

**CITY OF PARAMOUNT
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE
June 11, 2026**

Clearwater Building Auditorium
16401 Paramount Blvd, Paramount, CA 90723

CALL TO ORDER: City Manager John Moreno called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PUSD Board Members Present:
Yesenia Cuarenta, Board Member

City Council Members Present:
Vilma Cuellar Stallings, Councilmember
Isabel Aguayo, 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, Board Member
Grissel Chavez, Assistant City Manager
Yecenia Guillen, Community Services Director

Public Present:
There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilmember Cuellar Stallings moved to approve the minutes from the City Council/School Board Ad Hoc Committee meeting held on April 2, 2026, and Councilmember Aguayo seconded the motion.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. PEP Event Summary and Discussion of Future PEP Events

City Manager Moreno introduced the item and gave the report.

City Manager Moreno provided an update on the long-standing PEP donor recognition event, which has historically served both to thank existing donors and to generate additional scholarship contributions for the following academic year. Although the event has been held for roughly 25 years and was once well-attended (around 150 guests), participation has steadily declined, with only about 25 attendees this year and just \$300 in new donations. The City has tried various days and times to accommodate business schedules, most recently holding the event on a Thursday from 4–6 p.m. on April 16 in hopes of attracting business owners before they went home for the day, but this did not improve turnout or donor impact. Despite the disappointing outcome, the City does not intend to discontinue the event because of its value in recognizing donor support. Instead, the PEP Board will discuss potential improvements at its next quarterly meeting, including ideas such as hosting a luncheon instead of an evening event. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee were also invited to share suggestions or examples of successful donor appreciation and fundraising events used by other organizations to help improve attendance and engagement.

2. Update on the Youth League Field Usage

City Manager Moreno introduced the item and gave the report.

City Manager Moreno provided an update on youth field usage under the joint use agreement with the School District, which allows local youth sports organizations, including West Coast Rebels Football and Paramount Youth Soccer, to utilize District athletic facilities. Due to planned renovations at Alondra Middle School and Paramount High School West Campus from July 2026 through June 2027, these groups will be temporarily relocated to City parks, resulting in reduced field availability for residents, particularly in the north end of the City, and the potential for related community concerns. The

City expressed its appreciation for the District's investment in the renovations, which will include upgrades to the athletic fields, restrooms, and snack shacks, and emphasized the value of the joint use agreement in supporting youth sports while maximizing recreational opportunities for residents. The City will continue to coordinate closely with both leagues to manage scheduling and field access throughout the construction period. Additionally, the District announced plans to hold a study session in early August to update the School Board on the reunification project, including its overall scope, design concepts, logos, and color schemes. Once completed, the renovated West Campus athletic facilities are expected to provide significant long-term benefits for students and the community. Both the City and the District acknowledged the temporary inconvenience of the relocations while expressing enthusiasm for the completed project and appreciation for the continued partnership and flexibility throughout the construction process.

3. Comments from
Committee Members

Councilmember Cuellar Stallings shared information from the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG) regarding youth workforce development opportunities, including apprenticeship and career training programs offered through local trade unions. She noted interest from the unions in presenting these opportunities to the Ad Hoc Committee and suggested coordinating through the SELACO Workforce Development Board, on which Councilmember Aguayo added that SELACO is continuing discussions on workforce initiatives and plans to provide an update following an upcoming workshop. Superintendent Lightle also highlighted the District's existing partnership with SELACO, particularly through the adult school, and its efforts to expand apprenticeship opportunities for high school students. Additionally, City Manager Moreno mentioned that local manufacturer Weber Metals is hiring for competitive entry-level positions.

Councilmembers Aguayo and Cuellar Stallings concluded with congratulations to Paramount High School graduates and recognition of another successful school year.

Board Member Cuarenta raised concerns related to community safety and access, highlighting her work with the nonprofit “Streets Are for Everyone,” and suggested the organization, or similar partners, be invited to present on e-bike safety given the involvement of local students. She also requested that Safe Routes to School be placed on a future Ad Hoc Committee agenda and suggested exploring opportunities to expand community access to school fields and tracks for walking and recreation. Superintendent Lightle agreed to continue discussions on Safe Routes to School and coordinate its inclusion on a future agenda, noting that while liability concerns limit public access to school facilities, partnerships with agencies through the facility use process could create opportunities for community health and recreation programs.

4. Comments from Staff

Superintendent Lightle shared that the District celebrated a successful end to the school year with outstanding graduation ceremonies and student achievements, including 96 AVID graduates who collectively earned nearly 500 college acceptances and more than \$1.5 million in scholarships and grants. There were also two Gates Millennium Scholars and exceptional academic performances from Paramount High School's valedictorian and salutatorian, both of whom earned GPAs above 4.75 while taking rigorous honors and Advanced Placement coursework. Additionally, Paramount High School reached new milestones as students qualified for national competitions for the first time through the FCCLA Career Technical Education program and in Speech and Debate, with students traveling to Washington, D.C., and Richmond, respectively, to compete at the national level.

City Manager Moreno provided updates on several major developments, including the recent opening of Sprouts, with Panera Bread and Panda Express expected to open within the next few months, followed by Dutch Bros later this year. Progress continues on the museum and indoor food hall, with City improvements scheduled to begin in July, alongside the development of a new park next to the site. Construction is also advancing on 17 single-family homes, with the first eight expected to be

available by the end of the summer, including three affordable homes for qualifying first-time homebuyers.

Comments from the
Public

There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

City Manager John Moreno adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.