



**Pasadena Unified School District
School Consolidation Advisory Committee**

Highlights of May 11th, 2026 SCAC Meeting

The SCAC agenda was as follows:

- Review of Committee Objectives, Desired Outcomes, Board Goals, Metrics, and Factors
- Recap and Update on Data
- Research on School Closures and Consolidations
- Additional Pertinent Data
- Next Steps, Future SCAC and PUSD Board Meeting Dates

The meeting began with the facilitator explaining that he was aware of the recent article published in the “Colorado Boulevard,” but, due to the possibility of potential litigation involving the District, he stated he would not be able to discuss the article. Several committee members expressed strong concerns about the content of the article, and questioning the integrity of the committee’s work and the impartiality of the facilitator. In response, the facilitator clarified that the process began with all schools being presented as possible consolidation candidates. After the committee requested more direction, closure scenarios were developed by TSS based on their professional judgment.

Some members expressed that given current concerns, a vote should not take place. The facilitator explained that the SCAC should adhere to the established timeline but that if they were not comfortable voting, voting was not mandatory, and members who chose the not to vote could instead send emails for the Board about their thoughts about the process.

Before the vote, members insisted that committee members be given an opportunity to speak. The facilitator agreed, and the microphone was passed to allow individual comments:

- The process felt rushed, and more time is needed.
- Prior interactions between TSS and Board members prior to the SCAC formation (as stated in the article) may have compromised the process.
- A need for a broader visioning process is needed for PUSD before making closure decisions.
- Data inconsistencies undermined confidence in the analysis by TSS.

- Committee members should have been allowed to develop their own scenarios.
- Concerns about ineffective facilitation and lack of effective guidance
- Recognition by some that school closures may still be necessary.

Loss of community trust, stemming from prior Board communications about closures as stated in the article. There were more comments made that are similar to the written comments that were expressed in the text area of the ballot which is attached to this document.

The results of the vote are as follows:

Potential Closed School	Grade Levels Served	Receiving School(s)	Yes	No
Benito ES	TK-5	Willard ES	9	20
Norma Coombs ES	TK-5	Webster ES	8	21
McKinley	TK-5	Hamilton ES, Madison ES, Washington ES	12	17
McKinley	6-8	Eliot MS	13	16
Thurgood Marshall	9-12	Pasadena HS	9	20
Blair HS	9-12	John Muir HS and Octavia Butler MS	10	19

The SCAC has now completed its work, and the results of this vote will be included in the Equity Impact Analysis. Written comments made on the text area of the ballots are attached to this document.

Merge Don Benito ES to Willard ES. **Comments:**

1. Process tainted, cannot in good conscious vote for merger on this record.
2. Not clear on effects to students and programs.
3. I do not feel this process was valid and my trust in this consultant has led me to believe that a more in depth process needs to happen. The process was rushed.
4. I feel concerns raised about large SPED populations if these two schools are consolidated were not fully addressed.
5. These are the two schools with the highest special education population. This would put over 200 special education students on a campus. This is not fair to the administer.
6. If this does happen, please bring these 2 communities together before merging them.
7. not enough discussion and analysis was conducted to vote with trust and fidelity
8. This is a vote of no confidence in the process that was led by the consultant (TSS). Additional commentary will be provided by email.
9. Willard and Don Benito have the highest concentration of SPED students. Willard is not able to absorb 100 more with 1 administrator. The building will not safely accommodate this number of SPED.
10. The number of students with disabilities will be too great for one administrator to handle so those programs need to be looked at and carefully reorganized.
11. This seems like a reasonable choice but I think all the schools choices need to be considered together. It doesn't make sense to just make a vote/ school. You need a cohesive plan that considers all
12. complicated decision but some consolidation is neccesart
13. More information needed to see how the programs and cost savings. Data was inconclusive. Willard does not have the facilitates necessary to accommodate the additional students with special needs.
14. No consolidation at this time. We need: 1. an inquiry into why Kenne, Harden, Velasquez and Fredericks met with TSS without sharing with Dr. Blanco or the community; 2. a VISIONING process.
15. I am concerned regarding Special Needs students. I do not think we have enough information and would like more time for consideration.
16. I don't necessarily see the need to reduce elementary schools by 3 schools at this time, and to me this elementary school merge was one that made the least amount of sense geographically.
17. No confidence.
18. Don Benito use as TK preschool or Luxury housing leased at market rate
19. Where Don Benito merges is less important than THAT it consolidates somewhere.
20. I vote no confidence. The breakdown in trust surrounding this process has become itself a substantive barrier to successful implementation

Merge Norma Coombs ES to Webster ES. **Comments:**

1. Process tainted, cannot in good conscious vote for merger on this record.
2. I do not feel this process was valid and my trust in this consultant has led me to believe that a more in depth process needs to happen. The process was rushed.
3. Possible consideration for 2028-29
4. not enough discussion and analysis was conducted to vote with trust and fidelity
5. This is a vote of no confidence in the process that was led by the consultant (TSS). Additional commentary will be provided by email.
6. It seems Norma Coombs was ONLY brought into consideration after it was decided that the district needs a single story building for ECE.
7. Closing Norma Coombs removes all central schools from the city.
8. again complicated bur some consolidation is neededi
9. Prefer a different scenario related to consolidating Norma Combs ES to Wesbter ES. Data was inconclusive and improperly presented.
10. No consolidation at this time. We need: 1. an inquiry into why Kenne, Harden, Fredericks and Velasquez met with TSS without disclosing to Dr. Blanco or the community; 2. A VISIONING process for PUSD.
11. More time is needed to gain public trust and garner more information.
12. This is a clear move that makes the most sense.
13. No confidence.
14. Webster students live in the neighborhood. Utilize Don Benito forTk programs
15. Or, frankly, vice versa. Whichever receiving campus makes the most financial sense in terms of cost to upgrade or maintain the campus.
16. I vote no confidence. The breakdown in trust surrounding this process has become itself a substantive barrier to successful implementation

Merge Eliot MS and McKinley MS. **Comments:**

1. Process tainted, cannot in good conscious vote for merger on this record.
2. It is very important for Eliot to remain its own school. If you close eliot you one have a middle school in Altadena.
3. I do not feel this process was valid and my trust in this consultant has led me to believe that a more in depth process needs to happen. The process was rushed.
4. Give Eliot a fighting chance, those students and that community have been through a lot.
5. not enough discussion and analysis was conducted to vote with trust and fidelity
6. This is a vote of no confidence in the process that was led by the consultant (TSS). Additional commentary will be provided by email.
7. McKinley's enrollment continues to decline and it does not look like it will rebound.
8. This option makes the most sense so McKinley gets more electives. The will share a principal in 2026.
9. I need more information and more of a discussion, especially with people part of the district.

10. more options need to reviewed. Increasing Blair or Marshall middle schools should be considered
11. Data was inconclusive if the cost savings would come from a merger to McKinley MS
12. No consolidation at this time. We need: 1. an inquiry into why Kenne, Harden, Fredericks and Velasquez met with TSS without disclosing to Dr. Blanco or the community; 2. A VISIONING process for PUSD.
13. Personally, I am trying to get my student into PUSD because her current school consolidated their middle schools and I am concerned about lack of support. I do not have confidence in this decision.
14. Given declining enrollment and the ability through rebuilding to ensure Eliot is built to best support increased enrollment. I also think students from Mckinley may not chose Eliot give locations
15. Unless this community wishes to be combined. Ask the families if this is what they want since they are on the same campus for the next three years.
16. Eliot north to serve returning Altadena .residents central location Mc kinley south central location best for local families
17. Only if Eliot is rebuilt and is the receiving school. And if McKinley elementary is also consolidated to another campus.
18. I vote no confidence. The breakdown in trust surrounding this process has become itself a substantive barrier to successful implementation

Close McKinley ES (TK-5) and merge with Hamilton ES, Madison ES, Washington ES. Comments

1. Process tainted, cannot in good conscious vote for merger on this record.
2. I do not feel this process was valid and my trust in this consultant has led me to believe that a more in depth process needs to happen. The process was rushed.
3. Those students will receive enriched learning at those sites mentioned.
4. not enough discussion and analysis was conducted to vote with trust and fidelity
5. This is a vote of no confidence in the process that was led by the consultant (TSS). Additional commentary will be provided by email.
6. This elem should be closed, but there are too many local students and too many apartments in the area with students who are walking.
7. I need more information and more of a discussion, especially with people part of the district.
8. Data was inconclusive regarding the cost savings.
9. No consolidation at this time. We need: 1. an inquiry into why Kenne, Harden, Fredericks and Velasquez met with TSS without disclosing to Dr. Blanco or the community; 2. A VISIONING process for PUSD.
10. Please consider students that do not have the means for transportation. I understand special needs will have transportation as part of their IEP but there are other students without means.
11. Given declining enrollment and the location of students in the district this elementary closure makes the most logically sense to me but only if combined with the closure of McKinley's MS.
12. No confidence.
13. See #6 comment above,

14. I vote no confidence. The breakdown in trust surrounding this process has become itself a substantive barrier to successful implementation

Merge Thurgood Marshall 9th-12th with Pasadena HS and Marshall 6th-8th Students Remain at Marshall. **Comment:**

1. Process tainted, cannot in good conscious vote for merger on this record.
2. I do not feel this process was valid and my trust in this consultant has led me to believe that a more in depth process needs to happen. The process was rushed.
3. Possible consideration for 2028-29
4. I do think keeping Blair middle school open as a stand alone middle school makes more sense based on geographphy.
5. I think further conversation about the future of Marshall as a middle school only is needed.
6. Marshall is a rapidly declining school site
7. not enough discussion and analysis was conducted to vote with trust and fidelity
- 8.
9. This is a vote of no confidence in the process that was led by the consultant (TSS). Additional commentary will be provided by email.
10. The 6-12 model works for so many students! Turning Marshal into a middle school only takes opportunity away from students.
11. I need more information and more of a discussion, especially with people part of the district.
12. the 6-912 model needs further review before both 6-12 are closed
13. Need more time and data to formalize any decision.
14. No consolidation at this time. We need: 1. an inquiry into why Kenne, Harden, Fredericks and Velasquez met with TSS without disclosing to Dr. Blanco or the community; 2. A VISIONING process for PUSD.
15. Don't break apart a successful 6-12 to fill the seats at PHS. Consider opening a middle school at PHS to attract students.
16. maintain successful 6-12 configuration
17. It makes no sense to only consolidate the high school and leave the middle school open at the site.
18. I vote no confidence. The breakdown in trust surrounding this process has become itself a substantive barrier to successful implementation

Merge Blair 9th-12th with Muir HS and Blair 6th-8th with Octavia E Butler MS. **Comments:**

1. Process tainted, cannot in good conscious vote for merger on this record.
2. There should be a 6-12 option and a place for IB to thrive.
3. I do not feel this process was valid and my trust in this consultant has led me to believe that a more in depth process needs to happen. The process was rushed.
4. Possible consideration for 2028-29

5. Muir does not have the capacity to ingest Blair.
6. not enough discussion and analysis was conducted to vote with trust and fidelity
7. It really makes little sense to close Blair because moving the IB programme (and duplicating is to a middle school) would be super expensive and the cost savings would be almost completely negated.
8. This is a vote of no confidence in the process that was led by the consultant (TSS). Additional commentary will be provided by email.
9. Blair is another 6-12 model that works. The IB program is not easily transferred since it would have to be transferred to 2 different sites.
10. Considering how many students go to Blair from outside of the district - will this process save any money in the long run or cost money?
11. I need more information and more of a discussion, especially with people part of the district.
12. 6-12 model must be considered before other decisions are made. Two high schools are likely the best option.
13. Does not address the moving and costs related to maintaining the IB Program. Need more time to analyze data.
14. No consolidation at this time. We need: 1. an inquiry into why Kenne, Harden, Fredericks and Velasquez met with TSS without disclosing to Dr. Blanco or the community; 2. A VISIONING process for PUSD.
15. Please consider the programs and how they are run at these schools.
16. We don't need such a variety of college readiness programming, my recommendation based on engagement discontinue IB programming in the district & invest further in other college readiness programming
17. No confidence. This costs money and harms student outcomes.
18. Neighborhood schools to serve the students who live in the neighborhood.
19. We're either in the IB business or we're not. Plus, Blair HS was recently renovated. And, Blair is the southern most campus and is easily accessible by both the 110 fwy and light rail.
20. I vote no confidence. The breakdown in trust surrounding this process has become itself a substantive barrier to successful implementation

What did you like best about the SCAC process?

1. I support consolidating schools to protect PUSD's long-term stability and programs. I trust district leaders and staff to guide families and students through this transition with care and compassion.
2. The ability to share your opinion.
3. Not applicable.
4. Hearing the varying perspectives.
5. It was a terrible process and I think the consultants wasn't helpful either
6. I did not like this process. I did not feel heard and my comments did not seem to be heard or taken into account.

7. We received a lot of information and data to help inform the process.
8. The frequency of the meetings
9. Diverse group assembled
10. The committee members.
11. Nothing.
12. committee members having small group then whole group discussion and analysis
13. Conversation with other members and getting answers to questions and info that we requested!
14. The committee was comprised, across the board, of amazingly thoughtful and capable people.
15. Getting to hear from my fellow community members
16. People had plenty of opportunity to share their opinion
17. That it is finally over.
18. i actually liked the eternal consultant.
19. I felt that the consultants listened to most of our requests and brought that information to the next meeting.
20. The compassion, competence and commitment of the team was remarkable!
21. I appreciated the amount of information given.
22. Nothing
23. Very flawed, not transparent and not unbiased. TSS was not neutral or transparent, given the meetings it has ahead of time with board members. It steered the committee to one outcome--consolidation.
24. I actually did appreciate all the facts given. There was A LOT of information to process. However, I do appreciate the consultant and the school district giving this opportunity.
25. It was very clear what the directive was off the committee and what data was under the committee's scope.
26. Meeting my fellow committee members.
27. Thank you for the information provided
28. I think the process was flawed from the outset. It should have been a visioning committee, where, even with all the data we received, we looked at the total number of schools we can support.
29. The committee members who participated were strength of the process. They were extremely dedicated, thoughtful and knowledgeable. They each provided perspectives and experiences that were valueable.

What could have been improved?

1. More careful consideration of how communication was shared outside of SCAC. More action taken to minimize the disruption made by those in the room and outside of the District Office.
2. More independent process.
3. Honest process committed to hearing committee member voices.
4. The opportunity to actually hear the voice of the community.
5. The entire process

6. A different firm leading the process, the process focusing on students and their needs, building trust, not break trust with the committee and community/staff/ families.
7. Provide SCAC with more time to meet in groups to discuss options and scenarios.
8. More time and discussion within the committee members. I also thought the firm would recommend closing a school at any level, but let committee make the choice and have more input at that point
9. As a parent I hope that programs and staff are preserved at all costs, even if these and additional consolidation must take place. A district full of are bones schools are NOT the answer.
10. Not having people watching us. It was intimidation and not fair.
11. Be more organized. Only the first 2 meetings felt like they flowed, the rest felt like a bad sitcom.
12. On other committees I have been part of, the committee study the process, agreed upon norms, and even calibrated the votes and analysis. That was not done with this committee.
13. The committee members should be able to create scenarios, not just vote yes or no on what outside consultants who don't have the context of community members decide is worthy. Thanks for your work!
14. Additional comments will be provided by email.
15. More time to digest the data. Correct data. Data that reflects the 30 million in cuts for this upcoming year.
16. Responsiveness to committee requests for information and different scenarios.
17. No prior communication from Board members to the consulting firm would have been ideal.
18. Professional facilitator
19. I would have wanted to hear the cons of consolidating. To me, that would have made this more balanced.
20. I think the process needs improvement. The complexity of the task is overwhelming. I think a focus on what we could agree on would have helped
21. Perhaps there could have been more input from committee members into the scenarios being voted on.
22. The facilitation did not take into account or address questions related to the committee's requests. More time is needed to analyze and process the data.
23. It should have been a visioning process, not a consolidation process. We needed a much longer time frame, a different type of consultant, more community input, good data that was analyzed etc.
24. We needed more time. There needed to be more community involvement prior to this process. Those on the committee were sometimes cornered and grilled for information. More time. Better communication.
25. Allowing for frequent venting of committee members vs focusing productive conversation & debate was not helpful, I think we needed a more involved moderator. Also wasting time reading through slides.
26. The board could have done the process without meeting in secret trying to subvert what the community wants. I don't appreciate the backroom dealings, we need and deserve better leadership.
27. Information and answersto questionsabout lack of information. Do not rebuild SanRafael to serve no one in the neighborhood and preserve classism tropes

28. We need way more time/we needed to have been given some framework (the target # of schools this district can support, the cost savings we were trying to achieve, or both.) It was far too nebulous.

29. Rather than beginning with a focus on buildings, I would suggest a "Portrait of the Graduate" visioning exercise that has been used in other districts to reimagine the school district.

Survey Questions

1. Merge Don Benito ES to Willard ES.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
2. Merge Don Benito ES to Willard ES. **Comments:**
3. Merge Norma Coombs ES to Webster ES.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
4. Merge Norma Coombs ES to Webster ES. **Comments:**
5. Merge Eliot MS and McKinley MS.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
6. Merge Eliot MS and McKinley MS. **Comments:**
7. Close McKinley ES (TK-5) and merge with Hamilton ES, Madison ES, Washington ES.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
8. Close McKinley ES (TK-5) and merge with Hamilton ES, Madison ES, Washington ES. **Comments:**
9. Merge Thurgood Marshall 9th-12th with Pasadena HS and Marshall 6th-8th Students Remain at Marshall.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
10. Merge Thurgood Marshall 9th-12th with Pasadena HS and Marshall 6th-8th Students Remain at Marshall. **Comments:**
11. Merge Blair 9th-12th with Muir HS and Blair 6th-8th with Octavia E Butler MS.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
12. Merge Blair 9th-12th with Muir HS and Blair 6th-8th with Octavia E Butler MS. **Comments:**
13. What did you like best about the SCAC process?
14. What could have been improved?