

**BEAR FLAG and CAROLINE WENZEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS  
COMMUNITY MEETING**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2007**

**7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Caroline Wenzel Multi-Purpose Center**

Facilitator

Joan Polster, Associate Superintendent  
Learning Support Unit D

**Attendance:**

32 Parents and Community Members

4 Children

1 Principal

7 District Staff

**Comments:**

- A suggestion is to look at moving Bear Flag students to John Cabrillo or another elementary.
- It is nice to have one designated computer lab like we have at Caroline Wenzel. The 4th R Program benefits our students and parents.
- We at Caroline Wenzel want to welcome Bear Flag. We hope to keep PE, computer lab, library etc. at Caroline Wenzel. This is about quality for all of your children.
- Caroline Wenzel has 349 students – 35 Con Cap, 40+ permit (15 of which are Bear Flag)
  - Some of our Special Ed – Primary class 10 or 11 students in full classroom
  - Not every classroom has 20 or 30 + kids.
  - We will need to determine space for classrooms, not considering our Professional Development room, computer lab, etc.
- We hear your concerns of what programs should stay like 4<sup>th</sup> R. Programs that should stay include Music, Health and PE, 4<sup>th</sup> R, Literacy Center, and Computers.
- When you are talking about parents of Bear Flag permits, we shouldn't be penalized. Your groups of students at Caroline Wenzel aren't the only ones impacted.
- It amounts to district looking at costs. There are advantages being in a split class. We need for parents and community to understand school funding.
- They were going to close Alice Birney. Parents put up a fight.
- Boundaries for Bear Flag indicate that busing is provided for over 1.5 miles. Busing is minimal for the transition of Bear Flag students to Caroline Wenzel.
- If 4<sup>th</sup> R closes, Caroline Wenzel kids will leave.
- Subsidized program at Bear Flag – before and after school programs is needed at Caroline Wenzel, also.
- Is Pre-K-3 on one site or 4-6 grades on the other site a consideration of the Board?
- Is there any reason why you can't bus kids where the growth is?
- Who came up with this as some of our kids didn't get intervention and other services, as funding isn't available due to split classes, etc.

## Questions:

- **What is the maximum Caroline Wenzel can hold?**  
*Caroline Wenzel's maximum capacity is 587 students. Capacity is 528.*
- **Will the Computer Lab be kept or lost?**  
*Programs at each school will be identified to determine what can be sustained if the two schools blend.*
- **How large will classrooms are with students?**  
*Elementary students in grades Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> are 1:20 and grades 4-6 can have a class size up to 33 students.*
- **Are there other schools still being considered?**  
*There are 24 schools under 400 students, 9 schools with less than 300 students, 1 school is less than 200. The Board of Education and the District Facilities Committee are looking at Site Utilization Plans across the district.*
- **What will happen to the Special Ed Students?**  
*Special Education Programs and needs will be reviewed and identified for the needs of the students served if the two schools are blended and the number of students across the district served by these programs. Presently, there is a Resource Specialist Program, half-time at each campus, Autistic at Bear Flag, and Communicatively Disabled and Developmental Disabled programs at Caroline Wenzel.*
- **What will happen to the quality of Caroline Wenzel by bringing in Bear Flag students?**  
*Programs will be strengthened and united to support the needs of all students during transition and at each grade level based upon programs offered and student needs identified to support all students.*
- **Will we be informed of the decision of parents or will the Board make the decision? Will the Board o.k. and then tell parents?**  
*The Board of Education makes the decision about blending the two schools. Parents and community will be informed of the decision.*
- **What will happen to the Bear Flag facility?**  
*The Board of Education is considering different proposals for the Bear Flag campus. One proposal is to use Bear Flag as interim housing for the Science and Engineering Small High School scheduled to open this fall if the decision is made to blend Bear Flag and Wenzel.*
- **What would it look like if we had 500 kids here at Caroline Wenzel? Playground? Classrooms?**  
*Caroline Wenzel has had enrollments, prior to the declining enrollment periods, of 500+ students on the campus due to its capacity.*
- **Are students on permit going to be revoked? Is the plan to revoke all permits (Bear Flag & Caroline Wenzel), and will Caroline Wenzel permits be revoked to other schools?**

*Permits are renewable annually. Permits are granted based upon space availability at a school campus for the grade level requested. There are a number of students from the Bear Flag attendance area on permit at Caroline Wenzel, and the other permits are outside the Caroline Wenzel and Bear Flag attendance areas for both schools.*

- **How do you look at building at a new school in the Pocket area?**  
*Bond measures and enrollment specific to that area are reviewed.*
- **What happens if you close schools down and enrollment comes back?**  
*There are 5 and 10 year studies based on trends and projections that are completed.*
- **Is there district policy for refurbishing school sites after they are closed?**  
*We are looking at an Asset Development Plan.*
- **For the long term, does the school sit vacant?**  
*One step would be that we would have to declare that space available for Proposition 39 charter requests if the school sat vacant.*
- **What happens to the teachers from Bear Flag?**  
*Typically, teachers follow the students. There are negotiations with the unions. The Human Resource Department and the teacher's union work together; staffing is determined by the number of students to be served.*
- **Does Caroline Wenzel have to worry about their teacher positions?**  
*The number of teacher positions at a school is based upon student enrollment.*
- **How many teachers at Bear Flag?**  
*8 teachers*
- **Are we going to see additional programs here because of additional funding?**  
*Funding follows the students and programs are determined based upon funds available.*
- **The Open Enrollment process, will it be in place for Caroline Wenzel?**  
*If a decision is made to blend the two schools, a special Open Enrollment period will be made available for both Bear Flag and Caroline Wenzel families. The Open Enrollment lottery process is on hold.*
- **Regarding 4<sup>th</sup> R, what is the enrollment?**  
*The 4<sup>th</sup> R program can go up to 100 students. We will invite Dave Mitchell from 4<sup>th</sup> R to the next meeting.*
- **Is there room at Caroline Wenzel to put an additional portable? What determines if an additional portable is needed?**  
*Yes. Portables are used to meet student growth, support programs and student needs.*

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 15 at 6:00 PM at Bear Flag Elementary

Focus:

Answer Questions