

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Board to Vote on Consolidation Committee Members**

**Alameda, California – June 19** – At its public meeting on June 26, the Board of Education is scheduled to approve members of the Committee to Consider High School Consolidation.

The committee, which is being convened at the request of the Board of Education, will analyze the viability, desirability, and effects of combining Alameda High School and Encinal High School into one comprehensive high school.

The district received 49 applications for the committee. The superintendent is recommending that 15 of those applicants be on the committee. The recommended applicants represent a wide range of personal and professional backgrounds, include students, staff, families, and community members, and come from the West End, East End, and Bay Farm Island.

#### **Data analysis and community voice**

The committee will meet approximately 7-8 times next fall to review data about a wide range of factors related to a potential merger of the schools, including demographic projections; traffic, transportation, and parking concerns; and how a merger would affect course offerings, staffing, special education, student mental health, and opportunities in athletics, the arts, and school leadership.

All meetings will be widely advertised and open to the public. The committee's work will culminate in a report laying out several possible scenarios for a new configuration of schools to be presented next February.

"We are grateful to everyone who applied," says Board President Gray Harris, "and we'd like to encourage all community members who would like to explore this topic with us to join us at the public meetings next fall. We want our community members

to be involved in the data analysis, and we want our community members' voices to be a part of the process."

### **"It's About Funding, Equity, and Opportunity"**

The idea of merging the two schools has been raised several times in previous decades. This spring, community members, athletic directors, and teachers asked for a new review of the concept for two reasons. First, it would allow AUSD to provide a more comprehensive high school education to all AUSD students (because one school could provide more course offerings more equitably to more students). Second, the money saved by combining the schools could go towards improving AUSD employee salaries, which despite recent raises have long been less than the county average.

"I'd like to emphasize that no decision about merging the high schools has been made," says Superintendent Sean McPhetridge. "Instead, we will be conducting detailed analyses of the data because we genuinely want to know if a merger could help us expand our secondary programs and improve our employee salaries."

"It's really about funding, equity, and opportunity, and I ask that the committee and the community at large try to maintain open minds about the process and the findings."

The committee will begin meeting in September, 2018. AUSD will publicize the meeting dates in the local press, on its website, via social media, and in newsletters that go to all employees and families in the district.