

CYPRESS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Cypress, California 90630

MASTER FACILITIES PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
September 30, 2009  
3:30 p.m.  
Education Center

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

Board of Trustees:	Donna Erickson Donna McDougall
District Administration:	Sheri Loewenstein, Superintendent Carrie Delgado, Chief Business Officer Robert Daley, Director, MOT
City Representative:	John Di Mario, Director Community Development, La Palma
Consultants:	Lynne Merrick, Schoolhaus Advisors, Inc. Larry Ferchaw, Dolinka Group
School Representatives:	Jodi Novy, Arnold Principal Cindy Hollingworth, Arnold Instructional Aide Dr. Galen Pickett, Arnold Parent Glenda Watkins, Arnold Teacher  Jacki Teschke, Cawthon Principal Betty Baldwin, Cawthon School Administrative Secretary Allison Ferrier, Cawthon Parent Isis Ortiz, Cawthon Teacher  Carol Erbe, King Principal Vickie Ohlman, King School Administrative Secretary Jeremy Koska, King Parent Elizabeth Dunagan, King Teacher  Tracy Mouren-Laurens Landell Principal Betty Ann Platt, Landell School Administrative Secretary Kim Masukawa, Landell Parent Julie Gautreau, Landell Teacher  M.J. Beatty, Luther Principal Kari Singer, Luther School Administrative Secretary Janie Longo, Luther Parent

Jennifer Olsen, Luther Teacher

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Jeannette Lohrman, Morris Principal  
Sandy Dzurilla, Morris School Administrative Secretary  
Della Smith, Morris Parent  
Nancy Kaiser, Morris Teacher

Denine Kelly, Swain Principal  
Karen Washburn, Swain School Office Assistant  
Ana Martinez, Swain Parent  
Tracy Cunanan, Swain Teacher

Jane Snyder, Vessels Principal  
Chuck Voght, Vessels Teacher

#### District Employees:

Donna Wittenberg, CSEA President, Transportation  
Laurie Sooter, ACT President, Teacher, Morris  
Mike Baldwin, Maintenance & Operations

Superintendent Loewenstein called the meeting to order, introduced herself and welcomed the committee members and audience. She said that the committee has representatives from every school in the District and includes from each the principal, a parent, a teacher, and a classified employee. Representatives from each of the two employee associations, the District office, and administration also serve on the committee. She recognized the parents in the audience who were there to observe the process, noting they may listen and provide input after the meeting, to the official representatives from their school. She then introduced Assistant Superintendent Dr. Linda Snell and Administrative Director Dr. Troy Hunt from the audience, as well as Board members Donna Erickson and Valeri Peters Wagner, noting that whatever recommendation the committee makes will go to the Board of Trustees for the ultimate decision. Trustee McDougall arrived a little late and replaced Mrs. Wagner.

Superintendent Loewenstein asked the committee to make introductions around the table, which was done.

Ms. Loewenstein then outlined the agenda for the meeting. She shared some District history, noting that we have opened and closed schools several times over the years. The District has always provided an outstanding education for our students, and we continue to be committed to this goal. Our test scores are one indication of this, as we have the second highest test scores of all elementary districts in Orange County. The District has always had great support from our community, and she knows that everyone loves their school, which is why this process is so challenging. No Superintendent or Board wants to come to their community and close a school. However, we are in a crisis, as is the entire State of California, related to the state budget. Added to the budget crisis is the fact that our District continues to decline in enrollment so that our schools are now too small for us to be able to operate in a financially sound manner. Cypress School District is at least 200 students per school smaller than any of the surrounding districts.

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She told the committee that they have a tremendous responsibility to think about what is in the best interest of the future of our District. It will be difficult for our community, but she reminded the committee that the children will be fine. Last year, when we closed Dickerson and consolidated with Vessels, the school communities worked together to forge a single school, and the children were very excited about the change. The parents, teachers, and other staff members need to model this attitude in order to help the children get through this time of change. It is our responsibility to help create a wonderful experience for our children. We need to move forward to create six outstanding schools for the future of our District, so that we will not have to come back and do this again in the future. She closed her remarks sharing that last year, at one of the Vessels parent meetings concerning closure, a parent asked if we could still focus on academics while we are going through “so much upheaval.” Our test scores from last year demonstrate that, during that time, scores from both schools increased and districtwide scores increased from 858 to 880. We are dedicated to taking care of our students and their academic progress throughout this process.

#### State of the District

The Superintendent shared her report on the State of the District, noting that it can be found on the District website. She shared information regarding our declining enrollment, noting that for 2009/10 we have enrolled 657 6<sup>th</sup> graders, but only 516 kindergartners. She went on to discuss the budget, sharing that we have cut \$2 million dollars this year, in addition to the \$845,000 cut last year. Next year we are looking at an additional \$2 million plus that will need to be cut, and there is no way to make these cuts except for school closures, lay-offs, and possibly furlough days, which must be negotiated. This is a real crisis. Closing a school accounts for approximately \$400,000 in ongoing savings in staffing and utilities costs. Sheri reminded the group that the timeline for school closure is as follows:

- December 2009 – Committee recommendation for six schools
- January 2010 – Parent meetings at school sites
- February 2010 – Board of Trustees will take formal action regarding which two schools will close and the configuration of the six remaining schools.

On a positive note, we have the Measure M funds for modernization. The Dickerson expansion site was finished over the summer, ahead of schedule, and we expect to begin modernizing Vessels in December. Students will be back on that campus in September 2010. She shared the modernization schedule, which of course may change as the determination is made for which schools will close. Following the formal action to close two schools, we will spend the remainder of the year making arrangements for the smooth transition. She reviewed the agendas for closure meetings up to this point and noted that minutes of all these meetings can be found on our website. Our goal is to make this process as open as it can possibly be.

#### Future School Planning Criteria Activity

The Superintendent provided each committee member with a list of “Future School Planning Criteria” that had been previously suggested by committee members:

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- Asset management potential
- Programs/schedule (example: Title I, year-round)
- Least disruption of students
- Transportation/safety/cost
- Feeder school junior high attendance area
- Existing conditions of facility (example: age of buildings, size of multipurpose room, etc.)
- Number of students in “School of Residence” (where children are projected to live over the next seven years)
- Number of students in “School of Attendance” (where children are projected to attend over the next seven years)
- School test scores
- Create focus schools (example: year-round, fine arts, technology, P.E., GATE, science, math)
- Other criteria: “Geographic location” within district was added by a committee member

Charts had been placed on the walls with these criteria noted, and following a discussion of each criteria, each committee member was given a post-it note with a “1” a “2” and a “3” and asked to place them on the chart that reflected the criteria of most importance to them from first to third. Staff will analyze the charts and bring back the original charts and results to the next meeting.

#### Proposed Meeting Dates

The Superintendent noted we will need to meet twice a month in order to make our timeline. Upcoming dates are Wednesday, October 14 and 28; Thursday, November 12, and Wednesday, November 18, 2009. All meetings will begin at 3:30 p.m.

#### Next Steps

The Superintendent provided paper to each committee member and asked them individually, or as a school group, to list the two schools they would close if they had to make the decision today. Papers were turned in but not discussed. Staff will analyze the results and come up with scenarios based on this input. The original data and results will be brought back to the next meeting.

Superintendent Loewenstein adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 14, 2009, 3:30 p.m. in the Education Center.

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