Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2025

AGENDA

1. **Purpose**

   Mr. Taylor explained why school consolidation is a challenging but necessary topic. He addressed several common misconceptions and shared a news clip illustrating how other districts are closing schools due to budget constraints.

2. **Student-Centered Approach**

   He stressed that the process must remain focused on what is best for students.

3. **Process and Timeline**

   Mr. Taylor outlined the three phases of the consolidation process, noting that we are currently in Phase 1.

   He shared a tentative timeline, which is available on the District's website.

   He also reviewed the AB1912 metrics that guide school consolidation and closure decisions, and explained what it

means for a district to be in fiscal distress under the Education Code.

4. **Enrollment Data (by School and Grade)**

   Mr. Taylor presented current enrollment data by school site and grade level. He pointed out that schools on the west side are experiencing the steepest enrollment declines.

   Throughout the presentation, council members asked questions, offered comments, and expressed concerns, particularly about declining enrollment and its contributing factors. Among the factors discussed were the rising cost of living forcing families to relocate to more affordable areas, lower birth rates, shifts in migration trends influenced by the political climate, concerns about middle school (too big), and the availability of high school options.

   Mr. Taylor also reviewed historical enrollment trends from 2011-2012 to the present.

5. **Efficiencies**

   Using a sample school, Mr. Taylor illustrated potential cost savings from consolidation.

   Mr. Taylor outlined the financial and educational consequences of maintaining the status quo, emphasizing that inaction could lead to deeper budget deficits and reduced resources for students.

6. **Options Discussion**

   Mr. Taylor noted that specific consolidation options will

be presented at the next meeting, which will include group discussions.

7. **The Road Ahead**

   The next meeting is scheduled for **May 20, 2025**.