Superintendent's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2025

AGENDA

1. Student Centric Approach
    a. Keep students at the center
2. Timeline
    a. Mr. Taylor provided a visual timeline to show where we are in the process. Indicating we've already had 5 meetings thus far. He mentioned that it was time to narrow down the recommendations to present a final recommendation soon.
    b. Mr. Taylor mentioned that many of the pending questions from the last meeting were going to be answered with the data presented at this meeting.
    c. Mr. Taylor provided a timeline for next steps once the final recommendation is made. The SAC Committee will first review and vote on the top recommendations that the groups have developed over the last several meetings. The Committee's final recommendation will then be provided to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will examine the recommendations and

share them with the public through community Townhall meetings. Following this, the Superintendent will present a formal recommendation at a Special Board Meeting. The goal is for the Board to consider the Superintendent's recommendation and take action at the November Regular Board Meeting.

3. School Revenue - Expenditure Comparisons
    a. Mr. Taylor explained that each district receives base funding to cover required services for all students, as well as supplemental and concentration grant funding to provide additional services, including support for English Learners. He shared a graph illustrating revenue and expenditures by school site, along with the net balance. He also noted that each school has an estimated annual cost of approximately $100,000 for materials, supplies, operations, and routine expenses.

4. Summary of Recommendations
    a. Pros and Cons
    b. Cost Savings/Cost Avoidance Analysis

Recommendation #1 - Close Felton Elementary

- Redistribute students to Huerta, Jefferson, Buford, and Moffett.
- Special Education (SpEd) students dispersed districtwide.
- Pros: Cost savings, increased enrollment at receiving schools, inclusion of Special Day Classes across schools.

- Cons: Staff reductions, transportation/pick-up challenges.
- Some members expressed concerns about discontinuing centralized Special Education services at Felton and the potential impact on students transitioning to other schools. Parents also shared that SDC students, in particular, rely heavily on routine, and shifting these classrooms could cause significant disruption.
- It was explained that the district follows a school of choice model, allowing parents to select their child's school. This approach is beneficial, as it gives students the opportunity, when possible, to attend their home school.
- Superintendent Tavitian noted that many teachers and staff have raised concerns about Felton serving as the primary site for Special Education programs. She emphasized that if this recommendation moves forward, the Special Education Director will need to allocate staff according to each school's grade levels and program needs.
- It was also noted that Felton's Preschool staff would also be affected by this recommendation.

Recommendation #2 - Merge Felton and Buford

- Felton into Buford, or Buford into Felton.
- Pros: Cost savings, enrollment growth, community culture remains.
- Cons: Staff reductions, space concerns.

Recommendation # 1.1 - Felton closes and students are distributed; hybrid of recommendation 1 and 2

- Felton closes, redistribution varies by General Education and Special Education students.
- Pros and Cons are similar to recommendation #1

Recommendation #3 - Felton becomes a 6th Grade Academy

- All of the 6th graders at Lennox Middle School will move to Felton.
- Many members mentioned this is just a temporary fix to the big bring problem. More cons than pros.

Recommendation #4 - TK-5 conversion to TK-6

- 6th grade eliminated at Lennox Middle School
- Many members mentioned this is just a temporary fix to the big bring problem. More cons than pros.

c. One member noted that enrollment continues to decline as many families are leaving the area due to political issues. He suggested adding Recommendation 1.2, which would centralize all Special Education students at Jefferson Elementary, given its larger size and proximity to both Felton and Buford.
d. Some members suggested repurposing the closed school site for alternative uses such as a daycare center, recreation center, or other community programs.
e. It was clarified that the purpose of this council is to make recommendations regarding school consolidation. Decisions about the future use of any

closed school site will be determined by the 7/11 Committee. Additionally, it was emphasized that the distribution of Special Education classes districtwide will ultimately be determined by the Director of Special Education, based on student needs.

f. The council voted to remove Recommendations 3 and 4, and will move forward with Recommendations 1, 2, and 1.1. At the next meeting, members will vote to narrow the options to two recommendations.

5. The Road Ahead
    a. The next meeting will be on September 2, 2025