

**CITY OF PARAMOUNT
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE
June 12, 2025**

Clearwater Building Auditorium
16401 Paramount Blvd, Paramount, CA 90723

CALL TO ORDER: City Manager John Moreno called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

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

City Council Members Present:
Vilma Cuellar Stallings, Councilmember

PUSD Staff Members Present:
Johua Lightle, Superintendent
Isela Preciado, Senior Executive Assistant

City Staff Present:
John Moreno, City Manager
Gaby Paredes, Executive Assistant

Absent:
Alicia Anderson, President
Isabel Aguayo, Councilmember
Grissel Chavez, Assistant City Manager
Yecenia Guillen, Community Services Director

Public Present:
There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee minutes of April 3, 2025, are to be approved at the next scheduled meeting of August 7, 2025, due to the Committee members in attendance not being present at the April 3rd meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Safe & Civil
Program/Gang
Prevention

City Manager Moreno introduced the item and Superintendent Lightle gave the report.

Superintendent Lightle reported on the transition from the outdated GRIP (Gang Resistance Is Paramount) program to a more modern approach that addresses current youth issues, including bullying, cyberbullying, drug use, and weapons on campus. This transition has relaunched the Safe and Civil Schools program, which is a multi-tiered system of student support. Each school now has a team of teachers, counselors, staff, and administrators analyzing data related to behavior, attendance, and school climate to create site-specific interventions. The district is also building a comprehensive counseling model that includes social-emotional, academic, and career guidance, with gang prevention lessons potentially aligned to 2nd, 5th, and 7th grades. School counselors will lead the vetting and piloting of three to five gang prevention programs before making a recommendation for School Board approval next spring. Regular status updates on the progress of the curriculum will be shared with the City Council and School Board Ad Hoc Committee to ensure transparency and collaboration throughout the process. Additionally, City Manager Moreno offered support from the sheriff's department for curriculum development, which could include relevant local gang information provided by special assignment officers.

2. Next Year's Mayor for
the Day Arrangements

City Manager Moreno introduced the item and gave the report.

City Manager Moreno provided a brief update on the "Mayor for the Day" program, which was initiated a few years ago and is currently on hiatus due to the summer break. The program will resume in August or September, continuing on the fourth Tuesday of each month (the second City Council meeting), and will include two new enhancements to the program introduced by Mayor Lemons: a formal swearing-in ceremony where students put their hand on a book and a tour of City Hall for participants and their

parents. Isela from the School District will coordinate with schools, working with principals to rotate through different schools and select students. The program aims to inspire students who are not necessarily top achievers, but those who show promise and could benefit from the motivation and leadership experience this opportunity offers.

3. Date for Community Meeting

City Manager Moreno introduced the item and gave the report along with Superintendent Lightle.

City Manager Moreno and Superintendent Lightle discussed the possibility of hosting another community meeting like the one held a few years ago at Jefferson School, which was originally requested by PTA President Daisy Macedo. The City Council and School Board Ad Hoc Committee expressed their support for this idea and proposed scheduling the event for early October, rather than during the busy start of the school year. This timing would allow the PTA President to promote the meeting at the District Council PTA gathering, typically held in mid-September. The meeting aims to provide an opportunity for community engagement and communication between the School District, City officials, and parents. Councilmember Aguayo and Board President Anderson will be informed of the committee's proposed timeframe.

4. Comments from Committee Members

Councilmember Cuellar Stallings raised a concern brought to her attention by several parents regarding whether the School District has a plan in place, similar to the approach taken during the COVID era, such as a return to Zoom instruction, if ongoing immigration issues continue into the school year. She also inquired about summer school attendance rates across high school, elementary, and middle school levels.

Superintendent Lightle responded that overall summer school attendance is similar to previous years; however, some students are hesitant to provide reasons for their absences. The District is closely monitoring the situation and sending strong messages to reassure parents about the safety and protection of their children. Additionally, they are

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considering potential strategies, such as hosting Zoom meetings with immigration attorneys to address parents' concerns if necessary.

5. Comments from Staff

There were none.

Comments from the
Public

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

City Manager John Moreno adjourned the meeting at 4:34 p.m.