

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting – Oct. 11, 2022

CAC Members: Sundeep Jain, Yanping Zhao, Ganesh Balgi, David Heinke, Cathy Gomez, Melinda Hamilton, Carol Gao, Sandra Buenrostro, Lori Cunningham, Andrew LaManque, Zongbo Chen, Kevin Du, Mori Mandis, Liming Wang, David Fung, Sam Vicchilli, Jingna Zhang, Seema Sharma

FEA Representatives: Jason Heskett

Students: Kumar Chandra, Henry Widjaja, Saisuijan Kotakonda, Vikram Thirumaran, Rachael Ding

FUHSD Administrators: Superintendent Graham Clark, Associate Superintendent Trudy Gross, Associate Superintendent Tom Avvakumovits, Associate Superintendent/CBO Christine Mallery, Coordinator of Data and Assessment Denae Nurnberg, Lynbrook High School Principal Maria Jackson, Monta Vista High School Principal Ben Clausnitzer, Cupertino High School Kami Tomberlain, Fremont High School Principal Bryan Emmert, Director of Administrator Services Jason Crutchfield, Coordinator of Communications Rachel Zlotziver

Facilitator: Minh Le

Facilitator Minh Le opened the meeting at 6 p.m. and made welcoming remarks, including reviewing the agenda and content for the meeting.

Lynbrook SSAP Model & Potential Problem

Superintendent Graham Clark reviewed the current problem of declining enrollment in FUHSD in response to comments made by some of the CAC members that they were still having trouble understanding the problem. This included a review of the last five years of the District's attending enrollment and future enrollment projections, enrollment data from Lynbrook HS and the effects of the Lynbrook Supplemental School Assignment Plan (LSSAP) and information on the negative impacts of declining enrollment for students and staff. Superintendent Clark shared enrollment data that showed how small Lynbrook would have become by now if the LSSAP had not been put into place in 2016. There would have been even fewer sections for Lynbrook HS, and even more singletons and doubletons creating scheduling conflicts for students. In addition, there would have been more difficulty for teachers who have to take on teaching more levels of course, doing more class preps, or who might have to split their time between different campuses.

Superintendent Clark shared that District leadership would like to create a short-term solution this semester that would be in effect at the start of the 2023-24 school year to move approximately 30 students to Monta Vista High School. This would allow us to test a theory that

students and families would be willing to move to Monta Vista from one or more of the other high schools and from that experience, to work towards longer-term solutions.

- *A CAC student member shared their experience of being in a class with a teacher that is teaching seven different preps.*
- *CAC member: If we can start with a solution that is small in scale but aligned with the long-term goal, we will get important data points out of that. If we create a temporary/flexible solution, we can learn a lot from it.*
- *Lynbrook HS Principal Maria Jackson: We always got just the right number of students transferred to Lynbrook – I think we only had to do a lottery once.*
 - *Jason Crutchfield, Director of Administrative Services: We've done the lottery twice, and twice we've come up a little short.*
 - *Lynbrook High School Principal Maria Jackson: We have five amazing schools in our district. It isn't always easy to get students to leave the school in their attendance area and make a different choice,*

District Funding & Community Funding Model

Associate Superintendent and CBO Christine Mallery provided an overview of District funding and the difference between LCFF (Local Control and Funding Formula) and community-funded (Basic Aid) districts. This included information about the FUHSD's sources of revenue, a history of our property tax revenue, a breakdown of our general fund expenditures and a funding comparison with other similar local school districts.

- *CAC member: So, as the amount of property taxes is going up and the number of students is going down, the funding amount per student will go up?*
 - *Christine Mallery, CBO: Yes, that is correct.*
- *CAC member: Do businesses also pay property tax as homeowners do?*
 - *Christine Mallery, CBO: Yes, we receive the property taxes for the businesses that reside within our District boundaries.*
 - *CAC member: As homeowners we have Prop 13, is that the same for businesses?*
 - *Christine Mallery, CBO: Yes, their property tax is also capped.*
- *CAC member: Do we have more recent numbers than for 2020-21?*
 - *Christine Mallery, CBO: We do, but we use 2020-21 because these are the most recent official numbers available through the California Department of Education.*
- *CAC member: I see that revenue goes up and down over the years. Do we save the excess in the out years?*
 - *Christine Mallery, CBO: Mr. Avvakumovits and Mr. Heskett will share information about our Revenue Sharing Protocol and address that in the next portion of the presentation.*

Revenue Sharing Protocol & District Negotiations

Associate Superintendent Tom Avvakumovits and FEA President, teacher and CAC member Jason Heskett shared information on the Revenue Sharing Protocol, which removes the need to bargain over salaries and benefits and allows us to focus on real improvements in District policy and practice, and the District's long history of shared cooperation and positive negotiations with its bargaining units. A CAC member who was also the Math department head for one of the high schools talked about how he and his colleagues recognized the need for Freshmen students to have a smaller class size due to the wide range of levels of preparedness that they came with, and how receptive the FEA and District Administration were to making Freshman Algebra student/teacher ratio 20 to 1 instead of the average 32.5 to 1. During the presentation by Associate Superintendent Tom Avvakumovits and FEA President Jason Heskett, the CAC members were shown examples where class size, number of counselors and other needs of students were addressed in a targeted and nuanced fashion. Likewise examples were shared of doing what was necessary to keep FUHSD a positive and rewarding working environment for teachers and staff .

- *Minh Le: I know some of us have asked, "can we lower class sizes? and who makes that decision?". This presentation should have answered both of those two questions. The appropriate role for the CAC is not to manage these negotiations that have been ongoing for over 20 years, but to put emphasis over the broader issues, e.g. we want the best possible comprehensive education for our students and at the same time, we want to attract and retain the most talented and highly qualified teachers and staff.*
- *CAC member: My thought is about how to grow the pie. I love what the District has done and love that the teachers have a say. But there are things that aren't funded on the campuses, for example transportation to other schools for athletics.*
 - *Tom Avvakumovits, Associate Superintendent: We are open to solutions. People have asked us at times if we could go out for a higher parcel tax to meet some needs. But we must be savvy, if that idea doesn't poll well, we have to weigh the risk and possible reward of that.*
- *CAC member: It is nice to hear about this collaborative approach. I am hearing there is some flexibility in the class sizes for certain courses, but if we are holding firm on class sizes it ties up a lot of potential solutions.*
 - *Jason Heskett, FEA president and CAC member: We are willing to talk about class sizes, but we want to make sure it happens in the places where it makes sense. And we have certain courses that actually function better with a larger number of students.*

Breakout Group Discussion

CAC members were divided into small breakout groups, with District staff serving as moderators to answer questions about the presentations that staff made during the meeting and begin a discussion around a possible MVHS pilot program.

The discussion prompts were:

What questions do you still have after tonight's presentations?

What additional questions might you still have about district finances?

Hopefully you now have a sense of the problems that will arise due to lower enrollment at MVHS. And, now that you have a better understanding of how we supplemented the LHS attendance, do you think this might work as a solution in order to address the lower MVHS enrollment? With that being said, we would like to hear your thoughts/questions about a potential solution of moving 30 students next year to MVHS as a pilot.

Closing

Minh indicated that the district team has been collecting the input from the various breakout groups. Members can still submit comments and questions ahead of the next meeting to help inform the meeting's agenda. At the next meeting, the intention will be to discuss creating an LSSAP-like program for Monta Vista High School. The study phase of our process needed more time than previously thought, so there has been concern expressed by some CAC members that we may not have enough meetings to achieve this short-term goal. With the group's permission he proposed to tentatively put one additional meeting on the calendar in case it is needed. That date is Nov. 17, 2022, which is a Thursday night, starting with dinner at 5:30 pm, and meeting time from 6 pm to 8 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.