

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER HIGH SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION
September 4, 2018
Island High School – Multipurpose Room
500 Pacific Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

UNADOPTED MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING: The special meeting of the Committee to Consider High School Consolidation was held on the date and place mentioned above.

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Call to Order/Introduction

Brianna Garcia from School Services of California opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members and the public. Ms. Garcia also gave the audience information about how to submit public comment forms.

2. Establishment of Quorum

Committee to Consider High School Consolidation members present: Mia Bonta, Richard Bunker, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Jyosna Jaslow, Dorothy Jones, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelley, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Cheryl Lua, Melody Ma, Lisa Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, Serena Woon, and Cindy Zecher.

Committee to Consider High School Consolidation members absent: Bill Withrow.

AUSD staff members present: Superintendent Sean McPhetridge, General Counsel Chad Pimentel, Chief Business Officer Shariq Khan, Chief Student Support Officer Kirsten Zazo, Chief Academic Officer Steven Fong, Senior Manager of Community Affairs Susan Davis, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Kerri Lonergan.

B. REVIEW AND DISCUSS

1. Overview of Committee Responsibilities

Superintendent Sean McPhetridge gave background information on how the Committee was formed.

2. Brown Act Presentation

Chad Pimentel, General Counsel, gave the Committee information on the Brown Act and how it relates to public meetings. Mr. Pimentel explained to the Committee that group emails, conference calls, and meetings of a majority of Committee members would constitute a serial meeting and this is not permitted under the Brown Act. Mr. Pimentel also explained that this does not mean Committee members can't be in the same place at the same

time, it just means that Committee members may not discuss the business of the Committee outside the public meetings.

Mr. Pimentel explained that the only items permitted to be discussed during public meetings are items that are listed on the agenda.

A Committee member asked if the Brown Act would apply if Subcommittees were formed during the process. Mr. Pimentel explained that he would help with the establishment of any possible Subcommittees so there is not a violation of the Brown Act.

A Committee member asked about the number of members that would be needed for a quorum. Mr. Pimentel stated a quorum is the majority plus one.

A Committee member asked about the letter referenced by the Superintendent in his opening remarks. The Committee member asked if that letter can be shared with Committee members. Mr. Pimentel stated the letter can be shared with the Committee.

Ms. Garcia asked that Committee members come to her and AUSD staff if they have any questions going forward. Ms. Garcia explained this way information can be shared with the full Committee instead of singular Committee members having different information.

A Committee member stated the idea of consolidation of the high schools has been around for decades. The Committee member stated she wants to see what we have now and how we can make things better for students.

3. Role of School Services of California

Brianna Garcia, School Services of California, gave information about the role of School Services of California in the Committee meetings. Ms. Garcia explained that her role is to back up the Committee and provide information to the Committee. Ms. Garcia stated she will also put together a report at the end of the series of meetings. Ms. Garcia stated the Committee will have full input on the final report.

4. Selection of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Committee

Brianna Garcia gave information on the role of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Ms. Garcia stated the two officers would need to commit to being present for all meetings.

Mia Lisa Bonta nominated herself for Chair of the Committee to Consider High School Consolidations. Ms. Bonta gave information about her experience with public meetings.

A Committee member stated Ms. Bonta is running for School Board and asked if there was a conflict of interest with Ms. Bonta being on the

Committee to Consider High School Consolidation. Mr. Pimentel stated there is not a legal conflict of interest.

Richard Bunker seconded the nomination of Mia Lisa Bonta as Chair as Committee.

A Committee member stated it was hard to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair without knowing the experience of members of the Committee. Brianna Garcia asked Committee members to introduce themselves to the group. Committee members introduced themselves to the Committee and the audience.

Motion to elect Mia Bonta as Chair of the Committee to Consider High School Consolidation.

MOTION: Cindy Zecher

SECONDED: Dorothy Jones

AYES: Mia Bonta, Richard Bunker, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Jyosna Jaslow, Dorothy Jones, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelley, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Cheryl Lua, Melody Ma, Lisa Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, Serena Woon, and Cindy Zecher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bill Withrow

MOTION APPROVED

Chairman Bonta asked if there were any nominations for Vice Chair of the Committee.

Liza Gabato Morse nominated herself for Vice Chair of the Committee.

Motion to elect Liza Gabato Morse as Vice Chair of the Committee to Consider High School Consolidation.

MOTION: Ron Parodi

SECONDED: Cindy Zecher

AYES: Mia Bonta, Richard Bunker, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Jyosna Jaslow, Dorothy Jones, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelley, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Cheryl Lua, Melody Ma, Lisa Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, Serena Woon, and Cindy Zecher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bill Withrow

MOTION APPROVED

5. Demographic Analysis Presentation

Greg Davis from Davis Demographics gave the Committee information about Alameda demographics and explained how upcoming housing projects will impact enrollment numbers across the Island.

Committee members asked where enrollment data is coming from and if the demographic report outlines if new housing is single family units or multifamily units. Mr. Davis stated the data in the report is compiled using Census data. Mr. Davis also stated the report does not outline the type of units that are being built in Alameda.

Mr. Davis stated that the data for AUSD's current enrollment will be available next month. Mr. Davis stated the numbers for elementary school enrollment will not vary much over the next 7-8 years.

Mr. Davis gave information about "walk zones" as outlined on the map. A "walk zone" was defined as 1.5 miles. A Committee member asked if we have data about how many students currently walk to a school outside of their enrollment zone. A Committee member asked for a breakout of students to be able to see by school how far students walk.

Mr. Davis gave information on the number of students who are projected to attend AUSD middle and high schools in Alameda in the next 7-8 years, excluding the number of students projected to attend ASTI and Island High School.

A Committee member stated he would like to have more information on the upcoming housing developments in Alameda. The Committee member stated that with so many housing units coming on line, it seems unlikely that there will only be an increase of 700-800 students in AUSD. Mr. Davis stated a lot of the housing being built is being purchased by young professionals rather than families with many children. Mr. Davis stated the Committee will take a closer look at the specific use of the units at a future meeting. The Committee member stated a lot of people move to Alameda just for the schools.

Public Comments:

David Maxey – parent and grandparent of former AUSD students and currently volunteer at Ruby Bridges Elementary School: Mr. Maxey stated his children and most of his grandchildren attended AUSD schools when they were young. Mr. Maxey also stated he is a longtime volunteer at Ruby Bridges Elementary. Mr. Maxey stated there are many more housing units

coming to Alameda than are on the drawing board currently. Mr. Maxey stated he does not want the schools to consolidate.

Barbara Kahn – former member of the Board of Education: Ms. Kahn stated in the presentation so far she has not heard one word about equity, teaching and learning, or about student outcome and experience. Ms. Kahn gave the example of when Chipman closed there were many families that were not able to get across Alameda to their new school, which was Wood Middle School. Ms. Kahn stated the demographer's report was not correct when the schools were built on Bay Farm Island. Ms. Kahn stated that the only schools in Alameda that have ever been closed are on the West End. Ms. Kahn stated the conversation should not be about closure, but about building programs that help students.

Susan Coss – parent of future Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School student: Ms. Coss stated the uncertainty of whether or not the schools will consolidate is stressful to students. Ms. Coss stated she thinks there is a great deal of uncertainty about enrollment trends and demographics. Ms. Coss stated the only land available for building is on the West End. Ms. Coss stated there needs to be a plan for transportation. Ms. Coss asked if there are plans for additional bike paths in Alameda.

Jenny Abrami – parent of current AUSD student, and former Paden PTA president: Ms. Abrami asked the Committee and staff to look at this issue through the lens of equity. Ms. Abrami stated that resources are very different across the Island, but if there was just one high school every student in Alameda could have the same resources. Ms. Abrami stated she agrees that transportation is a huge issue, and she asked the Committee to request information on how students get to school now.

C. NEXT STEPS

1. Adoption of Schedule and Topics of Next Meetings

Brianna Garcia gave the Committee and the public information on future meeting dates and topics for discussion.

Chairperson Bonta asked for the agenda item to discuss the topics for future meetings be added to the beginning of the next Committee meeting due to Committee members not receiving the list of topics prior to the meeting.

Motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

MOTION: Richard Bunker

SECONDED: Mia Bonta

AYES: Mia Bonta, Richard Bunker, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Jyosna Jaslow, Dorothy Jones, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelley, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Cheryl Lua, Melody Ma, Lisa Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, and Cindy Zecher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bill Withrow and Serena Woon

MOTION APPROVED

A Committee member asked about the process for questions from the Committee and how these questions would be answered. Brianna Garcia stated she would collect questions and give the questions to the AUSD staff. Chairperson Bonta asked Committee members to write down the questions they have.

Committee members asked for a standard email address to use for community and Committee questions. Staff stated there will be a dedicated email address for Committee members and the public to use.

A Committee member asked to use the language “combined” instead of other words such as “consolidated.”

Public Comments:

Diana Kenney – current Encinal teacher: Ms. Kenney stated she is one of the teachers who signed the letter that was referenced by the Superintendent earlier in the meeting. Ms. Kenney stated Encinal is bleeding teachers. Ms. Kenney stated she thought the Committee would be tasked with looking at all options for AUSD, not just the consolidation of the two comprehensive high schools. Ms. Kenney stated she signed the letter along with her colleagues at Encinal in order to look at all options across Alameda, not just the combination of the high schools.

Motion to alter the agenda to reflect re-examination of the naming of the committee and the question on what Committee members want the program to look like at AUSD high schools based on the original intent of the letter from Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School teachers.

Note: Motion superseded by later motion.

MOTION: Mia Bonta

SECONDED: Cindy Zecher

AYES: Mia Bonta, Richard Bunker, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Jyosna Jaslow, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelley, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Melody Ma, Lisa Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, and Cindy Zecher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Dorothy Jones and Cheryl Lua

ABSENT: Bill Withrow and Serena Woon

MOTION APPROVED

A Committee member stated she believed the Committee would look more broadly at the all schools in Alameda and not just the consolidation of the two comprehensive high schools. The Committee member stated we need to do something to get a middle school on the West End of town.

A Committee member stated she also signed the letter from Encinal teachers referenced by the public speaker. A second Committee member stated he also signed the letter as an Encinal teacher. The Committee member asked if the topic on the agenda listed for the December meeting can be broadened to look at more scenarios, including what could possibly happen if the high schools were consolidated.

Ms. Garcia stated the scope of the Committee is specific, to look at the impacts and the effects of the possible consolidation of AUSD's two comprehensive high schools.

A Committee member stated the topic of scenarios comes at the December meeting and she is concerned that this topic will come too late in the process to give the topic enough time for multiple scenarios to be fleshed out. A second Committee member stated she would like additional time given to speak about programming options. Ms. Garcia stated information on programming at the schools will not be within the scope of the Committee. A second Committee member asked if the final report can include information on various ideas on programming, but that this will not be the main focus of the Committee's work.

Chairperson Bonta made a motion to on Sept 17th to change the name of the committee and to get further information from the Board on the scope of the committee.

Motion to alter the agenda for the September 17th meeting of the Committee to Consider High School Consolidation to include an item on the name of the committee.

MOTION: Mia Bonta

SECONDED: Cindy Zecher

AYES: Mia Bonta, Richard Bunker, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Jyosna Jaslow, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelley, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Melody Ma, Lisa Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, and Cindy Zecher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Dorothy Jones and Cheryl Lua

ABSENT: Bill Withrow and Serena Woon

MOTION APPROVED

Motion to add an agenda item for the September 17th meeting of the Committee to Consider High School Consolidation to include an item on the scope of the Committee and to clarify how the Committee is limited in its discussion.

MOTION: Mia Bonta

SECONDED: Cindy Zecher

AYES: Mia Bonta, Richard Bunker, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Jyosna Jaslow, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelley, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Melody Ma, Lisa Gabato Morse, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, and Cindy Zecher.

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Dorothy Jones and Cheryl Lua

ABSENT: Serena Woon, Sofía Orduña, and Bill Withrow

MOTION APPROVED

D. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:07PM.