

Palo Alto Partners in Education Donates More than \$2 million to School Principals for Discretionary Spending in 2007/2008

\$2.1 million represents an 11.1% increase over last year's donation

March 27, 2007 – Palo Alto, California – Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE) today handed over \$2.1 million to the Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) for use in the 2007-2008 school year. Of these funds, elementary schools will receive \$1.38 million and secondary schools \$720 thousand. These allocations are based on the amounts of money raised in the elementary and secondary funds, and unrestricted contributions were distributed according to participation and donation levels.

The funds will be allocated on a per student basis to the school principals, who will use them to pay for such essentials as classroom aides, reading and math specialists, Spectra art instructors and supplemental science teachers in the elementary schools, and electives, technology, staffing, counseling and staff development in the secondary schools.

"It is difficult to make a brief statement about the value of PiE to our students," said Mary Frances Callan, PAUSD Superintendent. "The resources provided through the community's generous contributions allow us to fund staff and programs that help make a world class education available to the children in Palo Alto."

Last year PiE contributed \$1.89 million to PAUSD -- \$1.35 million to elementary schools and \$540 thousand to secondary schools. Each of the three years that PiE has been fundraising for PAUSD schools, it has brought in increasingly more money from Palo Alto parents, local businesses, and the community. (Fundraising during PiE's first year, 2004-05, was done under the auspices of the All Schools Fund (ASF) and the Palo Alto Foundation for Education (PAFE), which merged to form PiE.)

The number of PAUSD parents becoming PiE donors has grown significantly from last year. At the elementary school level nearly 50% of parents are now donors, compared to 43% last year, and secondary school parent participation has jumped from last year's 16% to 24.3% this year. This year El Carmelo, Ohlone, and Walter Hays Elementary Schools all have parent participation rates that exceed 60%. The parent Direct Appeal Campaign ran from the beginning of the school year through the end of February.

"We are very pleased with the response to this year's campaigns," said Susan Bailey, president of PiE. "The increased participation numbers show that our parents and community are embracing our foundation and its impact on the education of our children."

To date, this fiscal year (July 2006-June 2007), PiE has raised over \$2.3 million dollars and made contributions of over \$2.27 million to PAUSD – a 14.4% increase over last year. Besides the amount announced today, PiE has donated funds received from the Black & White Ball to the secondary schools technology program and allocated \$100,000 for the Annual Teacher Grant Program.

In addition to parents in our district, family foundations, community residents, corporations and other organizations have also helped make our campaign a success. For every dollar raised from the parent community, PiE raised over 30 cents from the extended community.

According to Muneerah Merchant, Executive Director of PiE, “The success of this year’s fundraising efforts will help us further bolster our community wide fundraising capacity and parent participation rate.”

Palo Alto Partners in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)3 foundation that sustains extraordinary education in Palo Alto. It is the only foundation dedicated exclusively to raising funds for all PAUSD schools, including staff. PiE also conducts research that sheds lights on the educational needs of Palo Alto schools, such as that included in its landmark benchmarking study completed in October. For more information about PiE, please visit www.papie.org.

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