



## **DRAFT MINUTES - EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 1, 2020 – 6:30 – 7:50 pm**

**VIRTUAL MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE**

**VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING and PHONE NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. Call to order – 6:34 p.m. by Chairman, Bill Anderson
2. Pledge of Allegiance - led by Bill Anderson.
3. Roll Call – by Chairman, Bill Anderson  
Present: Bill Anderson, John Sandy Campbell, Dan Chernow, Douglas Marriott, Paul Lawler, Ginny Sand, Gina Thornburg, PhD.

QUORUM of 7 at 6:37 p.m.

4. Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – August 4, 2020  
Motion to accept the minutes by: Ginny Sand; seconded by John Sandy Campbell.  
Vote – Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0

5. Public Announcements:

Tammy Ramirez of LAUSD, District 3 School Board Member, Scott Schmerelson's office, introduced herself as a new addition to that office. Ms. Ramirez reported that there is a new principal at Woodlake Elementary School, Ms. Amy Pedersen and that applications were being taken for the Student Advisory Council position for Mr. Schmerelson.

6. Public Comment:

Gina Thornburg expressed concern for a teacher at El Camino Charter High School who has been facing a backlash for wearing an "I Can't Breathe" T-Shirt in a Zoom Class.

Reina McCaughey expressed concern about LAUSD schools and social justice. Ms. McCaughey stated that she would like to become a member of the Committee. Bill Anderson said that an application form would be sent to Ms. McCaughey.

### **COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **7. Items for discussion and possible vote:**

##### **Item No. (1) Working with Foundations**

Guest Speaker, Robert Brostoff provided a talk that outlined the steps and funds necessary to form a 501 c 3 non-profit corporation, the necessary tax filings, and the fund-raising possibilities. One important point that Mr. Brostoff made is that the funds and operations of a possible non-profit corporation must remain separate from the Neighborhood Council. Gina Thornburg

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expressed concern about potential conflict of interest issues that could arise, suggesting that any involvement will need input from the Los Angeles City Attorney's office. The Committee thanked Mr. Brostoff for his talk and deferred any further consideration of work with a non-profit corporation to a future date.

### **Item No. (2) Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the Foundation for Pierce College earmarked for the sole purpose of supporting the Brahma Pantry**

Gina Thornburg made the following motion per the agenda:

Over the past year the Education Committee has explored ways to support the work of the Brahma Pantry, a food pantry on the campus of Los Angeles Pierce College. The Brahma Pantry provides valuable services and support to help students fill gaps in their basic needs, such as housing, food, childcare, health care, and educational costs. Meeting food costs was difficult for many students before the pandemic and has become increasingly difficult because of employment loss and the looming threat of evictions. The committee's fact-finding activities include several conversations between committee member Gina Thornburg and the pantry manager, as well as a visit to the pantry; a tour of the pantry last fall by three committee members; research on the plight of California community college students by committee member Dan Chernow; and a Q&A with the pantry manager, D'arcy Corwin, at the August 2020 Education Committee meeting. Therefore, the Education Committee finds that:

WHEREAS a recent research article in Ed Source (<https://edsource.org/2020/community-colleges-struggle-with-students-food-needs-as-pandemic-increases-demand/634155>) reports that out of 46 responses to an EdSource survey of the 115 community colleges in California, all 46 have campus food pantries, with 26 continuing to distribute food despite campus closures. Twenty-one say their food pantries have seen an increase of applications for food and/or an increase in the amount of food being requested; and

WHEREAS Governor Newsom defunded food pantries on the state's community college campuses, removing \$11.4 million for them from the California Community Colleges 2020–21 budget (<https://www.google.com/search?q=California+Community+Colleges+may+revision+budget&oq=California+Community+Colleges+may+revision+budget&aqs=chrome..69i57j33.12646j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#>); and

WHEREAS LA Pierce College is the sole community college in the Woodland Hills–Warner Center Neighborhood Council district; and,

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WHEREAS members of the WHWCNC Education Committee have conducted due diligence in understanding the need for monetary donations to support the hunger-alleviation work of the Brahma Pantry; and

WHEREAS the Foundation for Pierce College is the fiscal agent responsible for receiving and paying out donations to the on-campus Brahma Pantry;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the WHWCNC Education Committee recommends that the board of the Woodland Hills–Warner Center Neighborhood Council APPROVE the following Neighborhood Purposes Grant:

According to the Office of the City Clerk Neighborhood Council Funding Program, issue a Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$2,500 to the Foundation for Pierce College, earmarked solely for the purpose of supporting the Brahma Pantry’s hunger-relief activities, including grocery-store gift cards for students during the pandemic and the purchase of food items for the physical pantry once the campus is reopened

The motion was seconded by John Sandy Campbell.

The Committee discussed the funding of the pantry. Gina Thornburg reported that she had been in contact with D’Arcy Corwin, the manager of the pantry and that Pierce funds to support the pantry existed but were unavailable due to college administrative issues. Gina also reported that state budget funds meant to support community college student hunger programs, had been cut from the budget by the governor. D’Arcy Corwin who was in attendance at the meeting told the Committee that as existing Pierce funds continue to be unavailable, a grant from the WHWCNC would enable the Brahma Pantry to immediately provide students with grocery store gift cards that could be used immediately for food. (Note: on or about 7:17 p.m., John Sandy Campbell left the meeting.)

The Committee proceeded to vote with the following results:

Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 Motion passed.

### Item No. (3) LAUSD Hygiene Project

Per the action item from the August 4 committee meeting, Doug Marriott and Gina Thornburg had been in contact with Laura Rathbone of Sisters on the Streets (SOS). SOS is pursuing the possibility of installing free feminine hygiene dispensers on High School campuses. However, with the current pandemic, campuses are closed. Should the Committee find interest in supporting in such an SOS program, it would be necessary to be certain that the funds be used in Woodland Hills.

*Action Item: The Committee needs to continue discussions with SOS on a way for the Committee to support the hygiene dispenser project.*

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### **Item No. (4) West Valley Occupational Center HiSet Program**

Gina Thornburg reported that she had not been able to reach WVOC Principal, Monica Balbuena but had been in contact with Vice Principal, Ana Rubalcava regarding the NPG that had been begun several months ago. The Committee was reminded that the HiSet is a high school equivalency exam that costs a reported \$150.00 to take. The NPG that is being draft would provide \$750 for this exam – enough for five WVOC students.

*Action Item: Gina Thornburg to follow up with Ana Rubalcava.*

### **Item No. (5) Discussion of Possible Projects with Girl Scouts and / or Boy Scouts**

Ginny Sand reported that she had learned that the Girl Scouts were currently very well-funded. She also reported that, while the overall financial health of the Boy Scout was not good, local Woodland Hills were not in need of funds. Paul Lawler added that local companies have been supporting the Woodland Hills Boy Scout troops. The Committee was of the opinion that without the schools meeting in person, it was difficult to gather information as to how to proceed.

### **Item No. (6) Discussion of Possible Jobs Fair**

As the Committee did not have a preliminary cost estimate for a possible jobs fair, the Committee decided to forgo a current discussion on this project at this time.

### **Item No. (7) Discussion of FY 2021 Budget / TimeLine**

Bill Anderson reported that the WHWCNC Budget Committee was to meet on 16 September. The Budget Committee he reported, is comprised of the WHWCNC officers and committee chairs. As he is Education Committee Chair, he will attend this meeting and submit the Committees needs for FY 2021 including the \$2,500 NPG for the Brahma Pantry that the Committee is currently working on.

*Action Item: Bill Anderson to attend the 16 September WHWCNC Budget Committee meeting.*

### **Item No. (8) Taft Improvement Project Public Meeting 27 August 2020**

Dan Chernow attended the 27 August Taft Improvement Project meeting on behalf of the Committee. He reported that the Taft project was using Project Q money. There are 22 school projects using \$7 billion of this funding he reported. Dan reported that the Taft project will cost some \$146.5 million.

### **Item No. (9) Discussion of Committee Administration**

Bill Anderson reported that he had sent D'Arcy Corwin the committee application form and that he also will send said form to Reina McCaughey. Bill Anderson also reported that he had contacted Jessica Serrano of DONE regarding the possible use of the Team Work app. He was informed by Ms. Serrano that she would have to check with the City Attorney. Bill has not yet heard back.

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### Item No. (10) New Business

There was no “New Business.”

### Adjournment of meeting:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:08 p.m. by Paul Lawler; Second by: Gina Thornburg.

Vote – Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Absent: 1 Motion Passed.

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