

SANTA CRUZ CITY SCHOOLS
AD HOC FACILITIES COMMITTEE COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES
APRIL 26, 2016

Superintendent Munro welcomed meeting attendees and presented background information for the meeting. This information included: District Goals; tonight's meeting purpose; long range facilities master plan meetings conducted to date in 2016-17; a description of the Ad Hoc Facilities Committee (short-term) and the District Facilities Committee (will make recommendations to the Board of Education); facilities statements for consideration; guiding principles (created by this committee on March 21, 2016); Elementary Schools enrollment over time; projected elementary and secondary enrollment; directions for the feedback activity to follow the presentation.

The "Walk the Walls" activity directions were: Around the room, you will find each of the facility statements that our Ad Hoc Committee has been meeting to discuss. You will find some initial rough ideas about potential ways to address the issues presented. Please indicate on the posters the strengths and challenges of each idea. You may also add your own ideas on the blank pages provided. These new ideas will go back to the committee. **Superintendent Munro stated that she would not recommend any ideas that would prevent the district from using the Natural Bridges school site as a campus for Santa Cruz City Schools in the future.**

The following notes were transcribed directly from the feedback provided by meeting attendees during the "Walk the Walls" activity: **These are not decisions that have been made, but suggestions offered by the community members who attended this meeting.**

Soquel High School is our only school projected to grow over the next decade. Currently the District Central Office is occupying classroom space that SHS will need as the student body grows. We need to address the issue of space needed by SHS and maintain an accessible location for the central office.

1. Put additional portables at the SHS campus

Strengths

- It would be good for the DO to be at a more central location – free up space by moving the DO

Challenges

- Additional maintenance will be needed as buildings age
- Portables diffuse the proximity of the campus and makes it difficult for students to get from class to class on time

2. Move the District Office to a more central location and free up space at SHS

Strengths

- DO staff would spend less time commuting
- Site staff would spend less time commuting to DO
- What other properties could be utilized for the DO?
- Public/community could attend more meetings at a central location

3. Open enroll some of the incoming 9th graders and subsequent classes to Harbor HS and/or Santa Cruz HS

Strengths

- If feeder neighborhoods are strategically close, this could make Harbor HS and Santa Cruz HS more equitable

Challenges

- It will anger people who wanted to attend Soquel HS
- How to select students for open enrollment
- Creates a fractured student body

New Ideas

- Move some of the DO to Small Schools **
- Move some or all of the DO to Adult Ed site *
- Move DO – it would help to have information about which sites would be available to consider this idea (NB? Old ARK?)
- Move DO to Natural Bridges ***
- Don't spend a lot of \$\$ moving the DO – avoid the "Taj Mahal" problem

Although we are in declining enrollment as a school district, our current comprehensive elementary sites are at and over capacity. We need to mitigate the impact of large enrollments at elementary schools until enrollment better matches capacity.

1. Long-range facilities solutions: remove portables; remodel & modernize classrooms

Strengths

- Classrooms need A/C; new furniture; technology
- Work to fix existing issues (leaks, broken heaters, paint buildings, repair roofs, etc.) in the meantime

Challenges

- Two-story buildings are not suited for elementary children **

2. Immediate solutions: support large sites with personnel that can be adjusted with fluctuations in enrollment

Strengths

- One Assistant Principal at each site
- AP could deal with discipline issues and the principal could do his/her job
- Hire more help for the lunch lines

Challenges

- Adding custodians and playground staff does not eliminate impacted classrooms, teachers and learning. We need real-time solutions. **
- Different schools may need different solutions to address large enrollments – can each site have a say in their own solution? *
- Additional funds for larger sites for faculty and classified staff to handle larger student populations

New Ideas

- Natural Bridges should remain an option – open another elementary school

The Natural Bridges campus is vacant and we need to develop a use plan that benefits students and the district. The plan needs to be informed by the facts that we are in declining enrollment, the building cannot be renovated and we have an obligation to provide PCS with athletic facilities.

1. Build faculty housing on this site, keeping the gym and field for PCS and community use; include some spaces that could be used as classrooms in the future for small programs

Strengths

- Community center for classes, community sports, fund-raising venue and other rental options
- Multi-use venue
- Adult School, Small Schools, etc.
- Open a pre-school on the site *

Challenges

- Save the school for the children and future generations. There is no land left on the west side if a site is needed in the future
2. Rebuild Natural Bridges gym and expand the playing fields for use by SCCS students, PCS and the community, partnering with SC Parks and Rec. (this would preserve a space should a school be needed in the future)

Strengths

- Quality space
- Parking – lots available and easy access
- Derby Park is nearby
- Multi-use venue is the way to go
- A public presence keeps vandals, campers, and gang activity numbers down
- Schools are supported with public parcel taxes – the public should not be shut out – no gates or fences blocking pedestrian access
- This is beautiful, open space – keep it for use by all children in Santa Cruz

Challenges

- Evening lighting limited
- Don't allow an investment that causes problems – like Jade St. park for Soquel schools

New Ideas

- Use site for Adult School
- Use site for district offices
- Move the preschools from Bay View and Westlake to alleviate over crowding
- Housing should go elsewhere
- What is the obligation to PCS?
- Have an open public process with a Facility Advisory Committee according to Education Code **

We have a need to recruit and retain the best possible teachers to serve our students. The teacher shortage and housing market make it a greater challenge to do this. We need to identify a potential district owned location for a faculty housing project to support the recruitment and retention of teachers for SCCS.

1. Build teacher housing at **one** of the following locations: Swift Street (former Ark/Monarch site and current COE Green Schools site; La Fonda Adult Education Site; Natural Bridges Elementary School campus

Strengths

- Use Swift Street location as Science Center, Performing Arts facility, athletic facility, community center and more **

Challenges

- Once this campus is gone it is lost forever **
 - Housing is subject to market swings
 - Many public servants need housing help
 - Selecting recipients of housing would be very difficult
2. Focus on teacher retention: provide more teacher support; increase salaries; provide incentives for faculty nearing retirement age to stay longer

Challenges

- How is housing directed?
- New hires vs. current staff?
- Does housing serve lowest paid employees – classified staff?
- Can you really offer enough of a bonus considering housing prices?
- What is the cap for length of employee stay?
- What happens if a teacher retires?

New Ideas

- Increase the number of years accepted for transfer on salary schedule to interest new, experienced teachers
- Build a two-story building at the facilities space on Mission St. for DO
- Would be helpful to hear of other districts who have success stories to share and more details
- Trade something to get the return of the Loudon Nelson site – this is a good location for a diverse school or the DO

Notes:

For those items that have an asterisk * next to them, the number of asterisk indicates how many folks offered the same suggestion.