

**High School Facilities of the Future
Community Meeting – January 29, 2015**

What are the Pros and Cons of maintaining the two comprehensive high schools?

Pros

1. Less energy for transportation; less pollution and congestion produced
2. Student choice
3. Strong student identity
4. Connection to the past; small town feel
5. More opportunities for participation in enrichment, sports, leadership, extra-curricular activities
6. Central locations
7. Beautiful buildings; source of pride
8. More support for struggling students, both academic and social
9. Maintain jobs; no lay-offs
10. Don't have to look for land
11. Don't have to spend the money
12. Maintains neighborhood scale
13. Higher property values
14. Faster implementation with renovations
15. Can renovate to nearly new buildings
16. Shorter time to construct
17. Already have land
18. Friendly competition, "hometown rivalry"
19. Costs less money than new school
20. Could use part of AHS for District Office; cost savings on current DO lease payments

Cons

1. Less money for varied sports programs, fields
2. Fewer programs, e.g., ROP
3. Fewer electives, academics
4. Takes more money to maintain old facilities
5. Requires more work because they are old facilities
6. Year of disruption at each school
7. Not a lot of room to expand
8. Limited parking at each site
9. Equity issues due to size difference, e.g., programs, facilities (theater)
10. No money for improving sports fields

What are the Pros and Cons of consolidating the two high schools into one comprehensive high school?

Pros

1. More cohesive community
2. Theoretical increase of academic offerings; more programs
3. Increased spacing for students, common space, corridors, campus
4. Specialty offerings/tracks, e.g., Berkeley High
5. Lower operating costs
6. No duplication of costs, e.g., administrators
7. New 21st Century facility
8. Frees up current assets (sites, facilities) for sale
9. Allows for expansion of current programs (band, drama, etc.) to be more advanced/in-depth
10. Allows for consolidated properties (AHS and Thompson Field)
11. Eliminates student impact of remodeling two sites with the building of one new site
12. Extends the life of one facility; the cost to maintain one site vs two
13. Equity; one school allows for cohesion; east and west is unified
14. Possibility of better transit improvements
15. Development opportunities at AHS location

Cons

1. Huge cost
2. No identified site/location
3. Less personal
4. More disruption to build on existing site
5. Have to make the "school" smaller population--compared to other schools
6. Capacity – building one site for now, but where to expand for growth?
7. Student services – theory of saving money is false; still need all the services; "economy of scale" is false
8. Cost – the opportunity costs – what else could we have done for \$200M?
9. Disruptive effects on students for transition to a new school
10. Traffic
11. Fewer students consider one school as a neighborhood school
12. Half of student leadership opportunities, e.g., Student Council, Student Clubs
13. It is less "green" to build a new site versus renovating existing
14. Some repairs at AHS/EHS can't wait; still have to do those
15. Loss to Park St businesses
16. AUSD also needs a District Office solution

Questions from Discussion

1. Does demographic study of spring 2014 account for dropout rates at high schools?
2. How accurately can demographer project the growth with regards to Alameda Point developments?
3. Why do we need to consolidate?
4. Where is there a parcel of land in Alameda?
5. Do we have the bonding capacity to build a new school?
6. Are there funds for renovation of AHS pool?

Comments from Discussion

1. Create one high school divided into two sites, with transportation and technology to allow students at one site to attend class/instruction on the other site
2. Operate two schools on a single site
3. Build the new school at the Encinal campus
4. Unified school addresses equity issues of two schools
5. Spending money to build a new school/site that we don't have versus remodeling what we have
6. Environmental issues – one school less sewer, water, heating – concentrated population will result in better systems (including transit)
7. Can't wait to fix/repair existing site facilities problems
8. Redevelopment opportunities of AHS with downtown location
9. Need to address that we are leasing the current District Office location
10. One school is a big opportunity for students, but could lose the small town feel
11. One school vs two schools – it is not equal to compare the two concepts