

# Santa Cruz City Schools Facilities Master Plan Summary Fact Sheet

## Natural Bridges Neighborhood Meeting



### Master Planning Process

- Spring 2015: Request for proposals issued to 12 architectural firms for an expert assessment of school buildings.
- Summer/Fall 2015: Teter & Associates assessed all facilities and drafted recommendations
  - Results: Over \$300M in facilities needs identified. NOTE: If the school board pursues a bond measure, our bonding capacity is only \$200M.
- Steering Committee of 25 stakeholders including representatives from each school staff and school community members are working to prioritize identified needs.
- Steering Committee will provide final recommendations to present to the Board (August)
- Regarding the potential state measure in November for facilities funds:
  - If passed, our district must have matching funds reserved (dollar-to-dollar) to qualify for state funds.
  - District must have qualified project to be granted funds
  - We may have a few projects that would be approved, though we need matching funds and the total falls drastically short of the level of need
- Facility Master Plan Community Meeting Schedule and the complete Facility Assessment Reports Volumes 1 & 2.:  
<http://sccs.ss8.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=222789&pageId=1006594>

### Community Input

Community input is an essential component of our process! This year, that's meant:

- 7 Board/Community Meetings on Programs and Facilities
- 12 Community Meetings on each school facility and district wide facilities issues – all advertised in the Sentinel
- Faculty meetings at each school site
- On-line surveys specific to each campus with campus stakeholders
- District-wide Community Survey on District-wide facility issues

To stay informed on upcoming opportunities to get involved, check out the website:

<http://sccs.net/>

### District Enrollment Trends & Projections

- Our elementary district currently has 34 more students than we did when we closed two elementary schools in 2004.
- In the fall of 2015, we partnered with a demographer to project student enrollment for the next decade. Using birth rates, current enrollment data, housing development plans

in both the city and county, partner district data and current enrollment, the demographer identified that SCCS will be in declining enrollment for the next decade.

- Previous projections have closely matched actual enrollment.—see appendix for historical data
- Full demographic study: <http://sccs.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=222789&pageId=9213213>
- Additional support staff was added at each of the elementary school sites. At the three larger schools, we also added additional office and custodial staff.

### **Natural Bridges Campus**

- The architects' assessments revealed that it would cost 75 to 80% of new construction to renovate the Natural Bridges Elementary campus. The quality of the construction technology at the time it was built, coupled with deterioration, led the architects to conclude that renovation would not be a prudent use of tax payer dollars.
- The cost to operate a school site is significant. To fund the \$795,000 in operational costs to open a new elementary school would force the district to make program cuts district wide.
- An Ad Hoc Facilities Committee was formed in Spring 2016 with representatives from school leadership, central office leadership, teacher and classified staff, representative trustees and a representative from the City of Santa Cruz.
- The Ad Hoc Facilities Committee was charged with reviewing pertinent data and community input to make recommendations to the Board about the Natural Bridges Campus and other district wide facilities issues.
- The Ad Hoc Facilities Committee held a Community Meeting and conducted a community wide survey distributed through school list serves, the Sentinel, and our website.
- ***Given the review of data provided by our architects, our demographic study and our community needs assessment, the Ad Hoc Committee is recommending that the gym at Natural Bridges be rebuilt, the fields upgraded and expanded and a footprint for a future school be preserved in the Facilities Master Plan.***
- The Ad Hoc recommendation for Natural Bridges will be submitted to the Board as a part of the Facilities Master Planning process.

### **Gratitude for Community Support**

- We are grateful for the tremendous support from our local community for our students and our schools.
- Voters have repeatedly expressed their confidence in district programs through supporting parcel taxes for school libraries, counseling services, small class sizes, art, music, career technical education, life lab, after school programs to keep students safe and connected to school, and more.
- Despite the best school funding from the state in years, we are still not back to the pre-recession funding levels.
- Community investment in our local schools preserves and protects essential programs for children.