

**BEAR FLAG and CAROLINE WENZEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007
7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Bear Flag Multi-Purpose Center**

Facilitator
Joan Polster, Associate Superintendent
Learning Support Unit D

Attendance:

59 Parents/Community
6 Students
10 Staff
1 Principal
8 District Staff

Talking Points:

- There is an ongoing discussion district wide about declining enrollment and underutilization of facilities.
- Engineering and Sciences Small High School is a planned for grades 7-12 with 500 students maximum. It is a College Prep Program with emphasis on math and science.
- There is a proposal to utilize Bear Flag as Interim Housing for Engineering and Sciences Small High School for 1 to 2 years while the permanent site is built.
- The first reading of the agenda item to the Board of Education is February 15 and is scheduled at or near 8:56 p.m. Public Comment begins at or near 9:16 p.m.

Comments:

- Difficulty of transition of kindergarten students.
- Concerns for implication for community if Bear Flag is closed.
- Classrooms are much smaller at Caroline Wenzel—900 square feet.
- Make Bear Flag a K-8 school.
- Why not keep Bear Flag open while Science and Engineering is being built? We are trading 160 kids for 160 kids.
- Possibility of making Bear Flag a magnet school to attract students.
- Bear Flag utilizes its resources very well, and families want to keep consistency for children.
- Given these numbers this proposal makes sense.
- Why isn't Didion involved in this?
- Will this school close....or will it remain open?
- The District is embracing small high schools – why? Building small high school/Why?
- Who determines how/why a school is underutilized?
- Can you tell me that this will be good for children?
- Is it or is it not a foregone conclusion?
- Why can't we have special programs at Bear Flag to keep students?
- The START program at Bear Flags – volunteers – no cost to families (3 pm – 6 pm).

Questions:

- **Why was Open Enrollment not available in grades 3, 4 & 5 at Caroline Wenzel?**
*Open enrollment is determined by space availability at each grade level at each school.
Caroline Wenzel did offer Open Enrollment in all grades.*

- **Why move Bear Flag to Caroline Wenzel and not Caroline Wenzel to Bear Flag?**
More classroom space at Caroline Wenzel.
- **Isn't enrollment at Kennedy dropping?**
Yes, down from 2,400 to 2,200.
- **What happens with school-age program?**
This will be addressed if the Board of Education decides to blend both schools. Caroline Wenzel has 4th R, and Bear Flag has the school-age program. Both follow the same eligibility guidelines for subsidized care.
- **Who makes decision about school-age program if sites blend?**
District office staff guided by community input and availability of facilities.
- **Is declining enrollment due to quality of program or population shifts?**
We have been experiencing declining enrollment in our elementary schools across the district. It is a statewide issue. There are trends and patterns for declining enrollment. Our goal is to have quality programs in all our schools.
- **How can we all fit at Caroline Wenzel?**
Capacity at Caroline Wenzel is 528. Maximum capacity is 587.
- **Will my teacher and friends go to same school?**
If the two schools should blend, all students of the attendance area will be able to attend Caroline Wenzel. Teachers may follow the students as determined by the staffing need which is based upon the projected and actual enrollment at the campus.
- **Will we be able to avoid splits at Caroline Wenzel?**
Class size in Kindergarten through grade 3 is 1:20 and for class sizes in grades 4-5, enrollment can be up to 33. The actual enrollment of students by grade level will be reviewed to determine grade level placement.
- **How will students on permit at Caroline Wenzel be impacted by blending of schools?**
Students within attendance area get the first priority.
- **Will both sites get open enrollment requests addressed before the process is opened to rest of the district?**
Yes. A special open enrollment application period will be held at both Caroline Wenzel and Bear Flag. The Open Enrollment lottery for Elementary Schools will not occur until the Board of Education makes a decision about utilization.
- **What about the teachers? What happens to our Bear Flag teachers?**
Once the number of students and staffing needs are determined, the teachers' and classified bargaining representatives and Human Resources work together to facilitate staffing needs for both classified and certificated employees.
- **How will this benefit students?**
With more students there is more money that follows the students which enables schools to have more programs and support services.
- **Where would you put 160 kids at Caroline Wenzel? How big are the class sizes?**

Kindergarten classrooms are designed for Kindergarten students. Primary students and Intermediate students will be placed in classrooms based upon the facility use. Class size is based upon 20 to 1 at K-3; and up to 33 to 1 at 4-6

- **Why was the decision made not to use Bear Flag instead of Caroline Wenzel?**
There has been continued discussion about site utilization plans and the cost effectiveness of schools with small enrollments such as Bear Flag. Bear Flag has the smallest enrollment in the district at 164 students. Presently, 119 are enrolled at Bear Flag as neighborhood students. There are 25 Bear Flag neighborhood students on permits at Caroline Wenzel.
- **How many Con Cap students at Bear Flag? Caroline Wenzel?**
There are 3 Con Cap students at Bear Flag and 35 Con Cap students at Caroline Wenzel.
- **What happens to lower income students in after school?**
Both the district's Children's Center Program and 4th R provide subsidized programs. Both programs are under the same state guidelines.
- **Is there room for 4th R and a school-age subsidized daycare at Caroline Wenzel?**
Presently, 4th R has two portables at Caroline Wenzel. A room location would need to be determined for the school-age subsidized daycare presently offered at Bear Flag. 4th R can offer the same subsidized day care program as is offered at Bear Flag.
- **Will this be an interim housing for high school? There is a question that Bear Flag is being considered as a continuation high school?**
One proposal is that Bear Flag serve as interim housing Engineering and Sciences that will open this fall. Engineering and Sciences is a college preparatory small high school planned for a maximum program of 500 students.
- **For Open Enrollment, can you open enroll to any school in the district?**
Residents of Sacramento City Unified School District can apply for Open Enrollment in schools that have Open Enrollment. Open Enrollment at school sites is determined by space availability for each grade level. Some schools in the district do not participate in Open Enrollment because they do not have the space available on their campus.
- **Has it been decided that Bear Flag will be closed?**
There has been no decision made by the Board of Education to close Bear Flag. The first reading of the agenda item is on February 15 at the Serna Center. The Board Meeting begins at 6:30 P.M. located at 5735 47th Avenue (47th and Stockton). The public is welcome to attend.
- **Why is Bear Flag not in the Open Enrollment process? What has been done to attract students to Bear Flag? Draw families to Bear Flag.**
Bear Flag does participate in Open Enrollment. They have provided information for grade capacity in all grade levels.

Board of Education Meeting is Thursday, February 16 begins at 6:30 p.m.