ALUM ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION PROCESS

Presentation to the Board of Trustees

November 14, 2024

HISTORY

- **Alum Rock School District faced with a $20,000,000 deficit**
- **Fund balance will be exhausted in 2024-2025 and 2025-2026**
- **Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT)**
- **Fiscal Advisor**
- **SCCOE required plan to how budget would be balanced**
- **Board approval of the need for a process to close up to nine schools**

DESIRED OUTCOMES

Create a process that will:

advance the possible school closure process in a way that maintains the positive aspects of t district culture allowing:

- **for community input**
- **a smoother staff execution plan**
- **maintaining positive community relations**



THE CONTEXT

School Consolidation/Closure is a budgetary, psychological and political process

Budget

- **The decision to close schools is necessitated by budget concerns**
- **Alternatives are clearly delineated**
  - **Cut beloved programs**
  - **Reduce employee compensation opportunities**
  - **Raise revenue e.g. parcel tax**
  - **Insolvency**
    - **County takes over district and appoints a district administrator with sole authority to balance the budget**



THE CONTEXT

Psychological

- **School closure is a painful and emotional experience**
- **Closing a school means that something important is ending for those that have an attachment to the school**
- **They are experiencing a sense of loss**
- **This loss is real and people will react to the loss differently**



THE CONTEXT

Political

- **A school district is both an educational institution and also a political one**





ASSUMPTIONS

- **Board of Trustees to make final decision**
- **Stakeholder committee makes informed recommendation to the Superintendent**
- **Superintendent makes the final recommendation to the Board**
- **No one wants to close or consolidate schools**

SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE

- **Purpose**: ***representative task force of stakeholder groups potentially impacted by school closures***
  - **Composition:**
    - **Parent from each school**
      - **Must reside within district boundaries**
    - **Key Community Groups**
    - **Labor Partners**
    - **Management Team**
    - **Executive Cabinet (non voting, resource)**
    - **Superintendent (non voting, fall back)**
    - **Marketing Consultant (non voting)**

COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- Significant Time Commitment
- Interests of Entire District
- Psychological and Emotional Toll



ADMINISTRATION ROLE

Role of Administration

- **The administration role is to execute the policies as passed by the Board of Trustees.**
- **Provide facilitation and support for the School Consolidation Process and provide the necessary information for the Committee to make an informed recommendation.**
- **Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees**

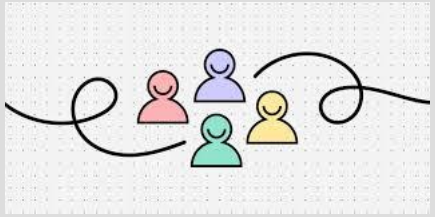
SUPERINTENDENT'S CHARGE

- **Because of a dramatic decline in student enrolment, the Alum Rock School District faces a significant projected budget deficit of approximately $20,000,000. We are required to balance the budget or risk the possibility of a district takeover.**
- ***To address this challenge, our Board has authorized a School Consolidation Committee to recommend up to 9 schools for closure.***
- **Your charge as a committee is to provide the superintendent with up to 9 schools to consider for closure for the 2025-2026 school year.**
- ***While this is a challenge for you and the district, we have an opportunity to reimagine a new Alum Rock School District , smaller and leaner with increased resources for our students.***
- **Thank you for your service to the Alum Rock School District**

FACILITATORS

Manny Barbara, Facilitator

Michael Sato, Facilitator



Heather McGowan, Marketing Consultant

MEETINGS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- September 18 (Wednesday) - Norms, **Budget** Presentation: the "WHY".
- September 24 (Tuesday) – **Demographic Information/Facilities**
- September 25 (Wednesday) - **Programs information/Human Resources**
- October 2 (Wednesday)- **Criteria development**
- October 8 (Tuesday)- **Prioritization**
- October 9 (Wednesday) **Prioritization**
- October 16 (Wednesday) **Prioritization**, extra meeting
- October 30 - (Wednesday) **Committee Recommendation**
- November 14 (Thursday) - **Public Hearing (Board Meeting) @ Russo McEntee**
- November 21 (Thursday) - **Board Information (Board Meeting) @ District Office**
- December 2 (Monday) - **Board Action (Board Meeting) @ District Office**

*All Meetings start at 5:30pm

CHALLENGES

- **Size of Committee**
- **Number of Schools Considered**
- **Lack of a "Runway"**
- **Timeline**



PROCESS

- **Receive information**
- **Questions**
- **Discussion**
- **Prioritization**
- **Agreement**



CRITERIA

- Close to Charter *
- Neighboring School
- Capacity*
- Maintenance cost *
- Enrollment
- Transportation
- Special Education Facilities*
- Special Programs*
- Community Grant



COMMUNICATION

- **Information presented to the Committee was made available to the community after each meeting**
- **Parent Square**
- **Superintendent Town Hall meetings**
  - **School**
  - **District**



PRIORITIZATION

- **Committee reached consensus on seven schools**
- **Could not reach consensus on final three schools**
- **Two different scenarios**
- **Fallback to Superintendent**



POST COMMITTEE

School Community Meetings

- **Recommendation made to the superintendent**
- **Accept the recommendation or modify**

- **Community meetings held to allow community input to the recommendation by the superintendent**
  - **Open to Community**
  - **Present rationale**
  - **Allow for community input**



SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD

Superintendent considered recommendations from the School Consolidation Committee to include:

- ***the rationale and framing of the recommendation as to why it is essential***

- ***how it will benefit the district and students in the future.***

POST COMMITTEE

- **Board of Trustees: Public Hearing**
  - **November 14**

- **Board of Trustees: Information**
  - **November 21**

- **Board of Trustees : Action**
  - **December 2**



POST BOARD APPROVAL

Should the Board decide to accept the superintendent recommendation, the work continues to address the transition issues involved in consolidating schools.

- Students
- Parent groups
- Staff
- Facilities
- Instructional materials
- Closure



QUESTIONS?

