



MINUTES - EDUCATION COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 29, 2020 – 6:30 – 7:50 pm

VIRTUAL MEETING BY TELECONFERENCE

VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING and PHONE NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Call to order – 6:37 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, Paul Lawler, Douglas Marriott, Reina McCaughey, Ginny Sand, Gina Thornburg, PhD. Absent: Dan Chernow.

QUORUM of 7 at 6:40 p.m.

4. Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – September 1, 2020. Motion to accept minutes by: Paul Lawler; seconded by Gina Thornburg.
Vote – Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 1
Approval of Minutes: Education Committee Meeting – October 6, 2020. Motion to accept Minutes: by Paul Lawler; seconded by Ginny Sand.
Vote – Yes: 6 No: 0 Abstain: 1
5. Public Announcements: There were no Public Announcements
6. Public Comment: There was no Public Comment.

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:

7. Items for discussion and possible vote:

Item No. (1) 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:

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 serves students by helping them meet their basic needs, but the pandemic-related campus closure has made it difficult to help alleviate food insecurity among the student population. 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 members 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 done by the Committee; 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 26 of 46 California community-college campuses responding to an EdSource survey continue to distribute food to needy students despite campus closures, while 21 reported an increase of applications for food and/or an increase in the amount of food being requested; and

WHEREAS rolled-over funds in the Brahma Pantry account are not being replenished by the state after Governor Newsom removed \$11.4 million for food pantries 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,

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/or the purchase of food items for the physical pantry once the campus is reopened.

The Motion was seconded by Doug Marriott.

The Committee proceeded to a Vote with the following results:

Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion passed.

Action Item: Committee Chairman, Bill Anderson, will submit the motion to the full WHWCNC Board for a vote at its 10 November 2020 meeting.

Item No. (2) Neighborhood Purposes Grant for Hi-SET Exams for Students of the West Valley Occupational Center

Gina Thornburg made the following Motion:

WHEREAS, the West Valley Occupational Center (WVOC) in Woodland Hills is part of the Los Angeles Unified School District's Division of Adult and Career Education, preparing students for academic advancement and an array of careers, and

WHEREAS, the HiSET exam is a critical milestone for WVOC students to graduate from their respective High School Diploma or High School Equivalency programs, and

WHEREAS, WVOC students in career tracks must also have a high school diploma or its equivalent to qualify for future employment, and

WHEREAS, the HiSET exam costs \$185 per student, and

WHEREAS, the LAUSD does not have the funding to cover the cost of the exam, leaving this cost to the students, and

WHEREAS, not all WVOC students can afford the cost of the exam, and

WHEREAS, approximately 200 WVOC students take the HiSET exam annually, and

WHEREAS, the community of Woodland Hills benefits when its stakeholders are better prepared academically and technically for future careers,

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 \$925.00 to the West Valley Occupational Center for the purpose of defraying, in part, the cost of more than five or paying for the total cost of five HiSET exams for enrolled WVOC students in the 2020–2021 academic school year. The number of students to benefit from this grant shall be determined at the discretion of the administration of the WVOC.

The Motion was seconded by Paul Lawler.

The Committee proceeded to a Vote with the following results:

Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion passed.

Action Item: Committee Chairman, Bill Anderson, will submit the motion to the full WHWCNC Board for a vote at its 10 November 2020 meeting.

Item No. (3) LAUSD Hygiene Project: Draft Letter of Interest for Sisters on the Street Pilot Project at Taft High School

Bill Anderson made the following Motion:

WHEREAS, Sisters on the Streets is a non-profit organization serving the San Fernando Valley with a variety of programs, one such aimed at providing access to feminine hygiene products free of charge to the homeless and to the economically disadvantaged, and

WHEREAS, according to California AB 10 passed in 2017 and in effect as of January 1, 2018, free feminine hygiene products must be provided to students by all schools whose poverty-to-pupil threshold is a minimum 40%, and

WHEREAS, according to figures for 2019 published on the California Department of Education's, California Schools Dashboard, some 63.3% of William Howard Taft Charter High School students, approximately 1,480 in number, are economically disadvantaged, and

WHEREAS, Sisters on the Streets co-founder, Laura Rathbone, spoke to the WHWCNC Education Committee at its 6 October 2020 regularly scheduled meeting, describing a possible pilot program for William Howard Taft Charter High School which entailed providing three feminine hygiene product dispensers and an initial supply of 3,000 feminine hygiene products,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the WHWCNC Education Committee will provide a letter to Sisters on the Streets articulating the Committee's interest in supporting said William Howard Taft Charter High School pilot project, with text as follows:

Laura Rathbone
Co-Founder
sistersonthestreet@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Rathbone,

Thank you for your recent visit to the 6 October 2020 meeting of the WHWCNC Education Committee. The Committee found your presentation compelling. As such, we are extremely interested in finding a way to support the possible pilot program for William Howard Taft Charter High school that you described, the dispensing of free-of-charge feminine hygiene products.

As you outlined it, said pilot program would include the installation of three feminine hygiene product dispensers at William Howard Taft Charter High School and providing of an initial supply of 3,000 feminine hygiene products.

Please keep us informed as to your progress in creating the Taft pilot program. The student peace of mind and the increased attendance that is sure to be realized from the program is a benefit to all.

Best regards,

Bill Anderson
Area 4 Representative / Chairman Education Committee
Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council

The Committee proceeded to a Vote with the following results:

Yes: 5 No: 1 Abstain: 1 Motion passed.

Action Item: Committee Chairman, Bill Anderson, will send the letter of interest to Laura Rathbone, Co-Founder of Sisters on the Street.

Item No. (5) Discussion of Possible Zoom Meeting with Local Principals, re: Long Distance Learning

The Committee discussed a possible project whereby LAUSD Principals would be invited to participate in a possible online discussion regarding the effect of "distance learning." As it was unclear as to the

status of certain legal issues surrounding this issue, the Committee decided keep this as a “potential” project.

Item No. (6) Possible New Projects

a. *Optimist Youth Home Pacific Lodge Girl’s Home, Area 6*

The Committee discussed finding ways to support this program. As Rotary is currently involved with the lodge, that organization should be contacted about potential Committee involvement.

Action Item: Paul Lawler to put Gina Thornburg, Ginny Sand, and Doug Marriott in touch with Sheri Polak of Rotary.

b. *Parents, Educators / Teachers & Students in Action (PESA) Possible NPG*

The Committee discussed an NPG from PESA that had been received by the WHWCNC Board and subsequently passed on to the Education Committee. As no one on the Committee was familiar with the organization, the application itself contained several errors with regard to NPG requirements, and was judged as being vague as to the project being put forth, the Committee decided that more information was needed.

Action Item: John Sandy Campbell to contact PESA about giving a presentation to the Committee at its December of January meeting that would provide more information about the organization.

Item No. (7) New Business

There was no New Business.

Adjournment of meeting:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:41 p.m. by Ginny Sand. Second by Paul Lawler.

Vote – Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 0 Motion Passed.

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Virtual Meeting Teleconferencing and Phone Number for Public Participation

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