

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting – Sept. 28, 2023

CAC Members: David Heinke, David Fung, Seema Sharma, Daniel McCune, Wes Morse, Lori Cunningham, Carol Gao, Mori Mandis, Cathy Gomez, Ganesh Balgi, Andrew LaManque, Sam Vicchilli, Zongbo Chen, Jingna Zhang

FEA Representatives: Carley Stavis, FEA President

Students: Henry Widjaja, Rachael Ding, Saisuijan Kotakonda, Neel Sudhakaran and Jennifer Chua

FUHSD Administrators: Superintendent Clark, Associate Superintendent Trudy Gross, Associate Superintendent Tom Avvakumovits, Associate Superintendent/CBO Christine Mallery, Coordinator of Data and Assessment Denae Nurnberg, Director of Human Resources Paula Robinson, Director of Administrative Services Jason Crutchfield, Lynbrook High School Principal Maria Jackson, Monta Vista High School Principal Ben Clausnitzer, Fremont High School Principal Bryan Emmert

Welcome

Superintendent Graham Clark opened the meeting at 6:04 p.m. and made welcoming remarks, shared the agenda and reviewed the committee's purpose. He clarified some recent reports in the community that have misinterpreted remarks he made and caused some community members to believe the District is considering closing a school. Superintendent Clark clarified that the District is not considering closing schools and that the role of the CAC is to look at how we can keep all five schools healthy. He also shared a little information about the transition to By-Trustee Areas and how some members of the community are worried about this process or think it is related to changing school attendance boundaries or potentially closing schools. He stated that the transition to By-Trustee Areas is completely separate from the work of the CAC. He reiterated that the CAC is focused on looking at and addressing some of the effects of declining enrollment, while the Trustee Area process is only about how trustees are elected to the Board.

Statement of Problem and Enrollment Projections

Jason Crutchfield, Director of Administrative Services, reviewed the Statement of Problem and goal of the original CAC: how to address a large disparity in enrollment between our five high schools.

He reviewed the five-year projected enrollment change across the district, sharing that FUHSD is expected to decline by approximately 2000 students over five years. He shared that this year we were expected to lose 666 students. While the District did not lose that many, we still lost 373 students. Some people have misinterpreted this to mean we are growing as a District. We are

not growing, but our rate of decline is just less than anticipated. The District was warned by our demographer that this would be a challenging year to predict enrollment numbers, particularly with the opening up of the world after COVID-19 restrictions were relaxed, as well as other local factors that were difficult to predict.

- Question from CAC member: Did CUSD and SSD experience the same slower rate of decline?
 - Staff: They did not, although, they are showing slightly more students than projected from students enrolled in Transitional Kindergarten (TK).

Mr. Crutchfield shared information on the closure of Summit Denali Charter School in Sunnyvale and how it affected our enrollment for this school year. FUHSD enrolled 89 students who previously attended the charter school. These students were not included in our projections, and half of Fremont's over projection came from these students. This is a one-time occurrence, not ongoing.

Time was given for CAC members to have processing time with a table partner to discuss the data that had been presented so far.

Mr. Crutchfield shared we will get new enrollment projections in December. He reviewed information about the Lynbrook Supplemental School Assignment Plan (LSSAP) and the Monta Vista Supplemental School Assignment Plan (MSSAP) and the results of each. This past year, the District had a goal of 80 transfers for LSSAP and we ended up with 76. For the MSSAP, we had a goal of 30 transfers, but we only had 13 ended up transferring.

Mr. Crutchfield shared information showing what the enrollment disparity between our largest and smallest school is by resident enrollment and attending enrollment. Without our transfer programs, the disparity between the largest and smallest school is projected to be around 700 students in two more years. But with attending enrollment, which includes the LSSAP, MSSAP and other transfers, that disparity is projected to be down to just under 300 students in two more years. The LSSAP and MSSAP have been working and helping the District achieve its goal of balancing enrollment across the schools. However, if MSSAP continues, strategies must be implemented to increase the total number of applicants.

Mr. Crutchfield shared that District staff want to recommend to the Board of Trustees to continue both the LSSAP and MSSAP for an additional two years.

Discussion Time

The CAC members in attendance were split up into table groups to discuss the following questions:

- *Do you agree with the recommendation? Why or why not?*
- *What ideas should we consider to increase applications for the MSSAP?*

- *Do we need to make any changes/adjustments to the LSSAP?*

The CAC members were brought back for group discussion about whether they agreed with the recommendation.

- Group 1: Group generally agreed with the recommendation
- Group 2: Group generally agreed with the recommendation
- Group 3: Shared that we have to be careful to make sure the LSSAP process doesn't impact CHS to the point that it doesn't become smaller than Lynbrook
 - Staff pointed out that both schools are still larger than our smallest school, which is Monta Vista
- Group 4: Stated that we need more data than just the single year that the MSSAP has been in place
- Group 5: Agreed that it is too soon to change course and we need more data
 - Staff commented that they have noticed that when you give at least three years or give two years automatic renewal, people felt better about it making the decision, even if siblings were guaranteed for the future.

The groups also shared some suggestions to improve the outreach on the MSSAP, including conducting interviews with both those students who transferred and those that ultimately declined to do so on why they made their decisions. One group said that it may be difficult to get families to think about transferring because we don't have a programmatic draw on campus and also there is no shared middle school that might influence students and families to choose the MVHS because their friends are going there. It was suggested we increase marketing to families that are currently choosing private schools. Another suggestion was made to reach out to the counselors at the middle schools and remind them that this is an option for families maybe who need a social change for their child/fresh start. It was also suggested that new arrivals from outside the district in the higher grades might also be interested in this option.

Continued work of the CAC

Jason shared that disparity in enrollment between the high schools is no longer our most pressing issues. We are seeing a lot of different issues as we get smaller – fewer JV athletic teams, impacts to our elective programs and World Language, etc. At this time, the District is proposing a shift in the priorities of this group to address these challenges. As part of this shift, CAC members are being asked to reflect on their interest in the CAC and reconfirm if they would like to continue this work but with this new focus. A google survey was sent out at the end of the meeting for CAC members to respond to.

The meeting was closed at 7:45 p.m.