

West Contra Costa Unified School District
High School Attendance Area Meeting
Consolidation / Closure Committee

A. Welcome and Introduction -- Superintendent Bruce Harter welcomed the committee and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were Kathy Bartley, Avisha

Benham, Katie Brady, Dionne Dunn, Heidi Estrella, Elaine Gee, Maryanne Glasson, Alexis Halliday, Anita Hayward, Andi Horton, Ronna Ishida, Valerie Kimmel-Oliva, David Lewis, Liz Lonsdale, Viktor Manrique, Ann Marie Marinakis, Nanette Murphy, Shawn Niles, Charleen Raines, Janelle Salvador, Janice Thompson, Page Tompkins and Whitney

Mr. [redacted] did not discuss closing schools. He spoke about looking outside

Mr. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

West Contra Costa Unified School District
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January 12, 2009 – Pinole Valley High School Cafeteria

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Superintendent Bruce Harter welcomed the committee members and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were Shelly Andre, DeShannon Bamford, Lori Berry, Javier Brantley, Carol Butcher, Tammy Campbell, Mercedes Castro, Eric Danysh, Sheri Davis, Andrew DeHoll, Sean Duckworth, Susan Dunlap, Jim Edward, Ana Gonsales, Terrie Hageman, Heidi Lee [Javier Brantley],

MEMBERS: JIM EDWARD, JILL HERRICK, GUY HERRICK, MARY HERRICK, MOHID

A. _____

Pinole Valley High School – 1-12-09

Alison Crooks, Parent – Collins Elementary School, spoke about the extensive Special
Education services provided at Collins Elementary School including the

quickly the process is happening despite the lack of necessary information such as property

West Contra Costa Unified School District
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Congratulation (Leave) Committee

January 13, 2009 -- Crespi Middle School Cafeteria

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Dr. Bruce Harter welcomed the committee and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were Nadine Ahola, Rick Alexander, Sherry Bell, Rhonda Burton, Matthew Chao, Cherly Cotton, Sara Danielson, Rene Franklin, Cynthia Garcia, Ken Gardner, Lorenz Gonzales, Juanita Gordon, Sylvia Greenwood, Mia Gunter,

Kris Moore, Parent – Collins Elementary School, said that it is unfair that today's students
have to pay the debt from years ago and agreed that school closures are pitting schools

communities and teachers against one another.

Collins Elementary School is one of the youngest of Collins

Yvonne Calvo presented a list of schools that are all in the area and the

students can be accommodated at De Anza High School and/or El Cerrito High School. She provided examples of why Valley View Elementary School should be considered a model for the district.

Linda Lanning said that all survey participants cross out every school on the list to send the Board a message of no school closures.

Jill Wolkenfeld encouraged the public not to vote on either scenario and to look for alternate options.

Tanya George acknowledged the extensive special needs services that are currently available

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In English and Spanish

Welcome and Introduction Superintendent Dwyco Hester welcomed the committee

members and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were Nellie Smith, Marylee Stadler, Hector Franco, Sara Dieli, Marco Gonzales, Johnny Brown, Susan Dunlap, Olanrewaju Ajayi, Martha Barajas, Rachel Bartlett-Preston, Sonja Bell, Susan Berrington, Cheryl Bookerwelsh, Gretchen Borg, Roxanne Brown-Garcia, alma Carney, Merrilee Cavenecia, Monica Cervantes, Tyrone Weems, Jose DeLeon, Pablo Durango,

Charles Rachlis said we need to get national attention and to meet at the Library on February 4 and march to Lovonya DeJean at 5:00 PM.

Daniel Martinez said he is against closing schools.

Jeffery Mitchell said to ask the cities and corporations for help and commented that their

employees are our families and they have stock in our schools

Steve Kleinfeld said we should not close schools and suggested emailing the politicians and

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January 15, 2009 – John F. Kennedy High School Cafeteria

introductions were made.

- B. WCCUSD Financial Situation and School Closure -- Superintendent Harter gave an overview of the WCCUSD financial situation and school closure.

Capitol State covered the community's distress over the closure of Coronado

Elementary School claiming that the students feel safe and happy there.

Donald Rapp, Grandfather -- Coronado Elementary School, sentiment is that no school

~~You do not want to close Olinda Elementary School and not closing it as it is a historical~~

school in the district.

Ann Palmer suggested a number of alternatives to closing Olinda Elementary School including combining Crespi Middle School with DeAnza High School and closing non-school and adult education sites.

- E. The individual groups were given 30 minutes to complete their evaluation forms. At the end of that time, they were asked to turn in their forms. The audience was encouraged to turn in their forms also. All suggestions will be counted and considered.

Committee Reports:

Group 1 suggested placing Gompers Continuation High School and Leadership Public School on the John F. Kennedy campus instead of closing it indicating the city of

West Contra Costa Unified School District
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January 20, 2009 – Portola Middle School Gymnasium

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Superintendent Bruce Harter welcomed the committee members and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were: Linda Adams, Jeanine Bishop, Bryan Brandow, Bill Breeding, Lori Dair, Valerie Garrett, Robert John, Bobby Killough, Lisa Levi, Eric Miller, Ronna Minor, Galen Murphy, Tara Nourian, Carol Renee, David Rossi, Saidah Said, Judith Sanders, Nannette Sherman, Kathie Shores, Elizabeth Smith, Michael Smith, Wanda Stewart, Robert Studdiford, Brenda Surgers, Denise VanHook, Scott Whitney, Todd Wolfe, Mark Woo and Stephen Zavestoski.
- B. WCCUSD Financial Situation and School Closure -- Superintendent Harter gave an overview of the WCCUSD financial situation and school closure.
- C. Review Discussion of Closure Scenarios -- Superintendent Harter introduced Sonya Lopes as the facilitator for the committee meetings. Ms. Lopes instructed the committee members on how to proceed. The individual groups were to have conversations around school closures, and the outcome would be to present ideas and/or changes to the two scenarios. The groups were given 45 minutes for discussion. The audience was also invited to break into groups and to have conversations around school closures. They were invited to fill out feedback forms at the conclusion of the meeting.
- D. Public Comment – Jessica Romeo called on the speakers for public comment. There were nineteen speakers and they were given two minutes each.

Joshua Ko, Portola student, spoke about the need to rebuild Portola and concern over losing students to private schools.

Gabriella Welten, Castro student, spoke about keeping Castro Elementary School open and in support of K-8.

Akyah Square, Stege Elementary School student, spoke against closing Stege and the future of the students impacted by a close.

Jeff Sochet, parent, spoke against closing Portola and the environmental and social impact of closing the school.

Ione Bell, parent of a Portola student, spoke in favor of rebuilding Portola.

Miné Ternar Kal spoke about keeping the fully integrated program at Castro intact and rebuilding Portola but not at Castro.

Hennie Farrow, parent of a Castro student, spoke about keeping Castro open and making it a K-8 school.

Joni Hiramoto, Portola Parent, spoke in favor of rebuilding Portola at Castro and saving the full inclusion program.

Joanna Pace, spoke in favor of rebuilding Portola at Castro.

Bob Adams, Portola teacher, spoke in favor of Scenario I, rebuilding Castro at Portola.

Sharon Farrell spoke in favor of Scenario II and the opportunity for K-8 schools and keeping the full inclusion program at Castro.

Anita Miller said she favored Scenario I, rebuilding Portola at Castro and keeping Fairmont open.

Charles Rachlis, parent, said he was against both scenarios and spoke about getting mobilized to take direct action.

Joshua Ko said he supported rebuilding Portola Middle School at Castro, and opposed building a K-8 at Castro.

David Whitenack, parent of a Portola student, said he was against closing any school, but that given a choice between the two he favored Scenario I because it displaced fewer students.

Morgan Watson, Portola teacher, said she supported rebuilding Portola at Castro.

E. The individual groups were given 30 minutes to complete their evaluation forms. At the end of the time, the groups asked to turn in their forms. The audience was encouraged to

Group 3 reported they recommended Scenario I because it disrupts fewer students and they

were against K-8 as described in the district guidelines. They supported consolidating the alternative and adult schools.

Group 4 reported that educational impact was the most important criteria that should be considered first, and favored a middle school in El Cerrito. There was concern that if Adams was the choice, there would be more students lost to private schools.

Group 5 reported they favored Scenario I with Mira Vista, Wilson, Stege and Crespi converting to K-8.

Group 6 reported they favored a middle school and K-8 in El Cerrito and spoke in support of the full inclusion program.

Group 7 reported that there was some value in K-8 in some schools. They said there was a problem with the complexity of the criteria and the difficulty in creating a hierarchy; that there were too many intangible factors and there were equity problems with this process as