

Citizens Advisory Committee Update Meeting – Dec. 19, 2017

CAC Members: Roger Hewitt, Amit Raikar, Kevin Du, Benaifer Dastoor, Sandi Spires, Terri Shieh-Newton, Jenny Martin, Miko Otoshi, Peggy Alreck-Anthony, Mori Mandis, Mark St. John, David Nishijima, David Heinke, Ganesh Balgi and Elaine Zhang

FUHSD Administrators: Superintendent Polly Bove, Associate Superintendent Graham Clark, Assistant Superintendent Trudy Gross, Assistant Superintendent Tom Avvakumovits, Cupertino High School Principal Kami Tomberlain, Lynbrook High School Principal Maria Jackson, Director of Business Jason Crutchfield, Manager of Residency & Enrollment Julie Darwish and Coordinator of Communications Rachel Zlotziver

CUSD Administrator: Superintendent Craig Baker

Demographer: Tom Williams

Facilitator: Minh Le

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Minh welcomed everyone back to the Citizens Advisory Committee. He began the meeting by providing an agenda for the evening and reminding the group that the last CAC update was held seven months ago. Minh stated that the purpose of the meeting was to review the results of the Lynbrook Supplemental School Assignment Plan for this last year, determine a recommendation for the Board for the 2018-19 school year in regards to Lynbrook High School enrollment, discuss the need for a long-term plan and gain feedback about how effective communication with community members has been around the issue of enrollment and the work of the CAC.

Superintendent Bove welcomed the group and introduced new Cupertino Union School District (CUSD) Superintendent Craig Baker. Minh let the group know that Superintendent Baker was invited to observe and learn about the work of the CAC. Members were invited to make note of any specific questions they might have for Superintendent Baker, which will be compiled by Minh and staff and forwarded on to the Superintendent.

Presentation by FUHSD staff on Lynbrook Supplemental School Assignment Plan (LSSAP) and Enrollment Update (attached)

- Director of Business Jason Crutchfield restated one of the goals for the evening's meeting: to bring a recommendation to the Board for the 2018-19 school year in regards to Lynbrook Enrollment. He provided a summary of applicants and transfers for the 2017-18 school year under the LSSAP by boundary area and feeder school, as well as by resident high school.

- Principals Tomberlain and Jackson provided some anecdotal evidence regarding the success of the LSSAP and the lack of negative impacts on their campuses.
 - Principal Tomberlain stated that Cupertino High School (CHS) has 41 fewer students in its 9th grade class as compared to last year. This equates to about one less section in the core academic courses. This decrease in one section was planned for, and no teaching staff was lost. The median GPA of the freshman class at the end of first semester is almost identical to the median GPA of last year's freshman class at this same time. Overall, Principal Tomberlain relayed that the LSSAP did not have any negative consequences for CHS, nor did it change the makeup of the school in any meaningful way.
 - Principal Jackson stated that the students that chose to transfer to Lynbrook High School (LHS) did make a significant difference for the school. The transfer students enrolled in a variety of elective classes, which allowed the school to continue to offer French 1, Japanese 1 and certain music classes, which may have otherwise been cut. The transfer program meant that teaching positions in these areas were able to be kept whole. And while it may not have seemed like a large number of students, Principal Jackson expressed that it did have a profound and positive impact on the campus. All of the transfer students have a GPA of at least 3.0. Some of the transfer students did express that it was a little tough at first to get to know others within the school community, since students were coming from different feeders. One suggestion was to have some type of event or meeting in the spring to bring the prospective transfers together before school starts so that they can make some connections before entering high school.
- Minh asked Julie Darwish, Manager of Residency and Enrollment, about the additional workload created by the LSSAP. She stated that it was manageable, and that it will get considerably easier in the second year of implementation, having gone through the process once and being able to anticipate questions from families.
- Principal Jackson stated that both she and Principal Tomberlain worked very closely together to ensure that the process went smoothly and was not viewed as pitting one school against another. A CAC member complimented the principals on how smoothly the process went and shared that they had received positive feedback from parents on the shadow days.
- Jason Crutchfield reviewed the following:
 - **District Attending Enrollment:** Enrollment of 11,007 students, which is 29 students less than projected, but still an increase of 185 students from the 2016-17 school year.
 - **Resident enrollment for each School Site**
 - **Attending enrollment for each School Site**
 - Jason made a point to clarify that the growth seen at LHS is due to the transfers from the LSSAP program.
 - **LHS Attending Enrollment Broken Down by Types of Transfers and Resident Students**
 - There are concerns that resident students will continue to go down and the District will have to up the number of transfer students to keep enrollment steady.

- **Lynbrook Three-year Transfer History**
- **Projected and Actual Resident Enrollment for 2017-18 by campus**
 - Since 1-year predictions for Resident Enrollment have been accurate in the past, a CAC member asked why LHS 9th grade Resident Enrollment for 2017-18 was significantly higher than the 1-year prediction, and if this was indicative of the 'just in time' relocation to LHS area, as suggested by several CAC members in 2016.
- **Projected and Actual Attending Enrollment for 2017-18 by campus**
 - A CAC member asked why LHS was going up in resident enrollment? District demographer Tom Williams responded that resident enrollment is still going down, but just not quite as much as predicted.

Presentation on updated enrollment projections by demographer Tom Williams

- Demographer Tom Williams began his presentation by stating that both the Cupertino Union School District (CUSD) and Sunnyvale School District (SSD), have been experiencing multiple years of small kindergarten classes and low birth counts in their respective areas. As these low numbers start rolling up into the high school grades, there will be a big impact on FUHSD enrollment.
- Mr. Williams reviewed the following:
 - **Actual and Projected Total October Enrollments 2017 to 2023 for TK through grade 12**
 - By 2023, FUHSD enrollment will be down by 900+ students
 - **Actual Resident and Attendance Figures and Projected Resident Students by Attendance Area**
 - Six years out at LHS, resident enrollment is projected to be down to 1290 students based on the number of students currently attending CUSD today
 - **Relevant TK through 12 grade Public School Resident Student Trends in each Current High School Attendance Area**
 - The LHS/CUSD/SSD attendance area is down by 621 students since its peak in 2011
 - Superintendent Polly Bove stated that FUHSD will still have enough students district-wide to maintain program at five schools in five years and beyond. However, it is the distribution of students across schools that will continue to present a problem, as it is likely to worsen.
 - A CAC member commented that the Enrollment Subcommittee found that the demographer's long-term projections were not as accurate as near-term projections. Tom Williams responded and agreed that there is widening margin of error on projections that are further out. However, he stated that even if the actuals came in higher than he is currently projecting, enrollment is still going down.
 - **Actual TK through Fourth Grade Students in Santa Clara County Public Schools**
 - The trends seen here are not unique to FUHSD or the cities it covers.

- Mr. Williams stated that he believes the extremely high cost of housing is driving this trend.
- He is currently seeing some zip codes in Santa Clara County, where birth rates are off 40%.
- **Most Significant Resident Student Population Trends by Housing Type and Location by School District**
 - The number of students gained by new housing has been negligible.
 - Our feeder elementary districts are losing between hundreds and thousands of students even as FUHSD gains a few from the older classes.
- **Student Generation Rates from Recently Built Housing**
- **Projected New Housing Units from 2018 to 2023**
 - LHS will only get 4 new housing units in its attendance area by 2023.

Discussion

- A CAC member stated that if our targeted range for LHS for enrollment is 1800-1850, the scale of the solution that the committee came up with is not going to be sufficient over the long term when looking at the data that is being presented. Tom Williams responded that the CAC's solutions will continue to work for the next two years, but he agrees there will need to be additional planning beyond that.
- Superintendent Bove stated that planning for a long-term solution around declining enrollment is going to require FUHSD to work closely with the two elementary school districts. She also stated that she doesn't feel like this is a boundary change issue, but something that the districts will have to think more broadly about. She also questioned whether or not parents and the community might have a desire for something different from comprehensive high schools in the future. There will be many questions and conversations about how to address the enrollment issue while figuring out what makes sense to meet the needs of students in the future.
- A CAC member commented that they felt it was too soon to jump to a conclusion after one year and one data point. Superintendent Bove responded that while the program has only been in place for one year, the concern is that a dramatic drop is already being projected, and the District cannot wait until it gets to the point where several hundred students have to be transferred from other high schools into LHS in one year.
- Superintendent Bove stated that because she feels it is necessary for staff and the committee to have more time to work towards a longer-term solution, in partnership with the feeder Districts, her feeling is that the District should repeat the LSSAP process again for the coming school year. She also relayed that the decision needed to be made quickly so that families have enough time to make their decisions.
- A CAC member commented that the schedule change, and decision by each school site on which schedule to choose (2-block or 4-block) could have an effect on the decisions of some families.
- Assistant Superintendent Gross stated that the presentation of a recommendation to the Board at the Jan. 9 Board Meeting was planned backwards to take guidance nights and presentations to 8th graders into account.

- A CAC member asked whether the group would be using the other options that had been discussed in the original committee process during the last school year. Superintendent Bove responded that this new information makes it difficult to know whether a boundary change could provide a sufficient and permanent solution. Tom Williams echoed the Superintendent's comments, stating that he believes no single solution will be able to adequately solve this problem, but rather it will take a combination of approaches to address the decline in enrollment.
- A CAC member asked that if there are other models that a district might move to if this trend continues, for example smaller schools. Superintendent Bove responded that she does believe we could see shifts like this over the next decade.
- In response to the Superintendent's thoughts, Minh stated the proposal that the CAC might recommend to the Board: to continue with the LSSAP for at least one more year, or possibly even two, which would give time for staff, the CAC and the community to begin the conversation about what long-term solutions might look like, while also providing CUSD and its new leadership time to plan around the issue of declining enrollment.
- A CAC member expressed concerns about maintaining stability and consistency for parents in the interim. Superintendent Bove responded that in theory it could be possible for the District to continue with this set of solutions for the next 20 years, while adding one or two other solutions to bolster it. Another possibility could be the transferring of students based on interest, such as in various Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways. All of our schools currently have CTE pathways, but they vary by campus.
- Minh stated that in addition to making a recommendation to the Board, Superintendent Bove was also asking if the CAC would commit to staying together longer and working towards long-term solutions together. A CAC member asked if this would include joint meetings with CUSD. Superintendent Bove responded that she would like to give Superintendent Baker more time to absorb everything that the CAC has had more than a year to work on together. Another CAC member commented that the purpose of the CAC would become much broader. Superintendent Bove agreed with this statement and stated that it would be difficult to replace or replicate the depth of knowledge that this group now has about the District and how it functions, and that this could contribute positively even if the committee evolves.
- A CAC member expressed concern about voting for the LSSAP to continue for the next two years, if in the second year the District might need to transfer considerably more than 100 students out of CHS. Principal Tomberlain stated that she didn't foresee any challenges at CHS if the transfers remained between 80 to 100 students each year.
- A CAC member asked Superintendent Bove what other solutions she and staff have been considering. Superintendent Bove responded that she doesn't have those answers yet. She stated it might involve some type of magnet or alternative programs, but that she doesn't see this problem as one with an easy solution. Conversations with the principals, the Board, staff, the CAC and community members will have to take place. She also expressed her appreciation that these solutions did not change the culture or composition of either of the two schools that

were primarily involved. She stated that two years might give the District a little more breathing room to think through the problem

- Julie Darwish shared the very tight timeline for implementing the LSSAP, if it were to be recommended and approved by the Board on Jan. 9.
- Minh then asked that the CAC consider the following proposal on the table: Would you support a plan to recommend to the Board to continue with the LSSAP for two more years with a maximum of 90 students each year, and in the interim the District and the CAC will examine the bigger picture, which involves all the schools in the District and our feeder districts as well, and the CAC will agree to continue to work together to allow us to assist the school district to examine longer term solutions. This would also involve conversations and collaboration with our feeder districts.
- A CAC member asked whether the group should recommend two years or let the Board determine what is the most reasonable course of action.
- Minh asked if any additional discussion was required on the proposal currently on the table. No further discussion was requested.
- Minh asked the group to signal their agreement with the proposal by raising their hand. Fifteen members signaled their agreement with the proposal. No members dissented. The recommendation was unanimously approved, and will be made to the Board on Jan. 9.

Further Discussion on Communication to the Community

- Several committee members expressed concerns about beginning to get the word out about the major decline in enrollment that is coming in the next 5+ years. A CAC member echoed these concerns, stated that they have heard community members express sentiments that there is too much building going on and the schools are “bursting at the seams.” Superintendent Bove stated that that is something she and Superintendent Baker will have to work on together.
- A CAC member asked how the goal of increased communication was working. Superintendent Bove stated that this committee really set a high bar for that, and that publishing all the information that was covered and discussion that occurred in these meetings has been really helpful. She mentioned other committees that have also regularly put out information from their meetings, including the Bond Oversight Committee and Wellness Taskforce. She also mentioned the new Board Office Hours program, which was rolled out last spring. A CAC member mentioned attending two of the recent Board Office Hours meetings and shared that they had a positive experience participating in these sessions and hearing the concerns of other parents. Finally, she informed the group about the new website, which will be rolled out next year.
- Superintendent Bove asked what feedback the CAC members have had from community members regarding communication on enrollment. A CAC member stated that some parents were anxious about when the decision was going to be made by the District and Board, as they were trying to determine whether or not their kids would have the opportunity to attend Lynbrook. Another CAC member suggested the use of video, particularly for live streaming meetings like these or the Board Meetings. Another CAC member stated they felt that parents ignore emails, due to the volume they receive, and that they feel hard copy communications are

still important. The use of Eventbrite was also suggested for events to increase the number of RSVPs and get a better head count. Finally, a CAC member suggested that the District provide talking points to committee members on this and other topics that they can pull from when talking to friends and neighbors.

The meeting was called to a close at 8:30 p.m.