



Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

Franklin McKinley School District School Consolidation Process Frequently Asked Questions

SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is FMSD considering consolidating or closing schools?

FMSD and nearly every public school district in California have experienced declining enrollment due to low birth rates, higher living costs, and families relocating. In light of this ongoing trend and the rising costs of operations, it is the duty of the Board of Education to reassess the use of our facilities and staff assignments to ensure optimal learning opportunities for all students. We are certain that by consolidating resources across fewer sites we will be able to better serve our students and staff. To address this, the Board has established a School Consolidation Advisory Committee (SCAC), comprising stakeholders from the schools, to provide guidance on the school consolidation decision, which will be made in early 2025.

Why is FMSD considering consolidating or closing schools now?

Over the years, FMSD has worked to address declining enrollment through increased outreach efforts to new families and other strategies. Staff has worked to maximize resources and minimize expenses as best as possible. During the pandemic, the District also leveraged short-term COVID funding to address concerns. After much deliberation, the FMSD administration has determined that the impact of declining enrollment on the District budget requires new, significant solutions to ensure long-term sustainability. FMSD staff has many notable cost increases in expenses, including:

- Substitute teaching costs have increased over 700% since June 2022
- Special Education costs have doubled since June 2022
- Contracted nursing costs have almost tripled since June 2022

The significant increases in costs mean the District's reserve fund will become exhausted by June 30, 2025. FMSD administration recommended to the FMSD Board of Education that the District must make \$22.9M in cuts or the District will go into state receivership, which means no local control.

By addressing declining enrollment and declining school funding now, the District can better utilize its resources to maintain and enhance academic programs and student support across all schools, especially as one-time federal COVID-19 funds are depleted and the state budget deficit materializes.

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How can I learn more about the FMSD Budget?

Please see this [budget presentation](#) made to the FMSD Board of Education in June 2024.

What is the role of the School Consolidation Advisory Committee (SCAC)?

The committee is tasked with reviewing and analyzing the school sites within the District to identify those that may no longer be needed for school purposes and could be closed or consolidated. They will then present a report to the FMSD Board of Education with their recommendations for possible school closures and/or consolidations.

Who is part of the SCAC?

On October 1st, 2024, the FMSD Board of Education approved 20 members of the School Consolidation Advisory Committee, after an application and selection process. It was also decided that the application deadline will be extended; we encouraged parents of FMSD students to submit applications with the extended deadline of October 11, 2024 by 4:00 PM.

Members of the School Consolidation Advisory Committee Appointed on October 11, 2024:

Name Stakeholder, Category, School

Graciela Perez, Parent, Hellyer/Sylvandale
Angelica Garibay-DeLaCruz, Parent*, Kennedy/McKinley
Estrella Vergara, Parent, Windmill Springs
Taylor Nguyen, Parent*, Franklin
Kenia M. Aguilar Rubio, Parent, Los Arboles/Lairon
Rosaura Tavera, Parent, Meadows/SPDU
Stephanie Ceja, Parent, Los Arboles/Lairon
Paula Lara, Parent, Meadows
Quynh Tran, Parent, Ramblewood
Priscilla Tobias Lopez, Parent, Los Arboles
Joanne Coon, Parent, Shirakawa
Alena Pantoja, Parent, Dahl
Jennifer Pinol, Staff - Teacher, Stonegate
Kimberly Leonhardt, Staff - Teacher, Santee
Ella Mullenex, Staff - SLP, Bridges/CCA
Socorro Rojas Martinez, Staff- CSEA, District Office
Vanessa Fonseca, Staff - CSEA, District Office
Dario Lomeli Jr., Staff - CSEA, District Office

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Magdalena Moore, Staff - Admin, Meadows
Rochelle Espitia, Staff - Admin, Los Arboles

Appointed on October 14, 2024:

Thanh Ta, Parent*, Windmill Springs
Eliseo Aceves Ramirez, Parent, Sylvandale

(*) Also FMSD staff member.

The Committee represents a broad cross-section of our District, including representatives from FMSD schools, parents, employee associations and management team.

Also attending Committee meetings, will be the following people/groups, who will act as resources to the Committee:

- Executive Cabinet (resource)
- Superintendent (resource)
- Facilitator (resource)

What is the goal of the SCAC?

The purpose of the Committee is to convene stakeholders, listen to input, and review and analyze data about school sites and costs before recommending jointly which schools might be closed and/or consolidated after this school year. The Committee will then present a report to the Board of Trustees on its recommendations.

When and where will the SCAC meet?

All Committee meetings, proceedings, and deliberations will be open to the public. Meetings will be scheduled from 6:00 - 8:00 pm at the District Office in the Boardroom at 645 Wool Creek Dr., San Jose, CA 95112, unless otherwise noted. Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, special seating accommodations) should call the Superintendent's Office at (408) 283-6006 at least three (3) days in advance. The committee meetings are scheduled as follows:

- October 17, 2024 - First meeting (Organizational Meeting)
- October 30, 2024 - Second meeting
- November 6, 2024 - Third meeting
- November 20, 2024 - Fourth meeting
- December 4, 2024 - Fifth meeting
- January 8, 2025 - Sixth meeting

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- January 22, 2025 - Final meeting (Committee Recommendations)
- February 4, 2025 - Special Board Meeting (Public Hearing)
- February 11, 2025 - Board Meeting (Board Action)

As noted above, the Board of Education will hear the Committee's report and recommendations at a Special Board Meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 4, 2025. Subsequently, the Board is likely to vote on any school consolidations or closures on February 11, 2025.

When and where does the FMSD School Board meet?

The Franklin-McKinley Board of Education conducts meetings in person (remotely when necessary) at the FMSD District Office Boardroom at 645 Wool Creek Drive, San Jose 95112. Here you will find the Board approved [2024-25 Board Meeting Schedule](#).

Regular Board Meetings are recorded and live streamed [here](#).

How can I make my voice heard?

The School Consolidation Advisory Committee meetings and FMSD Board of Education meetings will include public comment. Public comments must be made in-person or may be emailed to cathe.mati@fmsd.org.

What will happen after the SCAC submits its report and recommendations to the FMSD Board of Education?

The FMSD Board of Education will thoroughly review the Committee's report and recommendations before engaging in discussions or making any decisions regarding the consolidation or closure of schools. Ultimately, the final decision rests with the Board, not the Committee. The Board may decide to adopt the Committee's recommendations or develop an alternative plan.

When will decisions take place?

The Board is likely to vote on any school consolidations or closures on February 11, 2025. But, first, it will hear the School Consolidation Advisory Committee's report and recommendations at a Special Board Meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 4, 2025.

School closures will mean our District will operate fewer schools in the 2025-26 school year.

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If the Board decides to consolidate a school or schools, what will the closure timeline look like?

If the Board decides to consolidate a school or schools, the closure will not happen until after the current 2024-2025 school year.

What will the District do with any school sites that may be consolidated?

There is a separate process that the District will follow to determine the next steps with any facility that may be closed.

Why doesn't the District apply bond money to its operating budget?

Bond money can only be used for the purposes stated in the measure approved by voters. The District takes the responsibility of fiscal stewardship of Bond funds very seriously. Bonds previously approved by voters can't be used to address operating budget shortfalls.

How will the school consolidation process impact employment at FMSD?

Staffing for teachers, classified staff, principals, and administrators is determined by student enrollment and budget considerations. Some employees may be laid off at the end of this school year, and the District may not fill positions that are vacant due to retirements or attrition.

The District will be working with the Certificated and Classified Bargaining Units (Unions) to discuss the impact of possible layoffs and will communicate back with staff.

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