

Kit Carson Community Meeting

April 16, 2008

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

Questions and Comments

- How is placing 9th graders at Kit Carson going to affect those 9th graders and 7th and 8th graders? I've done research regarding 9th grade transitions. I have found that many districts have a separate facility for 9th graders because transition is so difficult

Kit Carson is a small middle school and the addition of 9th graders would still keep it small. The Kit Carson staff members want to be involved in the planning of the program and the research would certainly be a part of the planning to provide a small personal experience for all the students.

- Do you plan to have a counselor and other support for the 9th graders?

The additional students would generate some additional staff and we are prepared to provide the additional staff members in alignment with our other 9th grade programs.

- I'm at a loss to explain why the parties insist on starting a school when it looks like only 50 students will attend. The Consent Decree is to be a comprehensive school and the plan proposed is not a comprehensive high school. Why is the district continuing to place 40-50 kids in a neighborhood school where there are other schools and options? Why can't the Board go back and say we've met all agreements and that we only have 50 students and that is not enough to open the school?

The Consent Decree school is to have a minimum of 500, 9th -12th grade students engaged in a college prep program. The students would go to the closest district comprehensive high school for the athletic program. We are going to continue to recruit students and report our progress to the Board. The option to go to Kit Carson came from the community meetings and the Board wanting to explore all options. The Kit Carson option is only a year and then the students will matriculate to Marian Anderson for the 10th grade. The new 9th grade class will begin at Marian Anderson for the 2009-2010 school year.

Kit Carson is our smallest middle school, located within the attendance area outlined in the Consent Decree, previously had 9th graders and is currently underutilized.

- There was a problem with the original survey. It was a poor design. The survey did not go into enough depth. There is a baby boom in the east Sacramento area that was not there when Sacramento High School closed. As a parent in this community, I want a high school in the east Sacramento neighborhood; one that will give us a full well-rounded facility. I want to hear the district talk more of what we're doing 10 years from now.

The district does have a 10-year, long-range plan for facilities that was developed in 2006 and is posted on our website under scusd.edu "Planning and Construction". A 15-year plan is being developed.

- How can you go to the Board when you haven't had a chance to hear from the community? Why are you waiting until now to involve the community?

There have been eight (8) community meetings regarding the Consent Decree this school year with several of them held at Kit Carson. The Board has been discussing the Consent Decree for two (2) years at their regular Board meetings. Additionally, the Board meetings are televised and provide opportunities for community input. As proposals and suggestions surface the district has gone to the community to gather feedback and answer questions.

- When was the decision made to put the Consent Decree at Marian Anderson?

Resolution #2501 establishing the Consent Decree at Marian Anderson was approved by the Board on December 20, 2007. Three (3) Community meetings in October were held to discuss the location. An interim principal was hired in January and in February and March three (3) Community meetings and two (2) Planning meetings were held to discuss facility and educational plans. The suggestion for the 9th grade to begin at Kit Carson was made during these meetings and at two Community meetings. The 9th grade proposal was also outlined at the April 3rd Board meeting.

- Who and where did the idea come from to put the 9th graders at Kit Carson?

The suggestion to put 9th graders at Kit Carson came from the community members at previous community meetings.

- Will the district be adding portables to Kit Carson to accommodate the 9th grade students?

The district will not add portables. The capacity of Kit Carson is 1012 and currently the enrollment is 488; well below the capacity.

- Where did the 150 student number come from as the number needed to go forward?

It will take approximately 150 students to provide a quality secondary program, support the necessary staff and be fiscally viable.

- What will stop you from putting 10th grade here at Kit Carson?

The Board of Education values community input and two years ago heard the community and did not proceed with the full 9-12 high school proposal. The proposal is for the 9th grade and for one year.

- Is the proposal for 9th graders to remain here?

The proposal is to place the 9th grade class at Kit Carson for one year and then move to Marian Anderson. In 2009-10 we will open the Consent Decree at Marian Anderson with 9th and 10th graders.

- How many total surveys were sent out this year?

The information regarding the Special Open Enrollment Session went to 3,599 eighth (8th) grade families. The Kit Carson and Sutter phone survey went to 877 eighth (8th) grade families.

- What safety precautions will be taken for crossing at Folsom Blvd.?

The additional students will generate additional campus monitor time for the entire school.

- I think we are doing an injustice to students by not letting them transition to a high school.

- I'm troubled by the public process. The Board agenda has the resolution already on the agenda and the community meetings feel like a last minute decision. There were no phone calls and no notification. I was notified by a neighbor. The small numbers do not adequately represent the amount of concern there is about putting the 9th graders at Kit Carson.

There have been eight (8) community meetings from late October through April about the Consent Decree school. We have used a variety of methods to inform the public of these meetings including our phone messaging system, flyers, the Sacramento Bee, our elementary schools and mailers. Additionally, we informed the elected officials and the neighborhood associations.

For the April meeting we sent flyers to Kit Carson and feeder elementary schools, used the phone messaging system, informed the neighborhood associations and the Kit Carson staff distributed flyers to residents and businesses in the immediate Kit Carson neighborhood.