

Alameda Unified School District  
HAHS Community Engagement  
APRIL 20, 2013

COMMUNITY COMMENTS - OPTIONS:

Facilitator Jeff Cambra

Elected Officials present: Board President Niel Tam, Board Member Margie Sherratt, Board Member Mike McMahon, Board Member Barbara Kahn, Board Member Trish Spencer

Staff present: Superintendent Kirsten Vital, Chief Business Officer Robert Shemwell, Director of Maintenance and Facilities Robbie Lyng, Note-taker Kerri Lonergan, Videographer Ed Coover

Getting estimates for building:

3 levels of protection

Uniform building code

Field act building code

Will also have quotes for:

Plumbing

Electrical

HVAC

Handicapped access

Alameda Citizens Taskforce

- Not present

Alameda Architectural Preservation Society

- Not present

At-Large – Alice Lai-Bitker

- Bond passed in 1989 – many projects promised, not completed
- If money can be spend to restore movie theatre, should pass bond to restore Historic Alameda High School
- Historic portion of school majestic and beautiful
- Kofman can be turned into performing arts center, venue for other organizations to use

- Need more/better retail in Alameda
- Can be used for extracurricular activities including drama productions, musical productions
- Provides comfort to former students
- Tear-down would remove sense of culture
- Sense of history for former performers in Kofman
- Pride in community
- Sense of purpose for teenagers
- Would like all three portions (former Adult School, former District Office, former interim Library) saved
- Does West Wing require additional work to get up to Field Act compliance?
- How large is interim Library wing? How much work would need to be done to get up to Field Act compliance? Can it be currently be rented out commercially? Would like this section rehabbed for District Office use instead of Marina Village space.

#### Comments from Intercultural Committee

- Concerns about Bond and fiscal responsibility
- What is District priority?
- What are total District needs?
- Best use of resources?
- Partnerships with local colleges, job development
- Tourism school
- Can District afford it?
- 24 out of 35 people in attendance would not want to consider an additional parcel tax to pay for facilities

#### Legacy Committee – Ed Kofman

- Not present

#### Alameda High Teachers (F. Chacon)

- Like to see building saved
- Renovated for classroom use
- If cost prohibitive to use for classrooms, would still like building saved

#### Alameda Education Association (S. Mathieson)

- Preserving building for educational purpose

#### Alameda High School Alumni Assn (L. Dosa)

- Facebook group – 1,400 members
- Ongoing survey
- Most want buildings saved
- Most want it turned back into high school

Alameda Assn of Realtors (A. DeBardelaben, U. Lirosi)

- Still gathering information from members
- New idea – possibility of repurposing building

Jeff Cambra stated minutes and video from meetings will be posted soon. Prices for each of the levels will be ready for May 9<sup>th</sup>. More publicity will be used to try to get community involved and get community to attend May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> there will be a presentation of report and additional public comment. No action will be taken on HAHS during this meeting.

Mr. Cambra urged community members to help spread the word on upcoming meetings.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

K. Nielson: Would like to ask for consideration for a report done by social services/human relations board. Report solicited information from community; there was input for need for:

- Youth space
- Preschool space
- Senior space

Report was broken down where needs were located geographically. If space is available for non-educational purposes, this report would be helpful.

Speaker appreciated the process for these facility meetings.

(came back up to speak)

Would like community to answer how they would feel about another bond or parcel tax. Stated that the City of Alameda did an assessment recently and suggested AUSD could borrow from that assessment. Didn't want community to be invested in something happening and then not have funding.

K. Bey: longtime resident of Alameda. Daughter was emotional when remembering performing in Kofman. Ms. Bey stated she is in favor of preserving building, believes cost will drive decisions. Ms. Bey stated that she believes most do not want to pay additional parcel tax. Ms. Bey stated that she appreciates this process for community. Looking forward to seeing costs and options and who is willing to pay for this. Has seen historic buildings turned into residential properties. Would like to see a real estate professional come in and tell us how much it would cost to turn into residential use.

C. Kelley-Whitley: an AHS alumni. Referenced Queen Anne school in Washington. School was apartment complex and now condos. Would like to see responsible developer come in and keep historic aspect of building and turn into residential property. Cited website on Queen Anne High School for reference: <http://queenannehighschool.com/>.

H. Sause: would like to see District forecast on needs of District. Loves the Kofman structure, and condos could be nicely done to preserve historic look. Would also like to see additional open space. Would like building to be preserved to make presence permanent. Would like the Altarena to have a shot at using Kofman.

Z. Holder: Alameda Multicultural Community Center representative. Thanked all for process. Feedback from the West End is that the Alameda High School community should have priority in deciding what happens to HAHS. If the building is not used to house AHS, then they would be more comfortable participating in a public process. Ms. Holder agreed with comments about balancing needs of the entire district. Ms. Holder stated she would like to see decisions about HAHS take needs of the entire Island/District into account. Ms. Holder stated she has seen the Queen Anne in Seattle re-purposing/renovation and it is really beautiful. Ms. Holder prefers that the building be used for educational purposes. Ms. Holder also stated that she would be interested in seeing a performing arts/cultural center established that would reflect the diversity of Alameda.

M. Schumacher: majority of students get decent education in Alameda. Advocating for future students. First upgrade proposal came in 1939. Suggesting that city does not need two high schools. One high school would get rid of inequality across district. Proposing AHS gets repurposed, maybe condos, commercial. Cited Alameda Marketplace as an example. School in Chicago, a charter that will house k-12 grades. Net positive energy campus. Alameda

residents would love to bring education into the 22<sup>nd</sup> century. Need to look at all roads and where they are leading. Schools not equipped for any more fixes.

K. Ratto: native of Alameda, AHS class of '73. There is a Historic Alameda Association many of this group would like to help. Asked who was putting together report for May 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting. Mr. Cambra responded to say it is a summary of all ideas shared, pricing, etc. Ms. Ratto asked if people giving information are impartial. Mr. Cambra stated that everyone is welcome to speak.

D. Shelton: former Board member of ACLO. Performances put on in Kofman had to pay to use Kofman. That helped to maintain building. Believes asset could have been better managed to pay for itself. Fees to use facility were very high, including \$40k for Stage Manager. Non profits do not have unlimited funds. Would like to see Kofman maintained for a theater. Parking needs to be addressed. If building is sold to developer and money is used to make better facilities, that would be great. Would like to know if there is a chance of Kofman being torn down. Community came together to save building once before. Would like clear answer to know if Kofman is at risk of being torn down. Mr. Cambra stated that it would be a decision for the Board of Education to agendaize for future discussion. Perception in community is that Kofman has already been "saved". Ms. Shelton feels that it is unfair to community to not tell that Kofman is in danger of being torn down. Many students were educated through theater and are now working in theater. Building is special and has performed great service to the community. Need to tell community if building is at risk. Community has lost faith in AUSD. Community does not trust AUSD to give more money. Asks that community is treated better and communicated with.

Mr. Cambra asked stakeholders what the general view of what to do with the building is.

Ms. Debardeleben stated that Kofman is currently part of the existing AHS space and her understanding is that Kofman is not under consideration.

Ms. Dosa agrees with Ms. Shelton that the wording is confusing. The wording is "future usage". Ms. Dosa has heard overwhelmingly that people want to keep the building. Ms. Dosa stated that message has been conflicting. Ms. Dosa stated that she is troubled by this.

Mr. Mathieson stated that his wife mentioned the word demolition so that people are aware of what could happen. Mr. Mathieson stated that Kofman is currently Field Act compliant. Stated that if buildings surrounding Kofman were torn down it would look “really funny”.

Mr. Cambra asked if Mr. Mathieson is advocating to keep buildings as a school. Mr. Mathieson stated he was.

Mr. Chacon stated that the center building needs modernization. Mr. Chacon stated he thought that the buildings could be torn down but he felt all the opinions expressed were to save the buildings.

Ms. Lai-Bitker stated that many want the buildings used for educational purposes, and that Kofman is loved by many. Ms. Lai-Bitker stated that her understanding was that Kofman was already seismically sound. Ms. Lai-Bitker stated the community needs to decide how to save buildings.

Superintendent Kirsten Vital stated that she appreciated the stakeholders reiterating why the meetings were being held. This process was created to look at buildings that are currently NOT retrofitted.

Trish Spencer: would like to have discussion about having track/fields and current entire AHS campus for fields, etc so that students did not have to walk to Thompson. Thompson could then be used for District Office use.

Ms. Rankine: representing AHS parent association. Will have input from membership at May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### NEXT STEPS:

- Mr. Cambra stated there will be additional community outreach before the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> will be held in the AHS Cafeteria at 6:30pm. There will also be an additional meeting held in the same location on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm. The May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be attended by architects that will have pricing on 3 different options. The figures will be vetted through peer architects that are coming from community.

- Mr. Mathieson brought up that Project Youth View is also on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Many stated that this would be a conflict for many. Mr. Cambra stated he was not aware of the conflict and could potentially work with District on new date.

Meeting adjourned: 2:12pm