

November 20, 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

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 urges the Committee to stick to facts and not emotion.

2. REGULAR AGENDA

2.01 Review of Meeting Minutes

Review

Review of meeting minutes from November 6, 2024 SCAC; there are no comments or questions.

2.02 Criteria 6: Transportation Needs

Information/Discussion

Harold Freiman, facilitator, provides an overview of the 6th criteria to be discussed, transportation needs. Mr. Freiman provides guidelines outlined by the California Department of Education (CDE) in regards to transportation needs.

Jason Vann, Assistant Superintendent of Business, and Lou Anne Castillo-Tran, Director of Facilities, to present data on Criteria 6 - Transportation Needs. Mr. Vann raises the issue of the difficulty of describing cost due to the numerous variables and closure scenarios. It is noted that the presentation will focus on safety, general costs, and considerations.

An overview of the Transportation Department, transportation services offered by the district, and students receiving transportation services are presented. The schools attended by the highest number of bus riders are Shirakawa, Franklin, and Windmill Springs. Bus drop-off locations per site are presented. Ramblewood students are not dropped off on site due to the slope on the hill. Sidewalk drop-off occurs at Los Arboles, Windmill, Hellyer, Santee, and McKinley. Parking lot drop-off occurs at Meadows, Sylvandale, Stonegate, Lairon, Bridges, and CCA. Shirakawa, Franklin, Dahl, and Kennedy have a designated bus drop off area.

It is clarified that CCA students living in the south of the district (south of Tully) are eligible to receive transportation services from the district.

It is noted that VTA Bus passes are available for eligible students and a guardian of the student if the student is not able to take the VTA alone.

Mr. Vann presents data on parking capacity, location, and distance between schools per site. Shirakawa and Franklin have the most capacity for parking. Dahl and Windmill Springs have no capacity for more parking - count of parking spaces excluded where occupied by other programs. Distances between schools are approximations and could be calculated differently based on the program and settings used to calculate the distances. Mr. Vann introduces the map showing major roadways within the district. The map of VTA bus stops shows public transportation options available to students who may not be eligible for transportation services provided by the District.

Safety concerns are presented to the committee. Some, but not all, of the items identified in the school safety plans are listed. Vandalism and traffic control are major issues.

A committee member raises that the drop-off at Ramblewood at the bottom of the hill would be a consideration for not receiving more students. Another committee member brings up Ramblewood's utilization rate at 70% and not having more room to add capacity. A committee member raises K-5 or K-6 programs and building the Dual Immersion programs up to 8th grade.

A committee member raises the issue of parking for schools that have 15 or fewer spaces available, and the vandalism concerns of parking off-site. Mr. Cruz brings up special programs and resources that may relocate due to the need for more classrooms, which could open up space if moved off site. Mr. Cruz raises that PK classrooms and SpEd classrooms require more staff, whereas general education classrooms may only need 1 staff. A committee member brings to attention the Site Map on Slide 15 as a good resource when discussing schools that are close to one another.

2.03 Criteria 7: Aesthetics and Community Impacts

Information/Discussion

Mr. Freiman provides an overview and guidelines on Criteria 7, Aesthetics and Community Impacts as outlined by the CDE. Mr. Freiman states that there are no plans to leave closed district sites abandoned. It is noted that all public schools are community centers and focusing on community impacts is important.

Mr. Vann presents information on non-educational community services.

It is noted that there is also a Family Resource Center (FRC) in Shirakawa. Mr. Cruz clarifies that the FRCs in Dahl and Lairon are on-site using district facilities and the FRCs on Santee and Shirakawa are "off-site" not utilizing district facilities. It is clarified that the FRC at Dahl is still providing services; moved from First 5 Catholic Charities.

The next steps after a site closing and a 7/11 committee is outlined by Mr. Freiman. Mr. Freiman notes possibilities for usage after school closure and the requirements around establishing a 7/11 committee. Mr. Freiman describes the recommendation process of the 7/11 committee. It is noted that school facilities that close typically do not get left boarded up but will have a usage.

There is discussion about charter schools leasing closed school sites and taking away enrollment. The process of new charter schools is noted. Mr. Freiman notes that charter schools no longer have priority in leasing closed public school sites as they have previously.

Mr. Freiman asks for input from the committee regarding community services that may be impacted by a school closing.

A committee member brings up Santee as a school which offers services to the community which can be impacted should Santee be closed. The locations of the FRCs are noted and the community it serves. Mr. Cruz mentions "Community University" as a community center located at McKinley.

A committee member raises the annual celebration of Captain Jason M. Dahl during 9/11 and its impact on the community.

A committee member asks where students of McKinley would go and the cost, specifically due to the high number of SDC students, should McKinley be closed. Mr. Vann clarifies that if a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) requires transportation, the district will still provide that. Mr. Vann describes space opening up if schools follow a K-5 structure.

There is discussion on Educare and the County's lease of space. Although the lease renews annually and the District could take the space back, Mr. Cruz notes that the purpose for the development of Educare is to increase early childhood education and the district made a commitment to provide early childhood education.

A committee member mentions Dahl as being affected since the FRC staff has not been physically there. A committee member raises the importance of FRC to the community and the difficult transitions for the community at Educare in Santee. There is a brief discussion on the possibility of moving FRCs and the funding source of the development of FRCs. Mr. Cruz notes that the FRCs could be moved, but the funding is dependent on First 5. A committee member brings up McKinley as a high-need area

and the need to provide transportation services for students of McKinley.

2.04 Criteria 8: Environmental Factors *(20 minutes)* Information/Discussion

Mr. Freiman provides an overview and guidelines of Criteria 8: Environmental Factors as described by the CDE.

Mr. Vann presents the changes that have occurred after the opening of the school site such as the development of cannabis and smoke shops near schools. Per city and county, these shops are all within permissible distance of schools.

Shirakawa has two floors; there are restrictions on which grade levels are located on the 2nd floor. It is clarified that Santee and Bridges both have a concern about high traffic along McLaughlin.

It is clarified that fire risks in Franklin are due to vandalism near the school site such as surrounding homeless encampments. A committee member raises the concern for the level of homelessness in the district and the risks associated with it, such as vandalism of cars. Mr. Cruz brings to attention a temporary ordinance prohibiting RVs and homeless camps within 500 yards of a school, with Shirakawa as a pilot to the ordinance. Mr. Cruz notes that the city mayor is working with the District to protect schools from the risks associated with homelessness.

A committee member brings to attention an incident with a homeless individual at the Shirakawa library and encourages anyone with connection to the mayor to help with the passing of the ordinance. It is noted that the district has worked on preventative measures.

2.05 Criteria 9: Impact on Feeder School Attendance Patterns Information/Discussion

Mr. Freiman provides an overview of Criteria 9: Impact on Feeder School Attendance Patterns as outlined by the CDE.

Mr. Vann presents information regarding feeder patterns of the district. The three middle schools could take all 6-8th graders of the district. CCA is 7-8 only; Eastside Union High School District (ESUHSD) would have to allow additional classrooms to add a 6th grade.

Mr. Freiman raises grade configuration and other possibilities for school consolidation, closures.

A committee member notes that for non-magnet (non dual immersion Programs) schools, K-5 and 6-8 are recommended. There is a brief discussion on 6th graders being in the same campus as 8th graders. There is no concern expressed by the committee

members having 6-8th grades. A committee member proposes Lairon being a K-5. A committee member notes having access to middle schools in the south of the district.

A committee member raises concern with students in Dual Immersion programs leaving 5th grade and going to 6th grade and the continuance of the dual program. Mr. Cruz mentions that it is in discussion to continue the Dual Immersion program design in middle schools (6-8). Another committee member mentions the desire and possibility for students in dual immersion programs to attend traditional middle schools and continue the dual program. A committee member brings to attention exposing 6th graders to older 8th graders. A committee member raises concerns on parents being able to choose middle schools and having options. Mr. Cruz mentions that due to the district's high capacity, the district is able to offer parents a choice to which middle school. Mr. Cruz discusses finding ways for parents to have a choice in their student's middle school enrollment.

A committee member raises dual immersion programs and Bridges having Spanish as an elective. The committee member proposes allowing other students who are not currently enrolled in dual immersion to enroll as an elective. Low student population is mentioned as impacting electives.

Multiple Subject and single subject credential is discussed and the flexibility with multiple subject credentials. A committee member proposes surveying parents on the idea of K-5 and 6-8 middle school; time constraints for such a survey are also raised. A committee member proposes configuring K-5 and 6-8 schools and keeping Shirakawa as a K-8 program because it is one of the oldest and is centralized to the district. A committee member disagrees with keeping Shirakawa because most students are bussed in, and suggests having Windmill as a K-5 or K-6, and focus on dual immersion programs. A committee member proposes Stonegate as staying as a K-8. A committee member brings to attention the heavy traffic within the district and the difficulty of dropping children off to multiple sites should K-8 be taken away. There is a brief discussion on the level of interest in K-8 programs.

A committee member raises the concern of the time frame of putting forth a recommendation and the lack of time available for parent survey. A committee member requests for the committee to have recommendations for the next meeting. A concern is expressed in regards to the number of schools closing to avoid having to close more in the future.

Mr. Cruz brings to attention that the committee decides on what and how many schools to recommend for closure to the Board, with the minimum being five schools. Mr. Freiman describes different ways of proposing a recommendation.

A committee member brings to attention extending the capacity of middle schools to help build more community, two years is not long enough for students to build connections in the community.

A committee member raises concern for students moving to charter schools should we close or consolidate our schools. Mr. Cruz brings to attention that our surrounding charter schools are not at enrollment capacity drawing the conclusion that families are choosing FMSD schools. The concern with school closures and consolidation is the ability to maintain the programs and services to retain these enrollments.

A committee member mentions that as a parent she is willing to drop her students off to various sites as long as the students are happy and safe.

There is a brief discussion on families still having a choice even with school closures and school consolidation. It is brought to attention to consider ways in keeping these options available for families.

Enrollment size and capacity of Bridges (up to 890 students) and Sylvandale (up to 1164 students) is brought to attention. A concern on transitioning students from a 200 capacity school to 1000 capacity school is noted.

Multiple site drop-offs with transportation services is discussed. Mr. Cruz brings to attention students who are "over-flowed" and being offered transportation services. It is noted that these things can be looked at. It is noted that CCA does not have a capacity to configure CCA to a 6-8 due to space.

A committee member requests information on the retention rate from 6th to 7th grade for the K-8s.

There is discussion on Young TKs and TKs being in K-8 sites. Mr. Cruz discusses the change in Young TKs in future years in California. If new rules go into effect, the anticipated ratio of 20:1 in TK is noted, versus the current ratio of 24:1. It is noted that the waitlist for TK may be due to families waiting for a particular school.

A committee member proposes changing Lairon to "Los Arboles". It is clarified that facilities are built by KIPP but are on district land. It is noted that Los Arboles has more bathrooms and can accommodate the TK classrooms. A committee member proposes KIPP to relocate to Lairon. Mr. Cruz notes that KIPP has recently spent millions of dollars in developing their sites and are unlikely to be willing to move.

Ms. Moore reminds the committee to stick to facts and respect families that attend and choose to attend all sites.

There is discussion on building up 6-8 middle schools (Bridges and Sylvandale) due to their low enrollment and high capacity. A concern is raised on students not being able to build community at Bridges or Sylvandale if planning to attend CCA (7-8). It is mentioned that with 6-8 there is the possibility of offering more programs that may not be offered at K-8 programs. Recent modernization at Sylvandale and Bridges (track, softball, football/soccer fields), approximately \$18 million total, is brought to attention. It is clarified that there is a leaning from the committee toward reconfiguring as K-5 and 6-8.

A committee member raises the access that 6th graders will have should the middle schools reconfigure to 6-8 grades.

There is discussion on Kennedy closing and the kitchen staffing in regards to charter schools. It is noted that the food will be transported or just keeping the kitchen open. The impact to charter schools should Kennedy close is noted. It is also mentioned that Hellyer houses Voices.

A committee member discusses previous proposals of Shirakawa, Windmill, CCA, and Franklin as school sites remaining open with no strong opposition. It is noted that Franklin, due to its recent modernization, the number of McKinney Vento students, and enrollment, is a school site to remain open. A committee member proposes looking at Windmill, as one of our highest enrolled schools, as another site remaining open. Another committee member agrees with the Windmill proposal due to the Dual Immersion Program going into its 7th year. It is noted that Windmill does not have a lot of capacity to grow.

There is discussion on Shirakawa and the transportation criteria. It is noted that closing Shirakawa would lead to a decrease in enrollment. Another committee member mentions the strong sense of community in the Shirakawa community and the convenience of having it K-8.

District boundaries are discussed and where students are enrolled from in regards to the boundaries. It is noted that having 500 students is healthy in regards to enrollment. It is noted that with school closures and consolidation, district boundaries will need to be redrawn. Mr. Cruz notes looking at boundaries and capacity of the schools. Even though Franklin and Shirakawa are close to one another, they draw from different areas. Even schools with high enrollment could absorb more.

A committee member proposes discussing Santee, Meadows, or Kennedy as schools to close due to their proximity to one another. Another committee member proposes closing Santee due to its low enrollment, it is located between Meadows and Kennedy, the high operating cost, lower capacity to absorb more students, small kitchen, and the high cost to modernize. Another committee member agrees with closing Santee due to the heavy and unsafe traffic in the area. Another committee member agrees

with Santee as the site due to the reasons mentioned. Another committee member raises the issue of Los Arboles, Santee, and McKinley as high needs schools and the transportation services that would be needed.

Lairon, Los Arboles, Dahl, and McKinley are discussed in relation to the convenience of transporting students for families. Santee is raised as a convenient location for families living in the surrounding apartments.

The heavy traffic surrounding McKinley is raised as being an issue. Special Education is brought to attention as having room to grow at McKinley. A committee member brings to attention the high demographic of socio-economically disadvantaged families attending McKinley. It is also raised that McKinley has many available restrooms. The possibility of losing enrollment from McKinley to the neighboring district is brought to attention (San Jose Unified - Williams). It is noted that McKinley has five TK classes which may not have room at other sites. There is discussion on McKinley growing their Special Education Program. The growth and balance of special education classrooms and general education is noted.

There is discussion on transportation for students should McKinley and Santee close. There is discussion on transporting students after CORAL from McKinley.

It is clarified that Educare will remain open and still provide services should Santee close since it is independent of the district.

Ramblewood and Hellyer are raised by a committee member. Ramblewood is noted to be close to freeway, has no room for growth, has the least amount of TK restrooms, has one of the lowest in enrollments, has no current projects, and is the top three schools for highest operating cost.

Ms. Moore and Mr. Freiman remind the committee of the goals for the next meeting.

3. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: December 4, 2024, at 6:00 PM

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)
No public comments.

5. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourns at 8:00 pm.

Date of Approval: 12/4/24
Committee Secretary: Elia Mullenex
Signature of Secretary: 