

Kit Carson Community Meeting

Purpose: To provide information, gather input and answer questions about the recommendation to place 9th graders at Kit Carson for the 2008-09 school year

April 14, 2008

Questions

- What other alternatives is the district pursuing?

The Board approved to place the Consent Decree school at Marian Anderson. The district, in response to community input, is recommending that the 9th grade class begin at Kit Carson to allow more time for facility renovations at Marian Anderson.
- Is the reason for bringing 9th grade to Kit Carson an option other than Marian Anderson?

It is proposed that the 9th grade class begin at Kit Carson and then transition to Marian Anderson for 10th grade.
- Will teachers at Kit Carson be the teachers for Consent Decree?

Not necessarily, it will depend on the staffing needs for the 9th and 10th grades. The district will work with the teachers union to accommodate both the program and the teachers' interests.
- So the two choices are Marian Anderson and Kit Carson?

The proposal is to recommend the 9th grade start at Kit Carson for the 2008-09 school year and then move to Marian Anderson for the 10th with a new 9th grade class beginning at Marian Anderson.
- The 9th grade is a College Prep program, but what about the 7th and 8th grades, as they are not college prep?

The 7th and 8th grades prepare the students to continue their educational sequence of courses, which at the 9th grade, are of college prep rigor.
- What's the difference in having portables at Marian Anderson or the 9th graders being in portables at Kit Carson?

The 9th graders would be in the portables at Marian Anderson and the community has expressed concern with the students not having a completely retrofitted campus for high school students. It has not been determined where the 9th grade students would be housed at Kit Carson. The Kit Carson staff members want to be involved in the planning and those planning decisions have not been made. Kit Carson is an underutilized facility and has had 9th graders in the past.

- I am concerned about the transitions of the 9th graders if you start at Kit Carson and then the students have to transition to Marian Anderson. What will the impact be on the students? I am also concerned about the fiscal impact. What about the \$160,000 it takes to have the 9th graders at Kit Carson?

Starting the 9th graders at Kit Carson will allow them to start in a facility that is already an established facility for their developmental needs. It will also allow extra time to complete the renovations for Marian Anderson. Kit Carson is the smallest Middle School in the district and staff members want to be involved in the program planning. We have every reason to believe that the program will meet the needs of the 9th graders.

The start-up costs to begin with 9th graders at Marian Anderson are approximately \$485,000. That is much higher than the anticipated \$66,000 for start-up costs at Kit Carson. The \$100,000 is a reserve in case there are some unplanned facility needs at Kit Carson.

- Do you have 150 students and if not where will they come from?

There are currently 32 students registered and we are still recruiting. We are calling the students who participated in Open Enrollment, but did not register, as well as the families who indicated interest from the surveys conducted with Kit Carson and Sutter 8th grade families.

- The Superintendent stated that the school will not open school if there are less than 150 students. Is that true?

We do need 150 students to provide the adequate number of courses for the 9th grade curriculum and to maintain fiscal solvency.

- So there may not be a school? Is that correct?

We are planning to open the school September 2008 and at the same time continue recruitment and monitor enrollment. We are proposing that the Board evaluate the viability by May 15.

- What has been done between February and now? What is the progress of the planning, design and development of Marian Anderson?

Several activities have taken place and will continue. The district has a planning and implementation matrix for all construction projects which outlines five planning areas including educational program, facility development, communication strategies, community engagement and resources. Specifically, for Marian Anderson, there are draft renderings of the retrofitted Marian Anderson campus. The first phase will include a science lab and restroom upgrades. The second phase will include a gym, library upgrades and other classroom configuration changes. Recruitment has involved meeting with 8th grade students at all middle and K-8 schools, mailers to homes, Connect-ED

messages, the special Open Enrollment period and personal calls to interested families.

- What neighborhood would the students come from?

The students are coming from neighborhoods throughout the district.

- When will our questions be answered?

The purpose of this meeting is to answer questions and take community input.

The questions with the answers from tonight's meeting will be posted on our district website and presented to the Board at the April 17th Board meeting.

- Why start at Kit Carson then build at Marian Anderson? Why can't they wait one (1) year and start at Marian Anderson? If you wait then maybe you can sell it to parents and recruit more students.

The Consent Decree is a court judgment and states that the Consent Decree school must be established by September 2008.

Comments

- It is hard to believe the district as the community was not told in a timely manner about America's Choice going to McClaskey Adult School and then stayed longer than the community was told.

- This presentation reflects how the District has failed to provide a long-range plan for a high school. I don't feel the district is doing its job to provide a high school. The district is rushing to make decisions that will have implications for our children.

- I am concerned with the lack of planning as the Consent Decree should have opened by January 2004. I think people have been misled by the district survey. People would not have signed up for a school with no sports team or facility. It appears, on the district's part, to be a deliberate attempt to fail.

The intent of the District is to open a quality college prep high school within the parameters of the Consent Decree. The Consent Decree school was not meant to have its own sports program. It was to have a minimum of 500 students.

Every district student is assigned to a comprehensive high school and additionally has several other high school options. The district is proud of its high school redesign effort and continues to work with our communities and businesses to provide a wide array of options.

- It does not make sense to have 9th graders go to another school for sports.
- I have a freshman daughter at West Campus and I have to drive her from one community to another for her to participate and practice in sports. Having a high school without a sports program does not work.
- The Board is ruthless on starting 9th grade at Kit Carson.
- I am concerned about the turnover at the Board and Superintendent levels and the guarantee of only one year.

- Two years ago the community went through this. The concern is that once you do this how will you back out of Kit Carson. We fear the 9th grade will be here for more than one year. The community is concerned about the additional traffic? Nicoletti's Funeral Home has funerals every other day. Students walk through traffic now.
- There is a high school in the district that is not at capacity and that is Sacramento High School. I suggest that instead of a 5th through 8th grade program being proposed at Sacramento High that the Consent Decree go there.
- I want to make sure my kids have academic stability. I am concerned about the options/classes and stability they will have if they are shuffled from one school to the next. My kids will go to Sutter and I want the same options academically for high school.
- There will be no ownership by the 9th graders who attend as they are not from this neighborhood.
- This school (Kit Carson) may hold more than 1,000 students, but the streets don't.
- The district is not talking about a plan; there is no theme, but rather just a list of courses. I feel that the students are not getting a quality program.

All our high schools offer college prep courses. There are no distinctions as to levels of rigor. A focus area is very possible for this new school and we want the parents, students and staff to determine that focus area.

- I have a child at Phoebe Hearst and am not from this neighborhood, but I am sensitive (as a parent) to the need to provide sports, music, etc. I'm more concerned about technology and the preparation for my child to go to UC Berkeley. It is not the facility that makes the school, but it is the staff and the culture.
- The quality of teaching staff here (Kit Carson) is better than at Sutter in many ways. I'm a teacher here and as a parent and member of this community nobody wants 9th grade at Kit Carson. We do not trust Sacramento City Unified period.
- We haven't changed in the last 2 years ~ we didn't want high school then and don't want it now. Go back and tell them Kit Carson has made some strides. Why do you want to bring kids in and change that?
- Since 2004 how many schools have you opened (small high schools 2 maybe 3). Seems we are the step child. You gave America's Choice a \$24 million facility because the school moved four (4) times. We want a comparable facility; that is why we are angry.