DROP OUT TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Overarching Board Policy

The PUSD Board of Education considers improving the graduation rate as one of its highest priorities. The Board believes that the graduation rate should be at 100%. In order to reach this goal, the Board provides leadership and direction for students, parents, staff and community towards addressing all issues dealing with prevention, intervention and recovery of dropouts. The Board directs the Superintendent to conduct an annual evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of dropout prevention, intervention and recovery strategies.

Prevention Recommendations

- Consistent with the Pasadena Unified School District Graduate Profile and the needs of alternative education students, establish a Graduation Requirement Committee chartered to recommend relevant graduation requirements, including the number of credits required for graduation. Present recommendations to the Board of Education by March 2011.
- 2. Establish and implement <u>consistent</u> guidelines for attendance, truancy, use of data to track student progress, grades, discipline, and early identification of potential dropouts.
- 3. Review alternative education placement committee and other transfer processes to ensure timely placement of students. Provide related training to staff.
- 4. Restructure the counseling and guidance system. Focus on providing appropriate services and intervention for struggling students, opportunities for personalization, processes for counselor collaboration with teachers, and services to prepare all students for college and careers. Establish clearly defined duties and responsibilities for all counseling/guidance personnel. Present model to the Board of Education by July, 2011.
- 5. Provide support for parents to navigate the education system and community resources, and advocate for their students' success.

Intervention Recommendations

- 1. Develop district-wide policies to establish priority for at-risk students in master schedule development and assignment of highly effective teachers to support these students and prevent their dropping out.
- 2. Establish elementary intervention options which address both social and academic needs of high-risk students.

- 3. Develop a comprehensive plan to leverage mental health and support services to prevent dropouts by July 2011.
- 4. Ensure young adult students are receiving relevant curriculum including the use of technology, distance learning, career guidance, and work-based learning options.
- 5. Utilize pyramid of intervention model to provide appropriate transition services from 5th to 6th grade and 8th to 9th grade.

Recovery Recommendations

- 1. Partner with City Conversations and other community organizations to establish a community based dropout recovery center.
- 2. Increase internships, pre/apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities for young adults.
- 3. Forge an effective partnership between Pasadena Unified School District and Pasadena City College to eliminate barriers and access to high quality postsecondary options.
- 4. Immediately increase Child Welfare and Attendance Department budget by \$175,000 to provide critically needed funds to employ chaser/specialists to re-engage young adults.