

**CITY OF PARAMOUNT  
MINUTES  
CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE  
September 4, 2025**

Clearwater Building Auditorium  
16401 Paramount Blvd, Paramount, CA 90723

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CALL TO ORDER: City Manager John Moreno called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

City Council Members Present:  
Isabel Aguayo, Councilmember

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

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

Absent:  
Vilma Cuellar Stallings, Councilmember  
Grissel Chavez, Assistant City Manager

Public Present:  
Daisy Macedo, PTA President

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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There were none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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It was moved by Board President Anderson and seconded by Councilmember Aguayo to approve the City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee minutes of August 7, 2025.

The minutes from the City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee meeting on June 12, 2025, will be approved at the next scheduled meeting on November 6, 2025, since none of the committee members present attended the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Joint City and PUSD  
Board Meeting

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

City Manager Moreno and Superintendent Lightle focused on planning the upcoming Joint City and PUSD Roundtable with Elected Officials and PTA in a collaborative approach to addressing community concerns. The Committee agreed to schedule the meeting for Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., with the location to be confirmed by PTA President Macedo at a later time. Key discussion topics for the roundtable will include immigration, traffic, and issues related to crossing guards. Both the City and School District plan to have representatives from various departments present to answer questions and provide immediate feedback during the meeting.

2. 2025 Homeless Census  
Report

City Manager Moreno introduced the item and gave the report.

City Manager Moreno presented the 2025 Homeless Census Report, highlighting a significant decrease in homelessness from 59 individuals in 2022 to 29 in 2025. The report revealed that most homeless individuals have close ties to Paramount, with many having last attended Paramount High School. The City has been actively working to reduce homelessness through intervention, engagement, and investments in dedicated resources, including 20 shelter beds at the Bell Salvation Army Shelter, reserved exclusively for Paramount residents, which has significantly aided in reducing homelessness. Superintendent Lightle explained an important distinction in homelessness definitions: HUD, used in the City's count, defines homelessness as individuals sleeping on streets or in tents, while the Department of Education defines homelessness more broadly under the McKinney-Vento Act,

including those in unstable housing situations like staying with relatives, which often results in discrepancies between City and School District numbers. Councilmember Aguayo suggested that this distinction be clearly communicated to the public, possibly through social media, to prevent confusion. Overall, the City is proud of the progress made and remains committed to supporting the local homeless population. A copy of the report was distributed.

3. Paramount Teen Leadership Alliance (PTLA) Volunteer Program

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

Community Services Director Guillen provided an update on the Paramount Teen Leadership Academy (PTLA), a volunteer-based program designed for Paramount students in grades 6–12 that promotes community engagement, leadership, and service. Now in its second year, the program has experienced significant growth. Students participate voluntarily in City events and take on responsibilities similar to those of Recreation Leader employees without mandatory service hour requirements. While the program is thriving and has already led to positive outcomes such as peer friendships and mentorship opportunities, one current challenge is ensuring equitable participation so that more students have the chance to participate. PTLA is modeled after a successful program in the City of Norwalk, which has been running for 25 years. To support student development, PTLA offers monthly enrichment activities, including guest speakers and college tours, with future plans of also including scholarship opportunities to enhance the initiative. To further incentivize long-term commitment, Community Services Director Guillen proposed awarding a graduation cord to students who complete three years in the program and log at least 80 hours of volunteer service. These hours can be earned through a flexible combination of meetings, events, and community service. The graduation cord would serve as a meaningful and visible recognition—particularly valued in today’s social media-driven culture—and help encourage sustained involvement. The proposal was well received, highlighting the

program's impact in fostering social skills, responsibility, mentorship, and a sense of community unity. A flyer on how to join PTLA was provided.

4. Enrollment Update

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

Superintendent Lightle shared enrollment data updates comparing the number of students on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the current school year to the same time last year. The District continues to experience a decline in enrollment; however, the rate of decline has slowed—from an average loss of 600 students annually over the past decade to about 300 students last year. As of August 27, 2025, there are 311 fewer students enrolled across all grade levels, with each level seeing approximately 100 fewer students. This trend aligns with broader patterns observed in LA County and California, driven by factors such as declining birth rates and families relocating to more affordable areas like the Inland Empire and Antelope Valley, in which demographers have adjusted their projections accordingly, using a lower student-per-household ratio. City Manager Moreno noted that, interestingly, new housing developments in Paramount are predominantly being purchased by childless professionals in their 30s and 40s, indicating a significant demographic shift. While the District does lose some students to other districts, it also gains students through interdistrict transfers. Furthermore, Paramount is now utilizing the Allen Bill, which allows families to enroll their children in the District if at least one parent works a minimum of 10 hours per week within District boundaries. This strategy is currently being promoted in collaboration with the local Chamber of Commerce.

5. Paramount USD  
Welcome Center  
Parking

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

Superintendent Lightle revisited a previously denied request to restrict street parking on Orizaba Avenue near the Welcome Center. The District presented updated data and photos showing that the 84 available parking spaces (out of 87 total, with 3 reserved for EV charging) are insufficient for the 82 District office employees and frequent professional

development meetings that draw an additional 20–40 participants. The recent opening of the Welcome Center, which processed 500 enrollments in July alone, has further increased parking demand. Concerns were expressed about limited access for families due to staff and visitor overflow parking spilling into nearby streets. However, Councilmember Aguayo voiced strong concerns about taking away public street parking, citing resident frustration and existing pressure in the area. While the District proposed a compromise—time-restricted parking only on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., leaving evenings, weekends, and holidays unrestricted—City procedure prevents staff from reintroducing the item without a Councilmember's request. In the meantime, City Manager Moreno noted ongoing code enforcement efforts targeting a nearby auto shop owner who has been improperly storing vehicles and contributing to parking congestion.

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| 6. | Comments from Committee Members | There were none. |
| 7. | Comments from Staff             | There were none. |
|    | Comments from the Public        | There were none. |

### **ADJOURNMENT**

City Manager John Moreno adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.