

# PACIFICA SCHOOL DISTRICT SUMMARY OF LISTENING SESSION INPUT

Decisions regarding the consolidation of school sites are complex and often present challenges for all parties involved. Feedback gathered from 19 listening sessions, primarily attended by staff, parents, and community members from the affected schools, revealed a strong awareness of the difficulties arising from the \$3.5 million budget deficit. During these sessions, participants openly expressed feelings of sadness, anger, fear, and frustration while emphasizing their desire to explore alternative solutions and revenue-generating avenues that could support long-term strategic planning.

There was a collective commitment among attendees to address these challenges collaboratively. Although some expressed disappointment that the listening sessions took place after the decision had been made, many appreciated the opportunity to share their insights by the end of the sessions. The discussions led to several actionable outcomes, including the creation of frequently asked questions (FAQs) by staff to address inquiries and concerns on the district's website, the development of a detailed implementation plan, applications for transition teams, and the formation of visioning teams that include teachers and site administrators from the affected schools.

Several key themes emerged from the discussions, including:



## Communication

Many community members indicated they felt blindsided by the approval of Plan 3a on January 22. Participants expressed concerns about being blamed for not being more informed after the last board meeting. While acknowledging the need to address budget concerns, many participants believed more time for public input and discussion was needed to foster a supportive outcome and reduce community division.



## Pause

While participants agreed on addressing the budget deficit, many called for a temporary pause of Plan 3a to ease concerns and adequately prepare for the changes to K-8 programs that affect families, staff, and teachers.



## Equity

Community members express concern about equitable access to the remaining K-8 program. There will be limited space available, and regional disparities will be highlighted, especially for students in the district's north end.



## Co-Location

The term "co-location" is viewed as confusing and potentially misleading, raising concerns about transparency and distrust among participants.



## Perceived Rush

The decision-making process felt rushed, with an increased urgency between December 11 and January 9. This left families little time to prepare for changes.



## Trust

Questions persist about the accuracy and utilization of the demographer's data in the decisions made. There is a strong demand for transparency concerning the criteria used to identify the schools for consolidation.



## Mental Health Concerns

Transition-related anxiety, trauma, and the need for counseling are significant concerns shared during the listening sessions.