

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER HIGH SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION
AND ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS**

November 8, 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 and Alternative Scenarios was held on the date and place mentioned above.

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Call to Order/Introduction

Chairperson Mia Bonta called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.

2. Establishment of Quorum

Committee to Consider High School Consolidation members present: Mia Bonta, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Jyosna Jaslow, Dorothy Jones, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelly, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Melody Ma, Liza Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, Serena Woon, Bill Withrow, and Cindy Zecher.

Committee members absent: Richard Bunker, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Cheryl Lua

AUSD staff members present: 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.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments under this agenda item.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from the October 30, 2018 Committee to Consider High School Consolidation were considered.

Motion to adopt the October 30, 2018 minutes of the Committee to Consider High School Consolidation and Alternative Scenarios meeting.

MOTION: Bill Withrow

SECONDED: Ron Parodi

AYES: Mia Bonta, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Jyosna Jaslow, Dorothy Jones, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelly, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Melody Ma, Liza Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, Serena Woon, Bill Withrow, and Cindy Zecher.

NOES: N/A

ABSTAIN: N/A

ABSENT: Richard Bunker, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Cheryl Lua

MOTION APPROVED

C. REVIEW AND DISCUSS

1. Athletics Presentation

Kevin Gorham, Encinal Jr. & Sr. High School Athletics Director, and Bradley Thomas, Alameda High School Athletic Director, gave the Committee information on the current athletic programs at each high school. Mr. Gorham and Mr. Thomas also shared information on which sports would have capacity to add students should the high schools combine, and which sports would have limited room for additional students beyond a current one team structure for each level (Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity) of sport. Mr. Gorham and Mr. Thomas also gave the Committee information about two sports that could be added to the AUSD high school athletic program that are currently not in existence due to the lack of facilities. The two sports that could be added are Wrestling and Lacrosse.

Shariq Khan, Chief Business Officer, gave the Committee information on the budgets for athletics at each school. Mr. Khan shared that approximately \$182,000 would be saved if the two schools were consolidated into one high school. If the two new sports were added, this savings would drop down to approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Gorham and Mr. Thomas presented an idea of a new shared athletic facility that could be built for the two high schools to share if the schools are not consolidated. The Athletic Directors gave the Committee information about how the current athletic facilities at both sites are currently not sufficient to serve the needs of the students in Alameda.

Mr. Gorham and Mr. Thomas presented the Committee with a conceptual drawing of what one combined athletic facility could look like in Alameda. The conceptual drawing showed a facility with a football field, a multipurpose track, and a baseball diamond. The conceptual facility also had training facilities.

Public Comments:

Maureen Layag, parent of AUSD students and Encinal sports coach: Ms. Layag stated her family is in the Alameda High School attendance zone, but chose Encinal specifically for the sports program. Ms. Layag asked the Committee to keep students in mind when considering consolidation. Ms. Layag stated if the schools were combined and new levels of athletic teams were added (such as a freshmen level), they would have a hard time finding

schools with other teams to play in the same level. Ms. Layag also asked the Committee to make sure there were as many opportunities for girls to participate in sports as there were for boys.

A Committee member reminded the Committee that some students were only able to go to college because of sports, and the Committee member stated she did not want children to lose out if they could not make a team if Alameda only had one high school. A second Committee member stated this was her fear as well. A Committee member stated there needs to be something done about the quality of the sports facilities in Alameda.

Committee members shared their thoughts about the loss of opportunities for students at both high schools. Many committee members stated their value was not to take away opportunities for any students. A Committee member stated she wants to make sure the Committee is thinking about the use of fields by middle school students as well.

A Committee member stated he crunched the numbers and it looked like there was a loss of opportunity for about 10 students if the high schools were consolidated. The Athletic Directors agreed with this summary. The Committee member stated a new sports facility was needed whether the high schools were combined or not. The Athletic Directors agreed a new sports field was needed even if the high schools were not consolidated.

2. Review of Alternative Scenarios

A Committee member stated she submitted a Public Records Request to the district for data from the Mental Health Survey that was referenced at the last Committee meeting because she did not feel the data findings were explained fully. The Committee member stated the survey was given to students two weeks after the Parkland, FL shooting. The Committee member stated due to the timing of the survey she thought it was irresponsible to say parents should not send their students to Alameda High. The Committee member stated she thinks staff and Committee members need to be careful about what is said when it comes to the East/West divide.

Brianna Garcia from School Services of California displayed the three scenarios the Committee had landed on exploring at the last meeting. The scenarios the Committee voted to explore further were:

- Consolidate the high schools into one school
- Separate high schools but have open enrollment
- Dual enrollment with the Peralta College school system (e.g., Merritt College and College of Alameda)

Motion to modify the agenda to discuss the Draft Report to the Board of Education (Agenda item #4) prior to the discussion of Summation of Findings (Agenda item #3).

MOTION: Chuck Kapelke

SECONDED: Dorothy Jones

AYES: Mia Bonta, Kelly Hartlaub Gregor, Jyosna Jaslow, Dorothy Jones, Chuck Kapelke, Akiko Kelly, Denise Langowski, Marva Lyons, Melody Ma, Liza Gabato Morse, Sofía Orduña, Ron Parodi, Melanie Shannon, Kathy Lamb-Tansey, Serena Woon, Bill Withrow, and Cindy Zecher.

NOES: N/A

ABSTAIN: N/A

ABSENT: Richard Bunker, Cameron Furuichi Fong, Cheryl Lua

MOTION APPROVED

4. Discussion of Draft Report to the Board of Education

Brianna Garcia, School Services of California, shared the first draft outline of the report the Committee would give to the Board of Education at the end of this process. Committee members discussed adding historical information to the report, including how the district got to the point of where they wanted to explore the idea of consolidation. The Committee also discussed an appendix being added to summarize the findings from each meeting.

3. Summation of Findings

A Committee member shared her thoughts about the Mental Health report given at the last meeting. The Committee member referenced her own upbringing in Alameda and she stated the divide between the East and West seemed to be much greater now than it was when she was growing up.

A Committee member stated mental health was a great concern for her with students. The Committee member referenced the recent shooting in Thousand Oaks, and she stated AUSD needs to find a way to help students.

A Committee member stated there needs to be a way to have PTAs across Alameda fundraise together so that all schools benefit from fundraising activities whether they have strong parent support or not.

Committee members asked staff to bring information for costs associated with a consolidation, including the cost of a new mascot, sports uniforms, signage, etc.

A Committee member stated he did not want the committee to completely dismiss the idea of consolidation and the alternative ideas that could come with students taking classes at the other campus. The Committee member stated the \$1.2 million dollars in savings would be a 2% raise for teachers. The Committee member stated a new sports facility could save money over the long run because field repairs would not have to be done as often.

A Committee member stated she would like to see the numbers on actual cost savings that would come if the high schools were consolidated. The Committee member stated when Lum Elementary School was closed, no paraprofessionals were laid off. The Committee member stated she would like to see cost analysis shared with the actual numbers of savings that would be realized if Alameda High and Encinal High were to be consolidated.

A Committee member asked for the amount of money spent per facility. A Committee member stated she would like to know how much it would cost for the one time moving costs, transportation for students to get to Alameda High from the west end, and how much it would cost to change the name and colors of the school if the schools were to consolidate.

D. NEXT STEPS

1. Discussion of Upcoming Agendas
The Committee did not discuss upcoming agendas.

E. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned the meeting at 8:32PM.