

Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting – Oct. 25, 2022

CAC Members: Nancy Boyle, Benaifer Dastoor, Wes Morse, Sundeep Jain, Yanping Zhao, Ganesh Balgi, David Heinke, Daniel McCune, Cathy Gomez, Melinda Hamilton, Shirley Frantz, Carol Gao, Sandra Buenrostro, Lori Cunningham, Andrew LaManque, Zongbo Chen, Kevin Du, Mori Mandis, David Fung, Sam Vicchilli, Jingna Zhang, Seema Sharma, C.S Prakash, Liming Wang

FEA Representatives: Jason Heskett, Bonnie Belshe

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, Fremont High School Principal Bryan Emmert, Coordinator of Communications Rachel Zlotziver

Facilitator: Minh Le

Facilitator Minh Le opened the meeting at 6 p.m. and welcomed participants.

Welcome and Review of Breakout Group Discussion from the last meeting

Minh Le provided a summary of the breakout group discussion from the Oct. 11 meeting (*Slides 6 and 7*).

Developing Courses of Action and Short-Term Solutions

Superintendent Graham Clark reviewed where the CAC is in the process of the Deliberate Decision-Making Process. This evening the group will begin the steps of *Developing Courses of Action (Options)* and *Developing and Applying Screening Criteria*. Superintendent Clark shared that several staff members were on a county-wide webinar on the topic of enrollment decline today and showed some data that was shared in that session, which emphasized that declining enrollment is a county-wide and state-wide occurrence (*Slides 10-13*).

Superintendent Clark then shared updated FUHSD enrollment projections through 2024-25 (*Slides 14 and 15*). He observed that looking at the current situation, it made good sense to

screen out a couple of short-term solutions for boosting enrollment at Monta Vista High School. Those options include transferring any students from Lynbrook HS, as they have already been in enrollment decline, or transferring any students from Cupertino HS, as they are already transferring students to Lynbrook to help bolster that campus' enrollment. Superintendent Clark shared that the group will be learning about and reviewing five potential short-term solutions during the course of the meeting.

Scenario 1: Implement No Changes to Enrollment Process to MVHS

Principal Ben Clausnitzer reviewed both the pros and cons of this potential solution (*Slide 20*).

Scenario 2: Open Lottery from Specific Geographic Area

CBO Christine Mallery reviewed both the pros and cons of this potential solution (*Slides 21-23*).

Scenario 3: Transfer Students from Homestead HS

Coordinator of Data and Assessment Denae Nurnberg reviewed both the pros and cons of this potential solution (*Slides 24 and 25*).

Scenario 4: Transfer Students from Fremont HS & Homestead HS

Associate Superintendent Tom Avvakumovits reviewed both the pros and cons of this potential solution (*Slides 26 and 27*).

Scenario 5: Transfer Students from a Middle School

Associate Superintendent Trudy Gross reviewed both the pros and cons of this potential solution (*Slides 28 and 29*).

Breakout Group Discussion

CAC members were divided into seven breakout groups to discuss each of the five scenarios. One member of each group shared out the key points that they discussed.

Following the breakout group discussion, one member of each group shared out the most pertinent points from their discussion.

- It will be important to take into account the contributions of parents to certain programs that a school might lose if students/families choose to transfer.
- Suggested combination of two solutions, 2 and 5, with an expansion of the geographic area shared in the presentation.

- Started with solution 2, but the question was raised, what do we do if we don't get enough students? Moved to focus on combining solutions 2 and 5. But what if students from CHS and LHS are in that mix from a middle school (i.e. Lawson as in the example) and want to apply? Will they be excluded since we don't want to pull more students away from CHS and LHS?
- Focused on solutions 3 and 4 to make sure we have more than enough students who are interested. But to make this an actual school choice option, we would need to expand transportation access and services for students.
- Focused on a broader attendance area and looked at solution 4. Also discussed the idea of having extended hours on campus to provide opportunities for students.
- Focused on not doing anything now, and planning for something long term. In looking at the middle schools and the interest in Lawson, would we want to limit to just the students from FHS/HHS area that attend that middle school? Why limit it to Lawson, why not allow this option for Columbia Middle School students also?
- No one will want to commute over an hour from the top of the FHS and HHS attendance areas to MVHS. Los Altos is where HHS gets a lot of involved students and families in athletics and activities.

Associate Superintendent Tom Avvakumovits shared that CAC members will be asked to do a ranked choice poll on the options at the end of the meeting.

- Question from CAC member: Is there an option for a combination option in the voting?
- Comment from CAC member: A lot of people in the Los Altos area purchase in the Los Altos area because they want their students to go to Homestead High School.
- Comment from CAC member: As a Homestead parent, I do have a concern about a small geographic area of choice, and if the concern is traveling, a lot of students already do travel quite far in the HHS and FHS boundary areas.
- Comment from CAC member: It makes sense to open up Lawson, it is an easy target area.
- Comment from CAC member: On behalf of north Sunnyvale, I know of a lot of families in that area that despite having a long commute might be open to the idea of attending MVHS.
- Comment from student CAC member: I want to make sure that any choice options are practical and achievable, not just theoretical. Students and families need the resources to be able to make a real choice.
- Comment from CAC member: I'm torn because I have kids at FHS, and while I like the idea of everyone in this area having a choice, especially with past history of closing of Sunnyvale High School, I also think it would pull parents with resources away from

Fremont. We need to have a balance between offering those parents a choice and not pulling away resources from an already under-resourced school.

- Comment from CAC member: We need to have an option that doesn't drain resources from just one high school.
- Comment from student CAC member: We have lots of CLIP students in the MVHS area that walk to Calabazas Library. If we can market and increase afterschool activities, that could address the concern of increased commutes for parents.
- Question from CAC member: Do we have data about the students that go to private schools in each area? I know people in north Sunnyvale that send their students to private schools, and maybe we can pull them back into the district. The reputation of MVHS could maybe draw back some of those students.
 - o Denae Nurnberg: I'm not sure if we can access that, but it's certainly something we can investigate.
 - o Bryan Emmert: To add to those comments, there is unfortunately a slight perception issue with some incoming families about sending their kids to Fremont High School. If a transfer option were open to 9th graders after families had experienced what Fremont HS had to offer I would have no concern, but my fear is about some families that might not give Fremont HS a chance if they were given a different option such as MVHS.
- Comment from student CAC member: With solutions 2 and 5 we have more control over the situation.
- Question from CAC member: Do we need more options before voting?
 - o Tom Avvakumovits: This is just an initial poll to begin narrowing down options.

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

