

**CITY OF FIRCREST  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014  
6:00 P.M.**

**ROY H. MURPHY COMMUNITY CENTER  
555 CONTRA COSTA AVENUE**

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**CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. Councilmembers Matthew Jolibois, Shannon Reynolds, David R. Goodsell, Mayor David M. Viafore, Hunter T. George, and Jason Medley were present. Councilmember Denny Waltier was excused.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion and participation in the Tacoma Schools Wainwright School Community Presentation**

Steve Murakami, Tacoma Schools Director of Planning & Construction, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He provided an overview of the meeting which would include background of the school and the project. He stated there would be an opportunity for questions and then the audience could break out into groups to discuss the various aspects of the Wainwright School proposal.

Murakami recognized Tacoma Public Schools Superintendent Carla Santorno, Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Support Toni Pace, Whittier Principal Donna Basil, Director of Elementary Education Chris Hinds, and Director of Middle Schools Ben Gauyan.

Murakami next recognized each of the Fircrest Councilmembers present.

Murakami discussed the issues with the existing Wainwright School building structure including ADA requirements and seismic concerns. He indicated Wainwright would be designed with a focus on the students. They envision the facility being used nights and on weekends by the community. It would also pay homage to the old Wainwright Elementary School.

Noah Greenberg from the architectural firm of DLR Group spoke regarding the proposed design. He explained the efforts to preserve as many trees as possible. He stated the trees would be used as an outdoor learning center for the school. He next reviewed the traffic issues especially after school lets out. The design was created to get parents off the street with a longer loading zone. Greenberg then reviewed the site plan and each of the three levels of classrooms. He concluded by discussing the layout of the school and parking.

Discussion, issues and questions followed on the proposed design of the school:

Concern expressed about preservation of the structure

Could the school be renamed as Regents Park School?

Could Whittier Elementary be used as the Intermediate School and not Wainwright?

Would alternative transportation be provided to other middle schools if there was a need?

Concern expressed regarding library so that it was not just a repository for books.

Would there be separation between the various grades?

Concern expressed about construction noise and rats in the area when the ground was dug up.

Concern that Fircrest design guidelines be reviewed and discussed during this process.

Discussion on school boundaries for Wainwright and that the desire they remain unchanged.

Assertion that it's not about what the structure looks like, but what goes on inside.

Councilmember Reynolds inquired about Hunt Middle School reopening and the need for the school in the future. Murakami indicated that Hunt will be the last middle school completed and the demographics supported the need for the school. The current need is for elementary schools but in 2020 there will be a need for middle schools.

Councilmember Jolibois expressed concerns that the historical structure would not be kept. He was concerned that an icon was being taken away. He expressed disapproval of the design.

Statement was made that many residents want the new design and a layout that is conducive to learning.

The audience broke up into three separate groups to review the design and discuss with Tacoma Schools staff and architects.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The special meeting was adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

  
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David M. Viafore, Mayor

  
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Lisa Keely, City Clerk