

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**February 8, 2012**

The Special Study Session Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Linda Garcia in the Boardroom at the District Office, 15110 California Avenue, Paramount, California.

Roll Call

Trustee Linda Garcia  
Trustee Vivian Hansen  
Trustee Alicia Anderson

Trustee Sonya Cuellar  
Trustee Tony Peña

Approve Agenda  
February 8, 2012  
1.51

Trustee Cuellar moved, Trustee Peña seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to approve the Special Study Session Meeting agenda of February 8, 2012.

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Educational Services**

Transitional Kindergarten

Superintendent Dr. David J. Verdugo, Assistant Superintendent-Business Services Dr. Michael Conroy, Assistant Superintendent-Educational Services Dr. Deborah Stark, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Myrna Morales provided the Board of Education information pertaining to Senate Bill 1381 Transitional Kindergarten Program and the District's implementation steps.

Superintendent Verdugo informed the Board that the purpose of the presentation is to present to the Board information on Transitional Kindergarten (TK), how it is different from the current kindergarten program, the students it was designed to serve and a review of the TK program option that will be implemented in PUSD in 2012-13.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Deborah Stark shared that Senate Bill 1381, The Kindergarten Readiness Act, was signed into law in 2010. This law changed the date of entrance into kindergarten and first grade to be phased in as follows:

- Student must be 5 by November 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2012-13 school year
- Student must be 5 by October 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2013-14 school year
- Student must be 5 by September 5<sup>th</sup> for the 2014-15 school year

Transitional Kindergarten was written into legislation to bridge the gap for students who fall into the September-November birth date range. It is the first of a two year kindergarten program that uses a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. After completing TK, students will continue onto a year of kindergarten. The program must be offered by school districts if the state provides funding, but is voluntary on the part of parents. The program needs to provide the same number of days, facilities and teacher credentialing as kindergarten.

The most recent State budget will not provide funding for TK in order to save \$223 million. Students who participate will generate ADA funding, but if TK is not State funded, district can use categorical funds to provide materials and support since program would be supplemental in nature. Districts' have the option to not establish a TK program if the State funding is not provided.

Based on students with November birthdates, for the Fall of 2012, the District would expect approximately 110-120 TK students. Approximately 60% will be English Learners and the number of TK classes would be three (3). Collins, Gaines, Lincoln, and Roosevelt Schools have available kindergarten classrooms. ADA would be generated for student attendance and categorical funds may be used for materials and professional development and transportation would need to be provided by the parents.

A decision making analysis model was used to analyze options for implementing TK in Paramount Unified School District.

- Option 1 – Provide three (3) TK district wide classes for eligible students (November birthdates) in 2012-13.
- Option 2 – Enroll students with November birthdates in regular kindergarten
- Option 3 – Do not offer a program for TK age student in 2012-13.

Priority objectives were used guided the analysis that included, prepare students academically, meet requirements of Transitional Kindergarten Legislation, SB 1381, provide a developmental program, maintain current staffing levels, cost effective and create staff ownership.

After weighing each option in light of priority objectives, the plan is to provide three District Transitional Kindergarten classes for eligible students in 2012-13. This option has several significant benefits such as it would provide a program that matches what neighboring districts offer and it may result in increased attendance.

The District's next steps include:

- Establish a Transitional Kindergarten Task Force to plan implementation for fall, 2012.
- Communicate TK plans for 2012-13 to principals and teachers.
- Notify parents of kindergarten enrollment date and TK program for students with November birthdates.

- Provide the Board with a progress update in June 2012.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Hansen moved, Trustee Anderson seconded, and the motion carried 5-0 to adjourn the Special Study Session Meeting of the Board of Education held on February 8, 2012 at 6:14 p.m.

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David J. Verdugo Ed.D., Secretary  
To the Board of Education

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President

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Vice President/Clerk