

Board Meeting 2/29/2024

This survey will be turned off at 3:00pm 2/29/2024, no late entries will be accepted.

Name:

Seiko Kosaka

Address/Affiliation:

Parent/Alta Loma Middle School

Is this for Open Session or Closed Session?

Open Session

Closed Session

What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

Advanced Math Course

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

- When agenda item comes up
- During the public comment section

Comments:

I'm writing as a concerned parent and wanted to discuss the advanced math course being listed as an elective. I'm curious if students who choose the advanced math option also have to sign up for another required math course at the same time. It seems a little overwhelming for students to juggle two math courses, and it will limit their choices for other electives.

For example, my daughter is excited about the idea of taking the advanced math class and still being part of the school band. On top of that, she's interested in joining a leadership class or maybe even trying out an art class. The current setup, where the advanced math class is considered an elective, makes it hard for her to explore these other options.

If there's a way to reconsider how the advanced math course is categorized, it could open up more opportunities for students like my daughter. Your support on this matter would mean a lot and could make a positive impact on the overall school experience.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

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Name:

Vanessa Fulgencio

Address/Affiliation:

207 Del Monte Ave SSF CA 94080

Is this for Open Session or Closed Session?

Open Session

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Advanced Math (as elective)

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

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Comments:

I am very disappointed with the district's decision to separate the advanced math track to make this an elective for our middle school students at Alta Loma. I cannot understand how this benefits our students; in fact it feels as though we are limiting the potential students have to grow in mathematics by requiring them to take a level of math that does not challenge them. You allow students to fall complacent in their studies instead of allowing them to grow. There is nowhere else in our education system that sets up students in the same way. If that were the case, there would be no admissions process at all colleges - when in reality it is undeniably competitive and students have to prove they have taken advanced courses and excelled in them to prove their eligibility to these schools. How would it be possible to do this when we now ask our mathematically inclined minds to take this an elective limiting their ability to take other enrichment classes. Why are we making this the standard at our middle school? What is the true AND measurable benefit that we are going to get out of this? I don't believe this is in the best interest of our kids and the message we are sending them is "it's ok to be complacent, to not go beyond your limits in what you want to achieve." There is also a lack of accountability here and students that do well and want to excel are being held back because there are other students who are challenged by "basic" math. What we are teaching kids here is complacency in its simplest form and the saddest thing about this is that our students will get a rude awakening in the 'real world' where you actually DO have to work harder, challenge yourself, and sometimes go above and beyond to reach your goals.

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Name:

Marlaine Khuu

Address/Affiliation:

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What is the agenda item(s) you would like to discuss?(To comment during the meeting, you must first register to gain access to the meeting.)

Advanced math/summer program

Do you want to provide your comment when the agenda item comes up or during the public comment section?(To comment during the meeting please provide your Name above)

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Comments:

Good evening,

I recently found out Alta Loma Middle School will no longer offer the summer advanced math preparation class and advanced math will be offered as an elective this upcoming school year. I am devastated by this news and to know that my younger son, who is currently in 6th grade, will not have the same opportunity his older brother received when he was at Alta Loma. My older son, who is currently a freshman at El Camino, greatly benefited from the summer advanced math program. He tells me if it wasn't for the summer math program, if it wasn't for Ms. Hahn's time, dedication and devotion to her students during the summer, and during his 7th and 8th grade years, he would not be prepared for high school math. Ms. Hahn's willingness to sacrifice her time every summer to see students succeed should not only be taken away but be applauded and followed by other schools. My son and a lot of Ms. Hahn's former students are currently taking Geometry Honors with sophomores. He did not participate in any outside math programs or private math tutor and yet he is attaining and maintaining a high level grade, all because of Ms. Hahn's summer math class and advanced math courses.

As a parent, I sincerely demand that the board does not take away this from students who want to learn and achieve higher education. Requiring students to take two math classes if they want advanced math is a burden and will overwhelm the students as it will only unnecessarily waste their time when they can explore other electives. Please reinstate a program that has been proven to be successful like it did for my older son.

Thank you.

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Name:

Ronnie Ibe

Address/Affiliation:

117 Lomas Ave, South San Francisco

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Comments:

To the members of the board, district staff and broader community, I'm writing this comment in the hopes that the district reconsiders the current plan to suspend the yearly summer school program that helps students prepare for advance math during the regular school year. A friend of mine, Grace Rhee (who is also a teacher at Alta Loma Middle School) informed me of the district's plan to suspend the program. Furthermore, I learned that the advanced math pathway at Alta Loma was also being removed. My immediate reaction was a mix of frustration, anger and disappointment.

When I asked why the programs were being taken away, I was appalled to learn it was being done so in the name of equity. Because the other two middle schools in the district did not offer such programs, it was not "fair". How is it "fair" to deny students the opportunity to achieve greater or fully realize their potential? Or to assume all students have the same needs, therefore must all fit into the same class types?

The district's mission statement states "Empowering All Children to Achieve Excellence". Removing advanced courses for high achieving students would be in direct contradiction to this statement. How can ALL children achieve excellence when programs that support this narrative are being removed?

Who is the main beneficiary of removing these courses? Lowering the standard doesn't help anyone. Doing so will only teach our kids to settle for mediocrity and set them up for failure later in life.

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Name:

ivy chan

Address/Affiliation:

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cutting math honor program in Alta Loma middle school

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Comments:

When I heard that the advanced math program is being taken away along with the summer math prep, I was very disappointed. This is one of the program that have attracted me to enroll my son to the school among other great things the school has offered to my son. I just don't understand why people especially our so called educational leaders/role models would come together to get rite of something that has been working and beneficial to the kids. Not only am i sadden and disappointed by this decision. I really think we should get a public vote to get this advanced math program back to ALMS. After all it is not Keith Irish and other principles decisions to rob my son's future from their unsupported and most poorly decision. Why would my son choose another math class as an elective? My son was already upset as a 6th grader, he can only get one elective and he had picked band. Next year he gets 2 electives. He can continue band and choose math and miss the opportunity again to explore other things he might be interested? Does this make sense to you all? If he qualify to be in advanced math, he should attend a advanced math class and not a regular math and take additional math. None of this make sense to me. High school has honor roll and honorary classes. Why can't ALMS have their advanced class? Our ALMS teacher, who volunteer and spends extra time and energy to teach in the summer math prep because she choose to better her students who wants to be better. Instead of feeling happy that a middle school in SSFSUD could offer an advanced math program, other principles and Keith Irish want this similar program to disappear. They should use ALMS advanced math program as a role model for their teachers to start this program. I'm sure our ALMS math teacher will help you get this started. This is not about fairness and inequality to all students because they don't have this similar program in their school. Its about the devotion of our teachers and enrichment to our kids with challenging classes and perseverance to be better than we can be. Please bring this program back. Don't rob this from our kids and feel they can only be average.

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Name:

Steven Kong

Address/Affiliation:

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Proposal for Changes in Advanced Math Curriculum

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Comments:

Hello, my wife and I are parents of two children in SSFUSD, with our older one currently attending ALMS. I am writing today to comment on the proposal to change the advanced math class offering into an elective that is optional for students wishing to take on the challenge of advanced math. I would like to say that I believe that this plan is incredibly short sighted and erroneously taken in the name of equity. The term equity means to recognize that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalances. And while we are fully behind providing equitable educational support to students of all abilities, we hope this includes consideration for all students, whether they are working hard to achieve grade level or working at an excelled pace. Not to mention that making advanced math an elective means taking the opportunity for my child to have opportunities for their other classes, including band, financial literacy or being a TA, etc. Where is the equity there? For these reasons, we are firmly against changing the advanced math class into an elective. Thank you.

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Name:

Daniel Jue

Address/Affiliation:

Past Student at Alta Loma Middle School

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How advanced math has impacted students.

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Comments:

The advanced math program has benefited me greatly in my success as a student today. I am currently a mechanical engineering student at San Jose State University. The advanced math class has positively influenced my decision on choosing an engineering degree. My interest in math sparked during the summer of 6th grade, knowing that I was spending my summer doing something I enjoyed learning. This course gave me the ability to do well in my math courses at El Camino high school.

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Name:

George Jue

Address/Affiliation:

12 Cymbidium Cir, South San Francisco, CA 94080

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Advanced Math for Summer at Alta Loma Middle School

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Comments:

I am in support of funding the Advanced Math Summer Program at Alta Loma Middle School. It is beneficial for the students.

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