our children;

THEREFORE, the Woodland Hills Education Committee recommends that the Board of the WHWCNC resolve to notify the City Council and the LAUSD Board it does NOT SUPPORT the use the under-utilized school sites used for purposes *other than schools*. These sites must remain for *educational purposes only due to the anticipated growth in Warner Center*. We further request that new K-8 school construction begin immediately, or that these five school sites be maintained as-is until the future local education need is determined. Furthermore, the Board asks Council Member Blumenfield work with the coalition so future Warner Center educational needs will be represented.”

Minutes: This motion was written by the Woodland Hills Homeowners Organization, with support of a new coalition of concerned residents near the five vacant school properties in Woodland Hills.

Karen DiBiase said the motion was “from the coalition.” She noted that a petition had gathered a thousand signatures and that the coalition had had “several meetings with the WHHO.”

Dick Sheinberg stated that Mr. Schmerelson had said there would be no new schools built in the area. Mr. Sheinberg proposed that if new development attracts just 20,000 new residents and one in 10 were school-age children, then there would be a need for more schools.

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Joyce said, “I’m on the PIB [the Plan Implementation Board of the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan].” Some buildings don’t get built, she said. “The numbers in Warner Center may not play out.”

Gina noted that the numbers in the 10th paragraph of the motion, concerning development in Warner Center, were inaccurate. She suggested a friendly amendment to correct them. At the full board meeting, the following amendment was accepted:

WHEREAS, in Woodland Hills, the Warner Center 2035 Specific Plan has resulted in 379 completed apartment units in one development; another 1,615 residential units under construction; high-density projects totaling 6,089 more residential units having been filed with the city; and 10,917 additional units allowed, for a total of 19,000 allowable under the specific plan above the 6,200 residential units existing in Warner Center in 2008; and

A vote was taken on the motion, after Gina’s amendment was discussed. The vote was in favor of the motion, 5 to 0.

4. Committee Administration

- New Members

Minutes: It was stated that we need at least one teacher on the committee. Bill wants suggestions for more committee members. Karen passed a handwritten note to Bill about a Pierce College student running for a seat in Area 1. Gina acknowledged that she knew her and that she, Komalpreet Batth, would be an excellent member to have on the committee.

- Planning for FY 2019 / 2020

Minutes: There was a general discussion about the budgets for neighborhood councils. Joyce mentioned there are six categories for the NCs’ budgets. These include operations and outreach.

Bill opened a discussion to brainstorm about possible projects that the committee would pursue in the next fiscal year.

Gina mentioned the food pantry and the Brahma Initiative at Pierce College. She spoke of the fairly recent LACCD study showing that 11% of community college students are homeless, and more than 40% experience food insecurity. She mentioned that the text of the Brahma Initiative proposes establishing relationships with other organizations in Woodland Hills, including the neighborhood council.

Dan proposed extending the Canoga Park Walk of Hearts, which honors local educators, to Westfield’s property in Warner Center.

Bill liked Gina’s idea to connect with the homeless-students specialist counselor at Taft Charter High School.

Aaron wants to get the real numbers on the homeless problems.

After some discussion, four projects were seen as worthy for the next year: (1) coming up with a business plan for a food drive for the food pantries at Pierce College; (2) pursuing the

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extension of the Walk of Hearts into Warner Center; (3) a potential NPG for Taft Charter High School for the purpose of boosting supplies of feminine hygiene products; and (4) continuing to reach out to the local elementary schools.

5. New Business

Minutes: Committee members agreed that new business had been discussed when planning for the next fiscal year.

Adjournment of meeting: 7:58 p.m.

Disabilities Act Notification:

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EmpowerLA@LACity.org.

Brown Act Notification:

In compliance with Government Code 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the committee in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at www.whcouncil.org.

If you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact:

j.fletcher@whcouncil.org