Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2025

AGENDA

1. Group Activity

Mr. Taylor reminded participants to sit with the groups assigned at the previous meeting.

2. Review of May 20th Notes

Mr. Taylor briefly reviewed the notes, noting varied participant knowledge levels as the reason for the review.

3. Filter through Criteria/Data

Mr. Taylor discussed various options and recommendations, highlighting recurring themes in group discussions. Participants were encouraged to review previous options and be prepared to finalize their top three choices, along with associated pros and cons. All input was documented on butcher paper.

4. Discussion on Top 3 Options

- Participants were asked to consider pros and cons to gain a clear understanding of each option.

- Mr. Taylor emphasized the difficulty and significance of these decisions due to their consequences.

5. District Challenges and Context

- Declining enrollment and financial stability issues were outlined. The district is receiving less funding per student than needed to operate effectively.

- Operating costs and the impact of under-enrolled schools on programs were discussed.

- Questions raised: Can the district provide the best educational opportunities under these conditions? How will consolidating or closing schools affect the community?

6. Questions and Clarifications

- A council member asked about the minimum enrollment for a school to remain solvent.

- Mr. Taylor responded that it depends on assumptions within the cost model, with a break-even range between $500K to $900K.

- A council member requested simplified documents and clarification on enrollment and classroom capacity reports.

- Mr. Taylor advised referring to criteria/data including classroom counts, special education (SPED) requirements, and current enrollment.

- A council member inquired about addressing special needs students and their caseloads.

- Mr. Taylor confirmed compliance with AB 1912 requirements for SPED students and noted the Board’s final approval after considering all factors.

- A council member mentioned that teachers typically follow SPED students when they move to other schools.

- Mr. Taylor added that savings usually come from reductions in classified and management staff, while teachers often move with students, especially in SPED programs.

- The use of retiree positions to backfill vacancies was discussed.

- Superintendent Tavitian clarified that preschool classrooms and buildings, funded separately, are not part of the review.

- Mr. Taylor highlighted classroom usage at Buford school (50 classrooms total; 31 for instruction).

- Discussion ensued about defining general education classrooms versus those used for other purposes.

7. Geographic Context

- A council member noted that schools are close to each other within a 1 square mile area, minimizing family disruption

as students spread across the district.

8. Group Share Out

- Groups 4 and 5 were ready to share their feedback.
- Group 5 recommended consolidation to four elementary schools to save the district and avoid merging with LAUSD or Inglewood.
- They identified 67 open classrooms across elementary sites relative to next year's projected enrollment.
- Proposed a priority system for families closest to sites and parental input on school placement.
- The biggest challenge noted was moving the SPED program without disrupting students' routines.
- The group stressed the importance of providing the best programs and ensuring district self-management.

9. Road Ahead

- Mr. Taylor acknowledged the financial pressures faced by districts in distress and emphasized the need to manage like a business while recognizing schools are not businesses.
- Next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2025.