

**CITY OF PARAMOUNT
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE
November 13, 2025**

Clearwater Building Auditorium
16401 Paramount Blvd, Paramount, CA 90723

CALL TO ORDER: City Manager John Moreno called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PUSD Board Members Present:
Alicia Anderson, President
Diane J. Martinez, Board Member

City Council Members Present:
Wilma Cuellar Stallings, Councilmember

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

City Staff Present:
John Moreno, City Manager
Grissel Chavez, Assistant City Manager
Yecenia Guillen, Community Services Director
Gaby Paredes, Executive Assistant

Absent:
Isabel Aguayo, Councilmember

Public Present:
Annette C. Delgadillo, Councilmember

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Board Member Martinez and seconded by Councilmember Cuellar Stallings to approve the City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee minutes of June 12, 2025.

The minutes from the City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee meeting on September 4, 2025, will be approved at the next scheduled meeting on January 8, 2026, since only one of the committee members present attended the September 4th meeting.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Kits for Kids Program Presentation

City Manager Moreno introduced the item, and Gillian Ramirez gave the report.

Gillian Ramirez from the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (Gateway Cities COG) gave a presentation on the Kits for Kids program, a free initiative of the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN). This program provides energy-efficiency kits to 3rd and 4th-grade students at no cost, teaching them about energy use and conservation. The kits include items such as LED bulbs, showerheads, and night-lights. Additionally, classrooms can earn \$1,000 by achieving a 65% participation rate through a simple, anonymous student note card. Several school districts in the Gateway area are already participating, with thousands of kits being distributed across the region this fall. The materials are available in both English and Spanish, and additional languages can be provided upon request. Other services offered by SoCalREN include project management support, facility upgrades, and the Strategic Energy Management program, for which district enrollment is free and non-binding. The program was recommended after Councilmember Cuellar Stallings learned about it during the Gateway COG retreat in Catalina. The Gateway Cities COG has scheduled a meeting with the District on November 21st to discuss potential implementation, and Committee Members expressed support and interest in moving the program forward.

2. Paramount Teen Leadership Alliance (PTLA) Video

City Manager Moreno introduced the item and gave the report.

City Manager Moreno presented a video highlighting the Paramount Teen Leadership Alliance (PTLA), a youth program operated through the Community Services Department, which supports leadership development and community involvement among local students. The City shared pride in the program's growth and impact, noting that participation numbers have continued to rise since the video was created. PTLA volunteers support major community events, including the recent Halloween Festival, where volunteers staffed booths and significantly improved event operations and customer service. The program currently includes approximately 140 active members, with about 80 regularly attending monthly meetings, representing students from all local high schools and some private schools. Members also participate in college visits, beach cleanups, and team-building activities. The Committee emphasized the importance of youth volunteerism in light of declining adult participation in traditional service organizations and expressed appreciation for the teens' enthusiasm, professionalism, and genuine commitment to giving back to the community.

3. SEAACA's Wild Tunes Video – PUSD Involvement

City Manager Moreno introduced the item and gave the report.

City Manager Moreno introduced Wild Tunes, a volunteer program operated through the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA) that uses live music to help calm shelter animals and improve their chances of adoption. This program, founded by a young musician, invites student musicians and singers to perform at animal shelters. This benefits not only the animals' demeanor but also provides a valuable community service experience for the volunteers. The City encouraged the School District to share this opportunity with music teachers at the middle and high school levels to promote student participation. Additionally, the City is open to exploring transportation assistance to SEAACA in

Downey, if necessary. The District expressed its support for the program and agreed to help further promote it within the schools.

4. Explore Paramount Video Promo – Invitation to all PUSD Youth

City Manager Moreno introduced the item, and Assistant City Manager Chavez gave the report.

Assistant City Manager Chavez announced the City's second annual "Explore Paramount" small business video contest. The contest invites adults and high school students who either reside in Paramount or attend school within the Paramount Unified School District to participate. Participants are asked to create a short video, up to one minute in length, showcasing their favorite local business. The contest is currently open, with a submission deadline of January 2, 2026. After the deadline, all entries will be posted on the City's social media platforms for community voting. The City has requested the School District's assistance in distributing flyers and encouraging student participation, aiming to increase the number of entries compared to last year. Winners will receive cash prizes, and the participating businesses will also benefit from prizes in the form of gift cards purchased by the City. These gift cards will later be raffled off through additional social media contests.

5. Use of Facilities – High School Reunions

City Manager Moreno introduced the item, and Community Services Director Guillen gave the report.

Community Services Director Guillen reported on the use of facilities for high school reunions, prompted by a request from a resident affiliated with the Paramount Historical Society and a Paramount High School alumni group, specifically the Class of 1965. The resident had sought assistance from the City Council during a City Council meeting in locating a venue for a class reunion. City staff reviewed available options and confirmed that the School District does offer facility rentals for high school reunions, although this is subject to facility-use fees and a prohibition on alcohol consumption. Alternatively, City facilities are available, and may allow alcohol under certain restrictions, with the ability to waive or reduce some fees for qualifying

groups. However, certain fees, such as alcohol and security, cannot be waived. The update was shared to facilitate coordination between the City and the School District, ensuring that reunion organizers are directed to the most suitable venue options.

6. PEP Survey Assistance City Manager Moreno introduced the item, and Assistant City Manager Chavez gave the report.

Assistant City Manager Chavez provided an update on efforts to evaluate the long-term effectiveness of the PEP Scholarship Program and requested assistance from the Board Members in increasing survey participation. The City has been attempting to contact past PEP scholarship recipients, dating back as early as 2009, to complete a follow-up survey on their educational and career outcomes; however, limited and outdated contact information has resulted in low response rates. Despite outreach through email blasts, newsletters, social media, and direct emails, only about 40 responses have been received from an estimated 400 to 600 contacts, with a goal of at least 100 responses. Hard-copy survey packets were distributed to Board Members, and agreed to help contact former students and families directly and refer them to the City's survey link. The data collected will be used to assess program outcomes, support future funding opportunities, enhance marketing efforts, and strengthen applications for awards and grants.

7. 2026 City/PUSD Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Dates City Manager Moreno introduced the item and gave the report.

City Manager Moreno presented the proposed meeting dates for the 2026 City Council and School Board Ad Hoc Committee. It was noted that there would be no meeting in December 2025 due to the District's annual conference, and the same will apply to December 2026. The Committee agreed to continue meeting at the Clearwater Building, with the next meeting scheduled for January 8, 2026. During the discussion, a potential scheduling conflict for the July meeting was identified, and staff agreed to adjust that date accordingly. The June meeting date

was also reviewed in relation to high school graduation schedules and was confirmed to be workable after previous adjustments.

8. Comments from
Committee Members

Councilmember Cuellar Stallings raised concerns from a parent about students reportedly leaving school and congregating at Walmart during class time and asked about the District's attendance enforcement and consequences. Superintendent Lightle explained that attendance and child welfare fall under the District's purview and outlined the comprehensive, tiered system of interventions in place, ranging from school-site supports and social worker involvement to School Attendance Review Boards and, when necessary, coordination with external agencies. It was emphasized that attendance issues are addressed on an individual basis and encouraged directing parents to contact the student's school site as the best initial point of contact, or the District office if needed.

9. Comments from Staff

Community Services Director Guillen mentioned that upcoming winter events are approaching and noted that the annual tree lighting event, which is typically well attended, is being planned with a letter being distributed soon providing details regarding the event date, time, and reserved areas.

Comments from the
Public

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

City Manager John Moreno adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.