

1999 06 30 Joint Council/School Board Retreat

JOINT RETREAT OF THE
LAKEWOOD CITY COUNCIL AND CLOVER PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD
MINUTES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

McChord Air Force Base

Officers Club

McChord Air Force Base, Washington

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Councilmembers Present: 7 - Mayor Bill Harrison; Deputy Mayor Claudia Thomas; Councilmembers Ann Kirk Davis; Larry Humphrey; JosÃ© Palmas; Doug Richardson and Sherri Thomas.

School Board Members Present: 5 - President Jim Taylor, John Davis; Carole Jacobs; Connie Coleman-Lacadie and Elli Falk.

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City Staff Present: City Manager D. Scott Rohlfs; Deputy City Manager Andrew Neiditz; City Attorney Dan Heid; Finance and Systems Director Galen Kidd; Community Development Director David Bugher; Engineering Manager Bill Larkin; Acting Police Chief Eileen Bisson; and Human Resources & Services Director Debi Young.

School District Staff Present: Hugh Burkett; Frank Walter, Fran Walter, John Litten and Pat Stevenson.

DISCUSSION

The Council and School Board discussed matters on the parks bond, City/School partnership relative to the parks, and the joint Recreation Coordinator position. They also discussed planning and housing issues with regard to the Comprehensive Plan and Oakwood flight zone; American Lake Gardens land use and military housing on North Fort. Discussions also ensued on the District's maintenance and capital school levy and the proposed City Hall facility; Cross Base Highway, RTA Station, changes in street patterns and bus routes; public safety and violence prevention, police and School District strategies; human service strategies; Rainier Cable Commission; Community Development Block Grant Program; and development of joint goals.

Councilmember Davis was appreciative of the desire of both groups to work together. She stated that the City and the School District were willing to make commitments in an effort to give the taxpayer an efficient level of service.

Board Member Falk indicated that she had enjoyed the meeting and hoped that it would be an annual event.

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Councilmember Humphrey agreed with Board Member Falk's comments. He believed that these types of meetings are helpful in explaining each agency's policies. He also solicited the support of the school district in regards to base annexation.

Board Member Coleman-Lacadie believed that the meeting had been a positive experience and that both groups should work together and support each other.

Councilmember Richardson had enjoyed the process and expressed that it would build a stronger community.

Councilmember Thomas agreed with Councilmember Richardson's comments. She stated that both boards were going in the right direction, but this was only a starting point - that there was still a need to do more.

Board Member Jacobs agreed with many of the comments already made. She found the meeting to be productive.

Councilmember Palmas valued the partnership that this meeting had established. He explained that such meetings provide a personal commitment amongst Board and Councilmembers alike.

Board Member Taylor found the meeting to be productive as well. He stressed that the end result of this meeting, and future meetings, would help establish better agency communication, improve the quality of life of city residents, and improve the educational quality of students.

Deputy Mayor Thomas concluded that the meeting was a great beginning, but there needed to be a strategy for follow-up actions. She suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee. Deputy Mayor Thomas also submitted these five goals:

- 1) To develop partnerships on issues of common concerns for the purpose of programming fiscal, facility, and human resources;
- 2) To develop an ongoing two-way communication process for exchanging information, ideas, and creative problem solving;
- 3) To build a sense of unity among the Clover Park School Board, the Lakewood City Council, and staff to provide a stronger presence in the community;
- 4) To improve the quality of the life for all citizens through community involvement; and
- 5) To build a quality education for all students with employable skills.

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Mayor Harrison also agreed with the comments of others. Mayor Harrison also stated that an ad hoc committee may be necessary to follow-up on some of the comments of the joint meeting. He suggested that Deputy Mayor Thomas, Board Member Falk, and Board Member Taylor work together to establish this group.

Mayor Harrison concluded the meeting by stating that he is concerned with two perceptions of Lakewood, that it is a crime ridden area, and that the quality of education within the school system was less than adequate. Mayor Harrison stated that he finds both perceptions to be false. He further commented that both agencies will have to work to dispel

these perceptions and change public opinion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

BILL HARRISON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

ALICE M. BUSH, CMC/AE
CITY CLERK