

**Community Engagement Meeting Regarding Program Planning and Recruitment of the
Consent Decree High School at the Marian Anderson School Site
Questions and Comments**

March 4, 2008

Questions

- What foreign languages will be offered for electives?
The electives will be up to the students and families attending the school.
- Will the math (algebra and geometry) be semester or year programs?
The courses are full year courses.
- Concerned about the number of moves the Special Education Center has had to make. When will you start the process for the Center to move?
The Special Education Center will stay the first year and during that time we will be finding a suitable location and provide for community engagement.
- Where is Marian Anderson located?
Marian Anderson is located at 4850 49th St. (off of Broadway).
- Aren't you sabotaging the process by waiting until students are enrolled through the special Open Enrollment period? Is the Open Enrollment period viable now?
We are advertising for the Open Enrollment period in several ways, by mail, by site visits and by our phone messaging system. We have held effective special Open Enrollment periods for other schools after the regular session. Additionally, recruitment will continue throughout the school year.
- Please clarify how co-locating schools will use the athletic fields, share the equipment, etc.
The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would outline how the athletic facilities, etc. are shared.
- There is confusion about the Kit Carson option and the time line with the agreement for Sacramento Charter to use the Sacramento High School site.
One suggestion from the community is to place the 9th graders at Kit Carson which would allow another year to plan and retrofit the facility for a high school.
The facility use time line is outlined in Prop 39 law. The school must submit a request. The district makes an offer by April 1st and it is accepted by May 1st or changes are made by mutual agreement.
- Is there an enrollment audit on the number of students at Sacramento Charter High School? How can this school be called successful?
The district does audit the Sacramento Charter projection enrollment data. Charter schools must be fiscally solvent.
- Is the idea about 9th graders being at Kit Carson on the Board agenda?
It is not on the March 6th agenda, but can be on subsequent Board meeting agendas per the agenda building process.
- Does the Memorandum of Understanding between the district and Sac Charter High School have to go to the Board?
In the past, the agreements have not gone to the Board; just the initial charters and renewals get Board approval. It is possible that the agreements will come before the Board this spring.

- What is best way for the public to make sure that the Board understands that we are against exclusive use of the Sacramento High School site for the Sacramento Charter High School?

The best way is for you to participate as you are in these community engagement meetings. The public can attend, in addition to our Board meetings, our monthly facilities meetings. The next meeting is March 12 at Sacramento Charter High School at 7:00 pm. The meeting schedule is on the SCUSD website.

- Will the science labs be comparable to Rosemont?

The science labs will be built by code and specifications.

- Is use of a site less than 7 acres aligned to state law?

The state provides recommended acreage for sites. It is a recommendation, not a mandate. In an urban district you find schools built on 5 acres or less. In San Francisco and Los Angeles schools are on small parcels of land.

- That doesn't fly, because there is a facility 26 acres available.

- What is the cost of America's Choice and how many students attend?

The school is planned for 500 students and currently the program has 120 students. The program has not been able to grow as a result of facility challenges. The school has just moved into its permanent location. It cost approximately \$26 million to build.

- Do you think renovating Marian Anderson into a high school is fiscally responsible?

The Sacramento City Unified School District has modernized and renovated many campuses. We have draft renovation plans. The site will allow for a quality small high school.

- There are two programs at Marian Anderson, the Success Academy and the Therapeutic Center. What is the cost to move these programs to another location?

There are about 20 elementary school sites under 300 students. Most of these sites can accommodate 400-500 students or more. We will be analyzing the sites for co-location of programs.

The cost to move a program is minimal and our district employees provide the service.

- It is important that St. HOPE does not get exclusive use of the Sacramento High site. When will the Prop 39 request come to the Board?

Typically, agreements do not come to the Board, if agreements go the Board, they will do so in the spring.

Comments

- The College Green Neighborhood Association voted to oppose the Marian Anderson location for the reason that the community is not embracing the location. I also own property in the east area and am concerned that Sacramento High is not opened nor returned to the Sacramento High community.
- There has been input to move West Campus. Please do not move West Campus. It is on a middle school campus. It is on a small campus and for several years did not have its own athletic program. Please do not move it. It works.
- West Campus is working and 1000 other students would like to attend. Need to locate the Consent Decree with an underutilized high school.

- I have a son at Rosemont as there was no room at West Campus. I did not agree that Sac High School was failing in 2003. My daughter was there. Small high schools are not working. If students want a small high school they can attend a comprehensive and be involved in a small learning community.
- I have a suggestion for Marian Anderson. It would be good to come up with a name, perhaps East Sacramento High. I did research on small schools regarding the curriculum. Many small schools offer community-based programs and some small high schools offer a high school diploma and a two-year college degree. The schools are student driven and learning based.
- Placing an incubator school, the 9th grade, at Kit Carson is a good decision. Hope the Board takes it into consideration.
- I believe that there should be courses that teach manners, grammar, driver education and training and computer literacy.
- It does not make fiscal sense to remodel a school when we already have one down the street.
- I have two children at two different small high schools in SCUSD. I am concerned about the lack of opportunities such as physical education, arts, drama and auto shop. Students need a balance. The Board needs to look at what the small schools do not offer.
- Since St. HOPE took over Sacramento High School, we have not had a comprehensive high school. It seems that a charter school has more weight than the 1200 displaced students. Many parents want their children at their neighborhood school.
- The Board needs to address the fact that the Sacramento High name is being used by the Sacramento Charter High School.

The Board has discussed the issue and staff have addressed the issue with Sacramento Charter High School.

- I believe there will be a negative impact if the 9th graders are placed at Kit Carson for one year.
I served on the VAPA task force in SCUSD for three (3) years. The only outcome was Hemispheres. Hemispheres didn't serve the needs and neither will this high school. I feel insulted that I'm given this sad location and yet Sacramento High is not fully used. The district is pushing ahead with this school that no one wants.
- The district is not ready for the 9th grade to begin. The Sacramento High site will be ready next year and could co-locate then.
- I have a son at West Campus and am a frequent parent volunteer. I see many needs and want to see funds going to materials, etc. to support the schools.
- The number one reason I oppose this is that Marian Anderson is not fiscally responsible. We have to come up with something that won't drain our budget. The district is not putting money and effort in the right places. The community is looking to the district for guidance, so help us, help our schools.
- I'm dumfounded that we are being handed Marian Anderson for \$8 million, when we have spent \$26 million for 120 students at America's Choice.
- The district has spent \$26 million for America's Choice, \$24 million to modernize Sacramento High and only \$8 million for Marian Anderson.
- I am a concerned taxpayer and want wise spending. I see \$26 million spent on 120 students, \$24 million on a partially full school and \$5 million on Marian Anderson where no one will come.
- The CDE website says plan for the future. I do not see Marian Anderson able to ever grow to 800 students. It does not meet long-term planning as the state expects. Taxpayers will revolt against this.