

Getting a Permanent Home for Our Branch Library

One Step Forward – the CDC Building



We are seeing progress here. There is a proposal on the agenda for the Oakland School Board's February 26 meeting that will:

- Declare that the Piedmont CDC is not surplus (That is what we hoped for.)
- Direct the OUSD Superintendent's office to investigate how to pursue a Joint Lease or Joint Occupancy Lease for the site (That is the next step we want.)

This is a great start down the right path, but just covers the legal concerns about joint agreements – it doesn't take the next step of saying that the joint-use or joint-occupancy lease for the Piedmont CDC should be with the City of Oakland to house the branch library, as the Friends of PAL has advocated.

The full text of the proposed resolution is here: [Click here to view](#)

The Road Ahead

With OUSD Board approval of the resolution, the Superintendent's office could open discussions with City staff to draft a joint agreement. The draft would be sent to the OUSD Board and City Council.

A final agreement would include the specifics of planned alterations and monthly payments for rent, utilities and maintenance. The agreement terms would also need to comply with various sections of the state Education Code.

As preliminary talks get under way, City staff will have to make budget estimates for construction, and increased staffing, and identify ways to meet these funding needs. They will also need to develop a timeline for incorporating these library branch costs into city budgets for future fiscal years.

This process will involve city Library and Public Works departments working with input from the neighborhood and school communities to address:

- Layout and space needs for library resources: book and media collections, computers, children's section and if possible a meeting room or multi-use space to host community and school activities.
- Continuing access to the library for classes and staff from the Piedmont Avenue Elementary School.
- Costs of alterations and code upgrades, including for accessibility and rest rooms, and any earthquake and safety upgrades that may be required by the Division of the State Architect.
- Management of exterior grounds and play area (while general maintenance responsibility would be on the city Public Works Department, in practice small parks like this are most successful with active volunteer stewards from the neighborhood).

Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library has come a long way toward this goal, but we'll need active community help at every step going ahead.

What You Can Do Now

Now is the time for you to write a statement of support, asking the OUSD Board to approve Proposed Board Resolution 1920-0205 for Piedmont CDC. They should receive your letter well in advance of their February 26th meeting.

You can use the sample comments from the Friends of PAL online resource folder at <https://bit.ly/2O255rh>. It includes samples of support comments and FAQs, plus other documents about the CDC.

Tell the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) Board you support giving the branch library a permanent home in the CDC.

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