

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER HIGH SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION**

October 2, 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

Chairperson Mia Bonta opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members and the public. Chairperson Bonta called roll.

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, Lisa Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, and Cindy Zecher.

Committee to Consider High School Consolidation members absent: Melody Ma.

Committee member Serena Woon entered the meeting after roll was called.

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

3. Public Comments

*Todd Wehmann, parent of AUSD students:* Mr. Wehmann asked the Committee to consider options outside of high school consolidation. Mr. Wehmann stated the objective the district is faced with is to be able to pay teachers more and to improve educational opportunities for students. Mr. Wehmann asked the Committee to consider making Alameda High School into a junior/senior high school the way Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School is now. Mr. Wehmann asked the Committee to consider closing Wood Middle School and Lincoln Middle School and one elementary school. Mr. Wehmann suggested Franklin Elementary School since it is the smallest school in Alameda.

4. Approval of Minutes – Minutes of the September 17<sup>th</sup> Committee to Consider High School Consolidation were considered



program without the specific teacher being interested in teaching this program at Alameda High School.

A Committee member asked if students were able to take classes at both campuses currently. Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School principal Dan Hurst stated currently the bell schedules for the two schools are not the same and this prevents students from being able to take classes at both campuses.

A Committee member asked if the combined total amount of cost savings if the schools were to consolidate would be approximately \$1.5 million dollars. Mr. Fong stated this is correct.

Committee members mentioned wanting additional information on specific programs like Math Intervention and Jr. ROTC.

A Committee member asked a clarifying question about the percentage of students who qualify to apply for University of California schools. In the presentation, that number is listed as 65%. Mr. Fong affirmed this percentage and stated approximately 50% of students district wide pursue a four year college education after graduation.

A Committee member asked about the percentage of unduplicated students in the high schools. A student is considered “unduplicated” if they qualify for English Language Services or Free and Reduced Lunch. Currently, the percentage of unduplicated students at Encinal is 43%. This number would go down if the two high schools were consolidated due to the percentage of unduplicated students being lower than average at Alameda High School.

A Committee member stated the cost savings of \$1.5 million is not enough to close Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School. The Committee member stated she doesn't think AUSD would realize every bit of that cost savings based on the fact that additional staff would be needed to be added to the consolidated school site. Mr. Fong explained that the \$1.5 million is not a precise number, but it is also a low estimate of the savings that could be found by consolidating the school sites.

A Committee member asked what the cost savings were when Lum Elementary School was closed. Shariq Khan, Chief Business Officer, responded that AUSD realized a cost savings of \$375k - \$400k when Lum Elementary School was closed.

Public Comments:

*Barbara Kahn, former Board of Education member:* Ms. Kahn stated equity needs to be at the forefront of this discussion, as equity is on the mind of every student who is from a family of color, a family that is low income, and a family that speaks English as a second language. Ms. Kahn asked the Committee to look at something other than numbers. Ms. Kahn stated there are rumors across town that this consolidation is being considered so that

Alameda will have winning athletic teams. Ms. Kahn asked the Committee why the Committee continues to exist if consolidation is not possible.

Committee members stated they would like to discuss the viable option of allowing students to attend classes at both Alameda High School and Encinal High School. A Committee member stated the bell schedules would need to be the same if this were to happen. The Committee member stated students would choose from a full catalog of classes and teachers would move to fit where the classes were requested.

A Committee member stated she doesn't believe clerical staff could be reduced if the high schools were consolidated. The Committee member gave the example of the Counseling Secretaries at each site. If the schools were to consolidate, the Counseling Secretary would be responsible for sending transcripts for many seniors and this could jeopardize students getting into college.

A Committee member asked about the bell schedules at the sites. Encinal principal Dan Hurst stated he and Alameda High Principal Robert Ithurburn will work to try to make sure the Encinal and Alameda High bell schedules will be aligned in the future.

Chairperson Bonta summarized the recent discussion and stated she understands community members and students are feeling unsure about the future of their schools. Chairperson Bonta stated the Committee learned there doesn't seem to be a strong reason to recommend the schools consolidate.

Chairperson Bonta stated she would like to signal to the Board that there has been enough work done by the Committee to make sure the Bond work moves forward at Encinal. Numerous Committee members supported the idea of the work at Encinal continuing at this time.

***Motion to signal to the Board of Education to continue construction work at Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School at this time.***

**MOTION:** Mia Bonta

**SECONDED:** Liza Gabato Morse

Brianna Garcia from School Services of California stated the motion on the table was not agendaized and could be added to a future meeting for a vote, but it could not be voted on at this time.

Chairperson Bonta asked that her motion be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN**

A Committee member stated there are seven more meetings, and he felt it was premature to make a motion to continue the construction work at Encinal at this time because it would preempt the discussion of a possible consolidation of the schools. The Committee member stated he would like more information from staff on the possibility of a consolidation because the amount of money that would be invested in the Bond work would be wasted if the schools were to consolidate.

A Committee member clarified that there is a \$40 million dollar project that is planned for Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School, including a new \$9 million dollar building that would be used to house students while the construction is underway on the rest of the campus. The Committee member stated, if there is not any advantage to consolidating the high schools, the construction should go forward.

Chairperson Bonta asked that this topic be added to a future meeting to be discussed.

3. Brainstorm Additional Scenarios  
There was not time to discuss this item.
4. Discussion of Possible Change of Committee Name  
Chairperson Bonta asked for any recommendations for a new name for the committee, and hearing none, she suggested the new name be “Committee to Consider Secondary School Alternatives.”

***Motion to change the name of the Committee to Committee to Consider Secondary School Alternatives.***

**MOTION:** Mia Bonta

**SECONDED:** Liza Gabato Morse

A Committee member stated he felt the word secondary was not clearly stating it was for middle and high school.

A Committee member stated she has concerns that the Committee is not looking at elementary school consolidation.

A Committee member stated the Committee seems to have expanded to look at many options. The Committee member stated she is not sure the name of the Committee needs to be changed.

Chairperson Bonta stated there have been ideas discussed that include middle and high school reconfigurations and she is trying to capture something that better describes the Committee.

A Committee member stated she feels that the Committee is moving too fast on

the name change.

*Motion to name the committee at a subsequent meeting.*

**MOTION:** Marva Lyons

**SECONDED:** Bill Withrow

*Motion to table the agenda item to the next meeting.*

**MOTION:** Richard Bunker

**SECONDED:** Liza Gabato Morse

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

**NOES:** n/a

**ABSTAIN:** n/a

**ABSENT:** Melody Ma

**MOTION APPROVED**

5. Review of Questions/Requests Received Through September 21, 2018  
The committee did not get time to discuss this item.

**C. ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:34PM.