

Comments from February 5 Community Meeting

In Support of One High School

- One high school would create more "community unity," a "joint experience."
- We already have too many schools. Need to reduce that number to increase funds for curriculum, classrooms. Start by reducing number of high schools, work down to elementary schools.
- We need to think in the long-term, think generationally.

In Support of Two High Schools

- AUSD won't have bonding capacity for one school for 15-20 years.
- One big school does not really save more money than two smaller, renovated schools. It's still the same number of square feet and renovations would include money-saving efficiencies.
- "A school is more than its building" – need to look at educational effect, and "environment is crucial to educational experience."
- Neighborhood schools are "part of the psyche of this community."
- Equity doesn't equal equality.
- Smaller schools make it easier to identify and support kids who need help.
- Use technology to share access to programs and classes between schools.
- If we started from scratch, we could have created bigger schools. But we can't do that now.
- If not one school, what can we do to create equity for the two schools? E.g., get a theater for EHS or a career service center for all the high schools?
- There's a risk that we will lose high school students if there is only one school.
- If we build one high school, still have to address critical needs of the two existing high schools until new one is built.