

CYPRESS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Cypress, California 90630

SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION/CLOSURE COMMITTEE

December 3, 2008

3:30 p.m.

Education Center

A meeting of the "7-11" School Consolidation/Closure Committee convened at 3:35 p.m., December 3, 2008. Persons in attendance are listed below:

District Administration: Sheri Loewenstein, Superintendent
Lynne Merrick, Facilitator

Principal Representatives: Jane Snyder
Donna Layne

District Employees: Laurie Sooter, Certificated
Chuck Voght, Certificated
Marsha Ahn, Certificated
Mike Baldwin, Classified
Donna Wittenberg, Classified

Parent Representatives: Joel Nelson
Kathy Schilling
Alison Mahony

Ms. Loewenstein called the meeting to order. She noted there was no one in the audience to address the committee.

Ms. Loewenstein noted that the Master Facilities Plan Committee had made a recommendation to consolidate Dickerson and Vessels schools and use Dickerson as an interim housing site next year while Vessels is being fully modernized. The entire school would then move from Dickerson to Vessels for the 2009/10 school year. Principals at both schools have sent letters home to parents regarding this recommendation. The purpose of this committee is to make a recommendation as to the use of Dickerson School when it is closed and becomes surplus property. There will be a study session with the Board next Tuesday, December 9, 2008. In January staff will go to the school sites and provide an opportunity for Dickerson and Vessels parents to ask questions and provide input. A formal decision will be made by the Board of Trustees at the February 9, 2009 meeting. The Superintendent asked for questions or comments from committee members. Ms. Schilling suggested that the parent meeting should be held the first week back from winter break, as parents are very anxious to hear the details of the plan. Staff will try to arrange this. Ms. Loewenstein then turned the meeting over to Lynne Merrick.

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Ms. Merrick shared a plan of the Dickerson campus and what it would look like with the combined schools on site as interim housing. Approximately ten portables will need to be added to the campus, and these will be the temporary style on wooden foundations in order to save money, since the campus is not intended to permanently house these students. They will be placed in such a way as to provide the most safety, continuity for the instructional program, and cost effectiveness, while not detracting from the appearance of the school. Additional staff parking and a fire lane will also be added. There is also a preschool and daycare program onsite, and this has been included in the plans. Ms. Loewenstein noted that the owner of both these programs is the same person, and we will be meeting with her next week to keep her informed. Ms. Merrick further noted that technology needs will be addressed, including the movement of SMART Boards and addition of projectors. She thinks that at some point each of the schools could use Dickerson as interim housing as additional sites are modernized. This will be about a \$600,000 to \$800,000 process. The Superintendent added that as we modernize, we will need additional space to house children and it is more efficient and cost effective to move students out and then back in when construction is completed. When it is time to consider other options to, for example, sell, lease, or develop the Dickerson property, another "7-11" Committee will be convened.

Ms. Wittenberg asked if some type of traffic study would be done, as the Dickerson area is badly congested now and will be worse with the additional students and bus traffic. Ms. Merrick said that if we added 11 or more portables we would be legally required to do a traffic study. If we keep it at ten, we are not. This is an additional expense we would like to avoid, but of course other methods of traffic planning to avoid additional congestion will be studied, such as staggered start times. Ms. Schilling said that parents are very concerned about the size of the school affecting their children's education, and the Superintendent responded it would be our job to allay those fears with a quality educational program.

Ms. Sooter noted that, if class size reduction is removed because of the budget crisis, the plan for Dickerson School will look totally different. Ms. Merrick agreed that the plan had been made with class size reduction intact; it would be different if that is not the case and the plan would have fewer portables.

Sheri added that the state budget is much worse than last year. If we must make changes to class size reduction because of the budget, our classes could go from 20:1 to 25:1 or 30:1 and, in that case, we would need fewer buildings. However, the state budget has not been finalized at this time. Also, Preppie-K and the Occupational Therapy programs will be moved from Dickerson to other sites. Mr. Baldwin asked if the security mobile home would remain. Ms. Loewenstein said the District is looking at that program in its entirety and the Board will have to make a decision. Sheri will meet with the mobile home tenants at Dickerson and Vessels to inform them of the consolidation recommendation.

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Sheri also added that at some point we will be able to get back to developing the District office and Mackay surplus property, which will provide additional funding for instructional programs.

Ms. Loewenstein asked if the committee was ready to make a motion. On motion by Donna Wittenberg, second by Laurie Sooter, carried unanimously, the "7-11" Committee members voted to recommend that the Board of Trustees declare Dickerson School site as surplus property and use it as interim housing during the modernization of Vessels School and possibly other school sites, as well.

With no further comment, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

/jb