

Kit Carson Community Meeting
March 22, 2006
7:00 PM

There were approximately 140 parents in attendance and 102 parents/residents signed in.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

Traffic/Parking Concerns

- Concerns about parking for staff and students
- Traffic concerns need thoughtful plans
- Drop off and pick up. Very concerned about the impact
- Traffic is dense due to businesses along Folsom Blvd
- Schools that are in close proximity are St. Francis, America's Choice, McClaskey, Phoebe Hearst, David Lubin, St. Mary's, Sacred Heart, Tahoe and Kit Carson
- So few details communicated, it is frustrating, questions not answered
- I bring my child here from out of neighborhood because it is great but traffic/parking is already terrible
- I do not want sophomores and juniors parked in front of my house
- Doesn't take many drivers to cause a problem
- Have concerns about traffic
- Concerned about increased number of students on campus and students driving
- Concerned about foot traffic, and security
- Impact on neighborhood will be horrible - cars are loud and traffic already bad

Safety/Security

- Concern about increased number of high school students in neighborhood
- Would like Sac PD rep at next meeting.
- Police Department is here everyday from 2:00pm on, if this becomes a High School worried about impact on East Portal Park
- Concerned about continuation school kids not supervised
- Security issue-example of America's Choice, the kids are rude at Portal Park
- Concerns about student behavior
- Not much opportunity to provide input to current site administration
- Loud, foul-mouthed students are all of a sudden in the neighborhood (Rodeo Dr.) and is a big problem
- Safety, traffic and older kids a concern

Facilities

- Kit Carson could absorb Sutter students
- Concerned about losing the greenbelt
- What will it look like/facilities/undefined details

Facilities (continued)

- Board needs to be specific
- Tired of schools that are not permanent
- In all the alternatives, I haven't heard about sharing space @ St. Hope
- Concerned with physical limitations of this school

Community Impact

- One Board member here to hear our concerns/comments
- Would like Member Houseman at the community meeting
- Design committee needs community input
- Concerned about East Portal Park and impact
- I live in the neighborhood, but have not sent kids here, could turn out better.
- Facilitators need to be informed, we want answers now.
- Believe somebody's mind is already made up-don't waste our time?
- People in neighborhood DO NOT want this High School here
- We are emotionally attached to this issue
- Neighbors fought long and hard for bike trail (M Street) from CSUS to Capitol, I do not think School Board has done a good job on this at all
- Businessman had to build a fence around his business on Folsom
- Funeral home creates parking problems, can't get out of driveway.
- Suggests Board meets at Kit Carson
- For the number of High Schools in the SCUSD, it seems there are not many in the Kit Carson area
- The Consent Decree seems to be the motivation for Kit Carson becoming a High School rather than budget constraints that motivated earlier public meetings to get public input
- Committee did a terrible job
- Could make 3 elementary schools on the K.B. Kinney property and not close Marian Anderson, took easy way out
- Better notification to community for meetings prior to 3/22/06 meeting
- Communication a problem.
- There aren't many choices for school board. Criteria for site evaluation was no reflection of surrounding area
- This location may not be supported.
- If Board to vote on April 6, 2006, community needs more time
- Please do not ruin our peaceful neighborhood and sense of safety
- I love this school as a middle school
- A 7-12 school is a terrible idea

Comments made by Steve Cohn:

You are hearing from neighbors with a lot of concerns that I share. You are taking a middle school in the middle of a neighborhood that is already impacted by traffic. There are major traffic and parking issues. The solution (putting a high school on the Kit Carson site) cannot be to tear up green space. There is not enough room for baseball and soccer fields. All neighborhood schools also serve as parks for the area. This needs to be maintained. Loss of the area is a major impact on neighborhoods.

The site (Kit Carson) is not a good location for a comprehensive high school. If you are taking the issue seriously, you need to take us seriously. You should not be converting middle schools into high schools. There is no cap on enrollment e.g. at the current middle school enrollment. There is no guarantee that parents and students would abide by strict school rules to protect neighbors, such as those provided by America's Choice High School at its temporary location on J Street. There are no guarantee that good neighbor policies such as a prohibition on student parking within the neighborhood. I will support the neighbors.

Educational Program

- Concerned about the needs of the 7th/8th graders and having to move out
- Kit Carson has been awarded Gold Banner School Award – improving on meeting academic standards
- Issue of 7-12 is not good. Developmental/social/emotional/safety is not the same for 7 & 8 and 9-12
- Neighborhood activities at park will be compromised with unruly high school students
- Consent decree requires 500 students minimum
- There are parents in East Sac who sent kids out of district when school age, if placing a High School at Kit Carson, create an enriched, college prep school that will bring parents back into the district
- Concern about 7-12 grades on Kit Carson campus
- It does not make good common sense to put 7th and 8th grade students with high school students

Questions/Answers:

1. How much does Sojourner Truth cost from the ground up?

The district has budgeted 12 million dollars. Additional joint use funding is available from City of Sacramento in the amount of approximately 7-15 million dollars.

2. Does the Sac Hi charter contribute dollars?

No, Sacramento Charter High School is a direct funded high school. The district does not receive any ADA funds for Sacramento Charter High School students.

3. Is Sac Hi Charter contributing to the fiscal problem?

There are many reasons for our fiscal problems. To some degree Sacramento Charter High School is contributing to the fiscal challenges of the district.

4. Would Sac Hi Charter negotiate use (joint- use) sooner than 2008?

Sacramento Charter High School does not support a joint use with another small high school at this time.

5. What are the criteria for small high schools?

The Consent Decree states that the school must be a small comprehensive high school with a minimum of 500 students. The maximum size has not been determined at this time. There was a suggestion from the Consent Decree Committee that the Board of Education consider a school of no more than 800-900 students.

6. Is it possible to have a promise (guarantee) of a certain number for Kit Carson High?

Yes, this will be decided by our Board of Education.

7. Why not consider Sutter since it accommodates 1200 or above students?

The acreage at Sutter is 7.5 acres and 9.6 acres at Kit Carson. Also, the Consent Decree Committee recommended Kit Carson.

8. Is the High school proposed to have the former Sac High attendance boundaries?

Yes, the new small comprehensive high school will have the old Sacramento High School boundaries. Students will have a choice of attending the new small comprehensive high school or their current assigned high school.

9. Will federal dollars be used?

No federal dollars can be used for facilities.

10. Can the district challenge the CEQA?

Yes, if there are less than significant impacts, they can be mitigated.

11. Will the design of the school be aesthetically pleasing?

Staff will work with the architect to insure that any aesthetic changes to the school will conform to school and neighborhood standards.

12. What is the plan for surrounding K-6 schools?

Students from feeder elementary schools will be redirected to other middle schools.

13. Is Thomas Jefferson still being considered?

Thomas Jefferson is not being considered at this time.

14. Does the High School need to have a comprehensive sports program?

The settlement agreement relating to the former Sacramento High School, signed 12-19-03, states:

“The new school will have a relationship with the District’s closest comprehensive high school whereby all students in the new school will be allowed to participate in the extra – curricular activities, including all interscholastic sports, of that comprehensive high school, to the extent permitted by CIF rules.

15. Can we have the preliminary design plan?

The district does not have design plans. Plans will not be developed until the Board of Education makes a decision to move forward with this recommendation.

16. What would the 8 million be spent on?

The 8 million will be used to upgrade Kit Carson to meet the facility needs for a small comprehensive high school.

17. Is it possible to make Kit Carson into a school like Benjamin Holt in Lodi?

The consent decree speaks to a 9-12 small comprehensive high school. Benjamin Holt in Lodi is a 6th grade through 12th grade school.

18. Who will be responsible for security in the park before and after school?

The school resource officer and city police will address security problems in the park.

19. Can we discuss with the city police our concerns?

Yes, we will try to have someone from the Sacramento City Police Department at our next meeting.

20. How can you estimate the need for parking?

There is a formula that is used based on the number of staff, students, parents and visitors that drive that will help determine the approximate number of parking spaces needed.

21. How to resolve the parking issues?

Staff will collaborate with the community and school to resolve issues related to parking.

22. What would it take to stop this High School? How many petitions would it take?

There has not been a final decision made by the SCUSD Board of Education. The Board is still receiving and reviewing community input.

23. If Kit Carson has an excellent program and improving, why not support it?

Currently, Kit Carson has made very good gains with regards to student achievement. However, it is still a Year 4 Program Improvement School.

24. Where do 7/8th graders go if this becomes 9-12 school?

They would attend other middle schools in the district. The nearest middle schools would be Sutter, Albert Einstein and California.

25. Why was Sacramento High School closed?

The SCUSD Board of Education voted to close Sacramento High School because it failed to meet achievement standards, as required by a state improvement program.

26. Will these questions be answered directly before Board makes decision?

Yes, all questions will be answered and comments provided to the Board of Education before they make a final decision. Comments, questions and answers will be available on the district web site at scusd.edu.

27. If School Board is looking at bringing 7-12 together, how is that aligned to missions/goals for safety?

Safety is a top priority to the district and Board of Education regardless of the grade span for a school.

28. Is this another redundant meeting-Will these concerns be heard?

No, this is not a redundant meeting. The community meetings are for parents and community members to express their concerns and ask clarifying questions. This is part of our district community engagement plan.

29. Glad to see parents here, test scores getting better, school improving, it's a successful school, why close it?

The district continues to face tough fiscal challenges. This would be a cost savings to the district to put the Consent Decree High School at Kit Carson.

30. What will Sac PD do to step up security for neighborhood safety (vandalism, gangs, disorder) patrol here-especially @ beginning/end of day? Is the Sac PD aware of this?

We will invite the Sacramento Police Department to our next meeting to address this concern.

31. Why wasn't Keith B. Kinney considered?

Keith B Kinney is a dependent charter school and was not built as a secondary school.

32. Why can't the consent decree high school be located at Sacramento Charter High School when the Charter is up for renewal in June 2008?

This can only occur if the Board of Education decides not to renew the charter.

33. If K-8 enrollment declining, then the pattern should be seen at the high school as well. Does the District need another high school?

The new small comprehensive high school is a result of a court consent decree. American Legion is not being closed.

34. Does school district compensate property owners if value goes down due to High School?

No

35. Who will supervise High School students for behavior and traffic? Do not see administration now, so what about High School kids?

The school administration and staff will supervise high school students.

36. What other sites have been considered within boundary of decree?

Marian Anderson, Theodore Judah, Thomas Jefferson, Washington, William Land, C.P. Huntington, Isador Cohen, Jedediah Smith, Maple, Tahoe, 3301 C Street (Cannery Business Park), 5005 Raley Blvd., and 8151 Fruitridge Road were reviewed.

37. Which of the campuses are on major streets?

The high schools that are on major streets are Luther Burbank, McClatchy, Kennedy, Johnson, Rosemont and Genesis.

38. What was enrollment at Sac High before it was a charter and now that it is a charter?

The enrollment before Sacramento High was a charter was approximately 1800 students and now it is approximately 1300.

39. Why would some kids come from Sac High Charter?

Students in the old Sacramento High School boundary attendance area would have a choice of attending the Consent Decree High School, Sacramento Charter High School or their assigned high school.

40. How many high school students live in the former Sacramento High School attendance area?

There are approximately 1500 high school students in the old Sacramento High School attendance boundary.

41. Would Sac High Charter and this school serve kids in this area?

Yes

42. Would this be a home school for the kids in Oak Park?

Yes, for a portion of the students residing in Oak Park.

43. Clarification needed as to whether Kit Carson is the only option on the table? What does target 2008 mean?

Kit Carson is the only school being considered at this time. It is the school that the Consent Decree Committee recommended.

44. Do you plan renovate the school before 2008? Will the renovation be minimal for this school?

Yes, to both questions, if the Board of Education approves this proposal.

45. Why is the Elvis location not being considered?

The Cannery Property was available through a lease only at \$96,000 a month. Annual cost was too great at \$1,152,000.

46. What about selling district property?

The District does not have enough land to sell.

47. Does school district own any adjacent property?

The District owns the following undeveloped properties:

Sojourner Truth, 9.81 acres – Home of Science & Engineering High School

Fruitridge, 1.4 acres (adjacent to the school)

Oak Ridge, 3.7 acres (adjacent to the school)

16th & N, 1.18 acres

Routier Road, 12.93 acres – Home of America's Choice High School

48. When did you survey? You did it in the old Sac High boundary. What proportion of parents wanted to send? 65% express an interest vs. will do it.

The survey was conducted May 25-June 16, 2005. There were 795 respondents. 65% expressed interest in the high school. 25% were not interested in the high school. 10% did not have an opinion.

49. Was there a court appeal on Sac High?

No.

50. Was consent decree a judge ordered or a settlement?

It was a judge order.

51. Would Seniors only have parking?

Staff will determine assignment of available parking.

52. Did we hear back on Health Professions to meet decree?

Health Professions High School does not meet the criteria for the consent decree.

53. What conditions of operations are being considered?

-Hours

-Night Classes

-Open/Closed Campus

The hours will comply with Education Code and it will be a closed campus. A planning committee will be established to determine other programmatic needs of students.

54. Are consent decree and MOU for Sacramento Charter High School available on web site?

No, they can be accessed through Public Records Request.

55. How many portables will be needed and what will be the cost?

The number of portables will be determined by student enrollment. Modular buildings or new construction is also an option. The cost of each portable is approximately \$125,000.

56. Will there be traffic lights on M Street?

The CEQA and City of Sacramento Public Works Department will determine if a traffic light is needed.

57. Is our energy better spent on what this high school should be? i.e. programs, physical plant, magnet school, etc.

Board direction is needed to move forward.

58. What impact will there be on neighborhood? The analysis does not include property values, trash, etc.

At this time, there has been no impact analysis conducted. The Board has not made a decision on this proposal.

59. Is there a way to try Kit Carson for a year?

No, it would be too costly.

60. Who will be responsible for security/protection of neighborhood?

Protection and security of a neighborhood is a community collective responsibility. The community is currently involved in our parent engagement process.

61. Could other alternatives be considered? Is there a way to involve the Kit Carson community in making the recommendation?

Yes, other alternatives will always be considered.

62. Is there some way out of the Consent Decree?

No, it is a judicial order.

63. Will the cafeteria be able to handle the increase in students at Kit Carson?

Yes, if not additional staff will be provided.

64. Can a Waldorf school be placed at Kit Carson and meet the Consent Decree?

No

65. Why is the district recommending Kit Carson for the Consent Decree High School?

66.

Kit Carson is being considered for the following reasons:

- Built as a secondary site
- Needs minimal retrofitting
- Reduces renovation costs

- Meets consent decree criteria
- Recommended by Consent Decree Committee

66. Do you have to do a CEQA to put a new High School on the Kit Carson site?

Yes

67. What happens if Kit Carson CEQA is not favorable?

CEQA findings will be addressed and shared with our Board of Education.

68. Is there another site other than website posted to voice concerns?

Yes, you can email Evan Lum at evanl@sac-city.k12.ca.us or Maria Lopez at marialo@sac-city.k12.ca.us

69. Is it true that former Sacramento High School students were relocated as a result of Sacramento High School becoming a Charter High School?

Yes, the former Sacramento High School students have been assigned new high school attendance areas. They had a choice of attending the Charter School or their newly assigned high school.

70. Do these students come from less structured and poorer families?

Students come from various economic levels representing Sacramento's diverse community.

71. Is it true that the March 22nd meeting and the meeting two weeks earlier are a legal formality to gather public opinion from neighborhood residents who will be affected should a high school be located at Kit Carson?

It is not a legal formality, however it is part of our engagement plan and board policy.

72. If the CEQA and other studies indicate that the District could move forward, will the District move forward even if the community is against the recommendation?

The Board of Education will consider all input and its decision will be guided by the following: Built as a secondary site; needs minimal retrofitting; reduces renovation cost; meets consent decree, recommended by Consent Decree Committee.

73. Please explain if the early vision of a high school on the Kit Carson location is a building two, three or more stories high?

No, there are no plans to do this at this time. If Board of Education approves the Kit Carson proposal a design/planning team will be established to work out the logistics, facilities, program, etc. for the high school.

