

MINUTES

**VALLEJO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEETING OF THE
CLOSURE AND FACILITIES ADVISORY (7-11) COMMITTEE**

**October 9th, 2024
5:30 P.M.**

**District Office
665 Walnut Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94592**

AGENDA

Pursuant to Education Code Section 17387 *et. seq.*, the Vallejo City Unified School District ("District") has authorized the establishment of the District's Facilities Advisory (7-11) Committee ("Committee"). The Committee will meet to convene a public meeting to solicit input, comments and questions on the disposition and proposed use of certain real property owned by the District.

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Ralph Gross at 5:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call (Present or Absent)

(1) Ralph A. Gross	Present
(2) Hazel A. Wilson	Present
(3) Tony Vargas	Present
(4) Evangeline Espiritu	Present
(5) Ruby Acevedo	Absent
(6) Kevin Steele	Present
(7) Melissa Tigbao	Present
(8) Joe Hatchett	Present
(9) Ydelita Valera Gonzales	Absent
(10) Katrina Rodgers	Present

(2 members absent, a quorum was present.)

District Staff Present:

Ruben Aurelio – Superintendent

Rosa Loza – Chief Business Official

Dr. Gigi Patrick – Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Mitchell Romao – Assistant Superintendent, Operations

Heather Topacio – Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

Sarah Polito from Fagen, Friedman and Fulfroost, District Legal Counsel

3. Public Comments.

Community members are encouraged to attend the public 7-11 Committee meetings.

1. Donna Lawson – Spoke about Steffan Manor. She volunteers at the school. She urges the committee not to close Steffan Manor.
2. Sandra Callister - Provides tutoring. Supports Kindergarten parents and game nights. A member of the Presbyterian church near Steffan Manor. The church provided programs for students to receive books, tutoring, and parents to receive reassurance and support. Keep Steffan Manor open.
3. Malik Gray – Ask questions about allocation of funds. How did we get to this situation?
4. Lynn Baranco – Principal of Loma VESA. There were 88 families who wanted to attend Loma Vista. Families go to Loma for the farm and programs that are provided. The school is fully staffed. She wants the committee to think about the impact of closing the school. By closing Loma Vista, are we going to gain money by losing students that are already attending to Loma Vista?

4. Action Items

- A. Approve Minutes from **September 25, 2024** meeting. *ACTION*

Motion: Ralph Gross

Second: Hazel Wilson

Vote = 8

5. Discussion/Review.

- A. Review draft and framework of report structure.

Reviewed the draft report. Ralph Gross asked if all of the information from the equity impact analysis included exact data and accurate findings. Sarah confirmed that the impact analysis was accurate.

B. Review data request from prior meeting and Equity Impact Analysis.

Sarah Polito revisited three questions that were asked in the last committee meeting:

- Request for prior school closure. Sarah presented the data. (Refer to handout).
- Is there developer interests? She sent an inquiry to several developers. There were three developers that responded and expressed interest in facilities (if made available).
- If board were to choose to consolidate Steffan Manor and Pennycook. Walking distance? Refer to the distance and transportation analysis.

Katrina Rodgers is questioning the “green dots”. If you were to take away from Steffan, what would it look like for kids to walk to Pennycook. Rodgers is questioning the address of the students and address parents use. Looks like majority of the map shows students mostly in Pennycook. Map shows how far kids need to get to Pennycook.

Equity looks at different factors and criteria. Looks at sub-group. Looks at particular program.

Katrina Rodgers inquired on the finding that Pennycook has a larger percentage of students with disabilities. Superintendent, Ruben Aurelio informed Katrina that disabilities is having an IEP.

C. Discuss Properties:

1. Steffan Manor Elementary School

Tony Vargas mentioned the Chart of Remodel. Referring to Bond and improvements made to facilities. Improvements were made to Pennycook and Steffan with the Bond.

Joe Hatchett suggested that the committee consolidate Pennycook into Steffan Manor.

Melissa Tigbao: Asked about the Steffan Manor and Wardlaw contract and how much was expended on construction in bond improvements.

Sarah Polito explained that if we declare a site surplus, it does not mean that the site will not be utilized. It can be used for alternative programs.

Ralph Gross: Asked if we have spent money on modernizing every school that we have listed for consideration for closure and/or consolidation.

Every closure has had some bond work or in the process is Steffan, Loma, Lincoln, Pennycook, Loma/Solano Widenmann.

Melissa Tigbao: Noted that contracts are already in place for Pennycook and Steffan Manor for facilities and bond projects.

Katrina Rodgers: Expressed that we should not close Steffan Manor.

❖ Committee Recommendation: Move Pennycook Elementary into Steffan Manor Elementary School

2. Vallejo Charter School

Melissa Tigbao: Noted that Vallejo Charter does not have any bond projects currently in place.

Katrina Rodgers likes the idea of selling the property. Thinks it would be a good idea to sell because it may have more value due to its location. There's no obligation that it will be made available to a charter school Kevin Steel asked what is the cost of maintaining schools that have been closed. What are projected costs for vandalism? Mitch Romao explained that Vallejo Charter has funds for professional development and various programs. Goal is not to have the site vacant.

Tony Vargas believes it would be less of an impact if Pennycook closed as opposed to Steffan Manor. Tony suggested that we move the Vallejo Charter program to Mare Island. Joe Hatchet agrees.

Evangeline: Want to confirm field behind Vallejo Charter is owned by VCUSD. (Tennessee from Spring).

Katrina: Not going to be sold (extra access)

❖ Committee Recommendation: Move Vallejo Charter to Mare Island. Pursue all sale alternative to Vallejo Charter, Staff housing, outdoor recreational site. Tony Gross suggested exploring bringing in GVRD?

3. Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy

Ralph Gross emphasized that movement of SPED from Loma Vista to Solano Widenmann will be impactful.

Melissa Tigbao: Wants to know more about the After School Program at Loma. The farm is part of the EXLP. Principal Byanco spoke about the program and informed the committee that Loma Vista provides cooking classes, dance classes, and other academic programs such as tutors, art, and a music program.

4. Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy

Melissa Tigbao: Mare Island does not have any bond contracts currently in place.

Katrina believes it makes sense to consolidate Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy with Vallejo Charter.

Melissa Tigbao: Mare Island has beautiful natural resources and environmental studies. However, there is only two ways to access Mare Island. Highway 37 and by the crossway bridge. Infrastructure is an issue to think about, such as traffic. Not able to fund fire department and police department. Think about the impact with the students, parents, and the city.

Hazel: People who bought the houses on Mare Island, do they know that there is a school there? Does not want to see many of our properties sold. Hopes to see Mare Island re-purposed. Belonged to the US Navy, but district's now as long it is maintained as an educational facility. Master plans to expand housing (from the City Planning Committee)

Kevin: What is the plan for Mare Island? Housing per year?

Mare Island students: Moving to Federal and Lincoln. Where are the older kids going to? Upper grades from Lincoln to Highland.

Melissa Tigbao: If Mare Island has the capacity of 700+, why would you re-locate the upper students? Charters run differently than regular sites. Lottery – Offer preference. There is precedence of students in the transfer program. How would this impact staffing (seniority issue)? Based on seniority, status, and preferences. Notices will be given to certificated and classified staff.

❖ Committee Recommendation: Move Mare Island Health and Fitness Academy to Federal Terrace Elementary and Lincoln Elementary.

D. Formation of findings and recommendations regarding potential options for designation and use of each of the Properties.

1. Should the Property continue to be used for the current purpose?

Explored the possibilities of moving expanded learning programs to sites that were consolidated. Members of the committee expressed interest in pursuing an all sale alternative to Vallejo Charter.

2. Is the Property surplus?

3. Should the school site be closed or consolidated with another school?
 - a) What subsequent use should the Property have?
 - b) Should the Property be subject to disposition?

E. Explanation of next steps for Committee proceedings at third meeting, and expected public hearing.

- ❖ Sarah will make a draft report of the recommendation from tonight's meeting and will add findings.
- ❖ Questions: Tony Gross would like an accounting, financial savings of the recommendation.
- ❖ Study session with the board will be on October 29th at 5:00pm.

6. Next Scheduled Meeting

Meeting Three: October 23rd, 2024

Meeting Four: November 4th, 2024

Presentation of Committee Report: Regular Board meeting on November 20th, 2024

7. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Motion: Evangeline Espiritu

Second: Tony Vargas

Vote = 8

Agendas of public meetings and any other writings distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Committee in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at an open meeting of the Committee are public records. If such writing is distributed less than 72 hours prior to a public meeting, the writing will be made available for public inspection at the District Office located at 665 Walnut Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94592 at the time the writing is distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Committee.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION

In order to help ensure participation in the meeting of disabled individuals, appropriate disability-related accommodations or modifications shall be provided by the District, upon request, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons with a disability who

require a disability-related accommodation or modification, including auxiliary aids and services in order to participate in a Committee meeting, shall contact the District superintendent or designee in writing by noon the day before the scheduled meeting. Such notification shall provide personnel to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

288-519/7075272.1