

CYPRESS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Cypress, California 90630

MASTER FACILITIES PLAN COMMITTEE

May 27, 2009
3:30 p.m.
Education Center

A meeting regarding the Master Facilities Plan Committee convened at 3:30 p.m., May 27, 2009.
Persons in attendance are listed below:

Facilitator:	Lynne Merrick, Consultant
Board of Trustees:	Valeri Peters Wagner
District Administration:	Sheri Loewenstein, Superintendent Carrie Delgado, Chief Business Officer
City Representative:	June Liu, Director, Recreation & Parks, Cypress John Di Mario, Director Community Development, La Palma Cindy Robinson, Community Services Supervisor, La Palma
Principal Representatives:	Carol Erbe Tracy Mouren-Laurens M.J. Beatty Denine Kelly
District Employees:	Isis Ortiz, Teacher, Cawthon Betty Baldwin, School Administrative Secretary, Cawthon Julie Gautreau, Teacher, Landell Elizabeth Dunagan, King Betty Ann Platt, School Administrative Secretary, Landell Jennifer Olsen, Teacher, Luther Kari Singer, School Administrative Secretary, Luther Tracy Cunanan, Teacher, Swain Karen Washburn, School Office Assistant, Swain Donna Wittenberg, CSEA President, Transportation Laurie Sooter, ACT President, Teacher, Morris
Parent Representatives:	Allison Ferrier, Cawthon Parent Kim Masukawa, Landell Parent Carol Pugrad, Luther Parent Ana Martinez, Swain Parent

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Superintendent Loewenstein called the meeting to order and welcomed the audience. She noted that many of the members of this committee also attended the March 25th meeting, but for those new members she had each person introduce his/her self. For those new to the committee, she gave a brief recap of the March meeting, during which committee members looked at criteria we would study to determine closing a school. There were representatives from all nine schools at that meeting. She reported that, as much as we would like to not have to close a school, we will have more budget cuts coming from the state, which means we will have to look at greater budget cuts for next year than have currently been identified. Things are going to get much harder financially. Schools in the Cypress School District are very small, and closure must be considered in order for the District to remain fiscally sound and make the best use of our programs. This committee will focus on studying the school closure issue effective at the end of the 2009/10 school year.

Staff and our consultants studied our schools and narrowed the field down to four that the committee will begin to consider for closure: Cawthon, Landell, Luther, and Swain. If the committee comes up with a different scenario for closure, we will look at that also. The process will take several months, with the goal of identifying a school for closure by November 2009 and formal Board action in February 2010. Ms. Loewenstein recognized consultant Lynne Merrick, who provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Handouts of maps of the current attendance and boundaries for 2008/09 and of projected student enrollment using current boundaries were provided for all attendees. Ms. Merrick stated that the Cypress School District has the largest declining enrollment in Orange County. The District must close another school, and we are hoping to use the same model with this closure as we used to close Dickerson, so that we will have another school to use as an interim campus during modernization. Committee members were given time to study the handouts. She noted that the updated enrollment projections show both Luther and Swain falling below 400 students by the 2011/12 school year. This data was prepared by a demographic consultant and projected through the 2015/16 school year. The Superintendent noted that Landell and Arnold currently share a boundary, and that Landell is our biggest "school of choice," with students coming from all over the District and outside, as well. Any boundary changes considered by the committee would include data regarding where students live, streets that must be crossed, bussing considerations, etc. Mrs. Kelly asked if we could get data regarding Swain students in residence projected for 2014/15, which is listed as 425, down from 544 currently. That seems low to her.

Ms. Merrick then went through some possible school closure scenarios, including demographics of the attendance areas and possible boundary realignment required. She noted that we do not have the easy scenario of two small schools right next to each other, as we did with Dickerson and Vessels. Arnold and King were on the original list, but it was determined that student enrollment at each school is too large to be absorbed easily, and also that Arnold's projected enrollment is stable and King is growing. Swain and Luther are currently our two smallest schools. The scenarios were shared showing options for closing Cawthon, Landell, Luther, and Swain.

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Kari Singer asked about the possibility of closing King and spreading those students between Luther and Swain. The difficulty is that the King attendance is growing, and there would be a great deal of bussing involved. Kari asked about the legal requirement for bussing, and the Superintendent noted that there is a Board Policy that addresses bussing, but no legal requirement. The committee asked for a scenario showing moving students from a closed school such as Luther, to Swain.

Ms. Merrick then reviewed the criteria for school closure, including enrollment/demographics, facility conditions, site location, and programs. The enrollment/demographics issues were considered at this meeting. Facility, site, and programs will be considered at future meetings. She turned the meeting back over to the Superintendent.

Ms. Loewenstein opened the floor for questions and comments. Julie Gautreau asked if we could see data related to the Damron closure and what actually happened with our numbers, as compared to what we anticipated; she also asked for this same information related to the Dickerson/Vessels consolidation. Sheri said that she did not think we had this data for the Damron closure, but that fewer than 10 students had asked to transfer out of the consolidated school so far. We will not know for sure until August 31st. John Di Mario asked how the District intended to use the closed school. Mrs. Wagner noted that to this point, the Board has never sold property. The Superintendent said that the ideal would be to develop the property to bring an income stream. However, the Board would be provided with all possible options for consideration, based upon the best economic potential of the property that is vacant. We would also have to work with the city involved, and they might have ideas about what they want done. Tracy Cunanan asked for specific information concerning required renovations as well as acreage. This will be brought to a future meeting. June Liu asked if the District had considered looking at two schools for closure rather than one. She noted that using our ideal school numbers, it would make sense to close two schools and, if we considered both together, we could make a better decision concerning boundary changes that might not require so much bussing. Also, families would not be impacted twice. She also asked if committee members could get handouts prior to the meetings or, if not, could they have handouts of the entire PowerPoint presentations.

Ms. Loewenstein asked the committee for input on when they would like to meet next. The committee reached consensus that they would meet over the summer, on Wednesday, August 5th, at 3 p.m. Sheri told committee members they were welcome to e-mail her with anything else they would like addressed at the next meeting.

With no further questions, the Superintendent thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m

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