

NOVEMBER 6, 2024 SCAC MEETING MINUTES

MEETING NORMS

- No interruptions
 - Meeting Chair will call upon raised hands
 - Keep comments concise
 - Be open minded
 - Assume best intention
 - Use facts, not emotion
 - Stay on track with the agenda
 - Consider the needs of all students in the District
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1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.

Meeting is called to order by Committee Chair, Magdalena Moore.

Meeting norms is read out loud by Ms. Moore.

Ms. Moore briefly notes a few of the meeting norms.

Ms. Moore emphasizes two of the norms, 'use facts, not emotion' and 'consider the needs of all students'. Ms. Moore raises the need to stray from discussing how individuals feel about a school and to really consider the needs of all students in the district.

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.01 Review of Meeting Minutes

Review

Review of meeting minutes from the October 30, 2024 SCAC; there are no comments or questions.

2.02 Criteria 3: Condition of School Facilities

Information/Discussion

Harold Freiman, facilitator, provides an overview of the third criteria to be discussed, condition of school facilities.

Mr. Freiman asks the committee if they would like the facilitator and resource members to present a summary of which school sites are being considered based on each criteria on discussions from the SCAC meetings or if the SCAC would like to present a summary to the facilitator and resource members.

A committee states the first option as a preference, the facilitator and resource members digesting the information and later presenting it back to the SCAC. Committee members are all in agreement as signified with a thumbs up.

Mr. Freiman provides a description of the criteria, conditions of school facility based on guidelines outlined by the California Department of Education (CDE) in regards to school closures.

Jason Vann, Assistant Superintendent of Business, notes that as requested from the last meeting, the committee has been provided with maps indicating the locations of each site. Juan Cruz, Superintendent, provides clarification on how to read the map provided.

Lou Anne Castillo-Tran, Director of Maintenance, is introduced by Mr. Vann to present. Ms. Castillo-Tran informs the committee that Mikle Bowers, district architect consultant, is also available via Zoom if needed.

Ms. Castillo-Tran presents data on modernization dates, summary of classroom per site per grade level, and multipurpose room capacities. The purpose of the additional portable units at Meadows, Success Academy, is noted. The committee is provided with a Facilities Management Report which includes the Facilities Inspection Tool (FIT) Report. It is also noted that these reports are available on the CDE website and are done annually.

The process of allocating bond funds is described by Mr. Vann.

Ms. Castillo-Tran continues to present on the district master plans in regards to conditions of the school facilities.

The Superintendent provides clarification on the master plan in regard to project priority.

It is clarified that the time frame for eligibility for modernization is 25 years. The committee takes a couple minutes to review the data that has been presented.

Funding for site modernization is noted in addition to several bond measures which have already been allocated and spent. The reason for a notation on Meadows is explained by Mr. Vann. The notation indicates the status of Meadow's current modernization project and the pending cost.

Mr. Freiman provides an overview of how to look at the data examined under Criteria 3. Mr. Freiman invites input from the committee in looking at schools with greater needs. Mr. Freiman opens the discussion for the committee for input based on the data on school conditions.

Superintendent Cruz clarifies that funds already allocated to future projects can be reallocated should the school site be closed or consolidated. The impact of bond money is noted as a result of school closure and consolidation.

Gratitude is expressed to the community for their continued support for bond measures to upkeep all of our facilities. Mr. Vann also brings to attention the

benefit of consolidation of schools, the ability to focus on school sites that will be open.

FIT report in relation to modernization costs is briefly discussed.

The difference in costs of modernization in Dahl and Franklin is discussed (modernization, inflation). It is noted that Dahl is not on the current list for modernization. It is noted that Meadows and Shirakawa are next on the list for modernization. Cross section of stakeholders' input on modernization and the process of getting a master plan approved is discussed.

The Facilities Management Report and the data it presents is introduced to the committee as a tool to analyze the conditions of the sites. It is noted that this report also includes information that was requested by the committee from the previous meeting. Lists of current projects and future plans are included in the report.

Plans for schools that will be closed are briefly discussed. Mr. Vann explains that there will be a committee to discuss plans for the facility. It is noted that there is not a present intent to sell district land.

A committee member raises Los Arboles, Santee, and McKinley, as the three out of our five smallest schools in regards to student capacity but with the highest cost to modernize. Another committee notes that in regards to demographics, these schools are three of our high needs schools.

A committee raises the fact that the same school sites continually appear on lists as having older dates of modernization, least capacity, and higher amount of modernization cost.

2.03 Criteria 4: Operating Costs

Information/Discussion

Mr. Freiman provides a description of the criteria, conditions of school facilities, as defined by the California Department of Education (CDE).

Mr. Vann explains the factors that go into the cost per student. Mr. Vann raises the variables in calculating cost per student for the different sites. It is noted that cost per student is not an easy transfer and can change depending on the school site. It is clarified that the cost per student is based on student staff at the site and does not include district staff, school nurses.

It is brought up that the cost per student presented is based on 2023-24 since the end of the year closing costs are not yet known for 2024-25. It is clarified that all

personnel located at a site are included in the calculation. District staff personnel are not included in the cost per student calculation.

The difference in cost per student in different sites is discussed. It is brought up that sites that require more special education teachers can play a factor in the cost per student. Costs are higher at Los Arboles and McKinley because they have pre-K and SDC inclusion. Class size in relation to students with IEPs is noted. Teacher child ratio is noted as a factor in the cost per student (students with IEPs). It is clarified that NPS students are not included in personnel cost. It is also clarified that the student cost per site only includes students attending the site. Preschools and categorical classrooms are raised in making the cost per student higher than other school sites due to ratios. Special programs for students with special needs and transferring these programs are brought to attention. It is noted that a Special Education Audit review will be done throughout the district to identify efficient and effective programs.

Utility cost per school site is presented and possible savings on utility costs with school closures and consolidation is noted.

Staffing formula negotiated with CSEA is raised. Funding resources are briefly discussed with certain positions. Funding sources for different classified staff is discussed. Adding "all support staff including certificated staff" on the list for elimination or reduction is noted and will be included in the list. Restricted funds and the inability to allocate to other positions is raised. The projected net impact of school consolidation is noted.

Mr. Freiman invites the committee to analyze and discuss the differences of school sites in relation to this criteria.

It is noted that the difference in the cost per student between Bridges and Sylvandale may be due to the salary schedule of the more senior employees. The Humanities Block program in Bridges is also raised as playing a factor in the higher cost per student for the 23-24 school year due to smaller classrooms for the implementation of the program. A committee member raises possible savings by consolidating smaller schools.

Mr. Freiman provides a description of the criteria, special programs, as defined by the California Department of Education (CDE).

Dr. Limary Trujillo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, provides an overview of specialized programs across the district. It is noted that earlier aged classrooms are considered specialized facilities due to the need to access restrooms, comprehensive middle schools due to classrooms such as science labs, and CCA as having access to high school courses.

Dual Immersion Programs are specialized programs which have the flexibility of moving to a different site. The percentage of Dual Immersion enrollments at Windmill Springs and Meadows is presented as requested from the committee from the previous meeting. Newcomer enrollment is also brought to attention as requested from the previous meeting. The number of students returning to FMSD from charter schools is noted.

It is clarified that after school programs are all run by CORAL and are funded with restricted funds that cannot be allocated for any other purpose other than afterschool programs. It is noted that this is the same for school sites in need of before school supervision. It is clarified that the funds used for these programs will not affect decisions on school closure/consolidation since the funds cannot be allocated for any other need but can be transferred from site to site.

Academic progress is presented by Dr. Trujillo. It is noted that the rubric in the academic progress is 4=Standards Exceeded, 3=Standard Met, 2=Standard Nearly Met, 1=Standard Not Met. Dr. Trujillo describes the variations that play a factor in the academic progress presented. Variations in school site performances are brought to attention in regards to the academic data.

Mr. Freiman poses questions for the committee to discuss and think about in regards to specialized programs.

Mr. Cruz provides a brief description of the appendix provided to the committee and the information found in the data for each school site.

A committee member urges looking at the data presented through a critical and analytical lens and to compare this data to other data presented. For example, English Learner Progress and the number of Newcomers enrolled for that school site. It is also noted, however, that the data presented is public.

A committee member asks about any specialized programs that absolutely cannot be moved. Mr. Cruz indicates that there are none that cannot be moved, but some

carry costs to do so, such as T-K and kindergarten classes that have dedicated bathrooms. It is noted that the committee, when making their recommendation, should consider how specialized programs can be housed/accommodated. Science labs and competitive sports programs are mentioned as options currently available at middle schools that are not available at K-8s; these programs would be difficult to relocate to K-8s if the middle school option is taken away. The importance of having Science labs accessible to middle school students is noted.

CCA is raised as having a program that cannot be moved. It is also noted that CCA has the highest number of charter students returning to FMSD. Expansion of CCA is discussed – dependent on East Side Union High School District since CCA is housed in Yerba Buena High School (YB). It is noted that expanding this current school year is not a possibility but this may be different in the future years with the completion of the current project at YB. It is noted that CCA is a partnership program.

Principal turnover rate is mentioned regarding K-8 sites. Statewide decrease in enrollment is also raised in relation to lower enrollments and less need for classrooms at YB leading to a possibility of CCA expansion. Transporting students in the event that CCA should consolidate with Bridges is discussed and the difficulty of transporting students to integrate with high school courses.

The number of students whose homeschool is Windmill and Meadows is raised in relation to possibly moving the Dual Immersion Program at Windmill and Meadows. Expansion of the Dual Immersion programs cohort and the pathway to middle school is discussed. It is noted that this process is currently being discussed with stakeholders. Interdistrict transfers to FMSD's Dual Immersion Programs is noted.

Taking classrooms back from Educare if needed for Santee is clarified as not being possible at this time unless the County Office is willing to give it back to the district.

A committee notes that CCA is a site that is least likely to be closed. It is noted that the majority of YB high school valedictorian graduates are students of CCA.

The Committee Chair confirms that CCA can be removed from the list of schools to be recommended for closure or consolidated as a result of the criterias discussed.

The following school sites were raised as being potentially off the recommended closure list based on the criterias discussed: Franklin, due to its recent modernization and capacity of over 500 students; Windmill, due to recent modernization and student capacity of 600; and Shirakawa as a newer site and a

large student capacity. A committee member agrees with Shirakawa and Franklin. Another committee member agrees with Franklin due to the demographics and the other factors. It is noted that Franklin is walking distance to socioeconomically disadvantaged families and/or has students of McKinney Vento. It is noted that Shirakawa is also a walking distance for families who are socioeconomically disadvantaged and it may be easier to have all of their students attend the same school as Shirakawa offers K-8. A committee member echoes the need for Franklin to remain open. It is noted that Franklin is in its own community and does not have any other schools nearby for families. It is confirmed that CCA and Franklin can currently be on the list of non closure and non consolidation. No disagreement from the committee.

Lairon and Los Arboles are discussed as potentially consolidating. A committee member comments to disagree with consolidating Lairon and Los Arboles due to safety, staff and student turn over rates, and academic achievements. Another committee member comments on Lairon being on her list of schools to close due to safety/bullying concerns.

A parent mentions Windmill Springs is also K-8 and does not have the issues of safety/bullying should Lairon be consolidated with Los Arboles.

A committee member mentions the consolidation of Lairon into Los Arboles. A committee member mentions not keeping the name of Lairon.

It is noted that K-6 can be considered, but K-8 would pose challenges.. A committee member recommends removing the Lairon name and keeping the Los Arboles name. It is clarified that a decision is not being made today with Los Arboles and Lairon. It is noted that K-3 demographics in Los Arboles are a high need population. Agreement with K-6 is voiced in relation to consolidating.

Mr. Freiman notes the time for public comments. Mr. Freiman reiterates that no decision is being made today, however the identification of schools in regards to the criterias discussed is useful.

It is clarified that combining K-6 is a possibility.

Mr. Cruz invites the Committee to review the data to put forth a recommendation.

A committee member brings up consolidating K-5 and creating 6-8 consolidations.

It is discussed that should Lairon and Los Arboles consolidate for K-6, 7-8 can easily go to Sylvandale.

Mr. Freiman notes the time for public comments. Mr. Freiman reiterates that no decision is being made today, however the identification of schools in regards to the criterias discussed is useful.

A committee member asks if K-6 is a possibility. Mr. Cruz indicates that this is possible, and that everything is on the table including grade reconfiguration.

It is further clarified that no decision is being made today, only a discussion on possible recommendations based on the criteria thus discussed. Mr. Freiman notes that it is not the committee's responsibility to decide on school consolidation but to put forth a recommendation to the Board who will essentially make the final decision.

K-5 programs is raised by a committee member when looking at traditional middle school programs, with an expansion of 6-8 at middle school to address declining middle school enrollment.

3. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: November 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There are no public comments.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee Chair adjourns the meeting at 8:06 pm.

Date of Approval: _____

11/20/24

Committee Secretary: _____

Ella Muller

Signature of Secretary: _____

