Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2025

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Recap the Previous Meeting

Mr. Taylor asked Group 5 to revisit the option they had previously presented.

- Group 5 only had one proposal- the consolidation of a school.
    - The rationale the group provided was that any decision regarding school closure should align with the overarching goal of achieving long-term fiscal solvency for the District.
    - The team recommended that families impacted by a potential school closure be given priority enrollment at the nearest available school to minimize disruption.
    - There was a consensus that Special Day Classes (SDC) should be equitably distributed across multiple school sites to better serve students throughout the District.

- The group explored the idea of shifting to a TK-6 model, noting that while it could potentially retain 5th-grade students for an additional year, it would likely only delay the current trend of families leaving the District prior to middle school. Ultimately, the group determined that this was not a viable long-term solution.
- Much of the discussion focused on identifying strategies to make the transition to Lennox Middle School more appealing to families, with the goal of encouraging them to remain in the District rather than seek alternative middle school options.

2. Continuation of June 3rd Presentations

Mr. Taylor invited Groups 1–4 to briefly present the options from the prior meeting.

- Mr. Taylor encouraged participants to consider what is best for students while evaluating available space and other relevant data.
- Each group shared its proposed solutions with the full council.

3. Group 3 Presentation:

- Proposed a TK-6 configuration with students divided evenly among the five existing schools.
- Suggested promoting the middle school to attract future enrollment, highlighting its unique features compared to local charter schools (e.g., green space and traditional school environment).

- Mr. Taylor noted that while this option may be cost-effective for one year because the District would retain 5th graders, this option may still only temporarily address declining enrollment. There is still uncertainty about 6th graders transitioning to the middle school.

4. Group 2 Presentation:

- Proposed maintaining TK-5 as-is and creating a standalone 6th Grade Academy at Felton.
- Suggested redistributing SDC (Special Day Class) students to ensure equity across schools.
- Argued that this would reduce middle school size, and provide a more appealing environment for parents since the environment would be more like a smaller learning community. It was also discussed that a smaller learning community could possibly increase student achievement at the 6th grade level.
- Mr. Taylor pointed out logistical and financial challenges, including staffing and management needs for a separate 6th-grade program.

5. Group 1 Presentation:

- Recommended closing the equivalent of one school to increase funding flexibility and allow for added

resources.

- Suggested repurposing closed facilities to generate revenue.

- Proposed restructuring Lennox Middle School with 6th grade as a standalone group and 7th-8th together.

- Some council members recalled a similar past structure, noting it required additional administrative staff. Eventually, the district returned to the current middle school model due to cost concerns.

6. Group 4 Presentation:

- Recommended closing either Felton or Buford.

- The group discussed the pros and cons of each of the schools closing as follows:

  - **Cons:** traffic congestion, reduced space, potential layoffs, and transition challenges for SDC students.

  - **Pros:** staffing cost savings, improved space utilization, and reduced transitions for certain student groups.

- Referenced LCAP showing significant cost savings through staff reductions as a result of a school consolidation. Additional discussion on LCAP was held on the reduction of funding due to declining

enrollment and the need to sustain key programs funded through LCAP.

    - Additional discussion focused on the equitable distribution of SDC students throughout the District.

7. Next Steps

- Mr. Taylor will prepare a PowerPoint presentation summarizing all group proposals, including a cost-savings analysis for each.

- The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 19, 2025**.