

**Marian Anderson Community Meeting**  
**March 7, 2006**  
**6:00 – 7:30**  
**Thirty-three (33) parents/residents attended**

**Comments:**

Many parents inquired about where their child(ren) would attend  
Open Enrollment is taking our students away  
This situation is hurting families and students  
Building new homes  
Neighborhood is getting new homes  
Make Marian Anderson a K-8 school – better for relationships with families and school staff  
Transportation concerns – many parents do not have cars and will have difficulty picking up sick students and attending meetings.  
Schools should serve the neighborhood students (No Charters, Basics, or Open Enrollment)  
We love this school – produced a teacher and a graphic designer!  
Some students moved out for bad behavior  
There should not be permits for students to leave  
Bring in Parent Classes – day and night  
Parents in the Elmhurst area are supportive of the Special Education Center at Marian Anderson and with students attending David Lubin  
Safety is a strength of Marian Anderson – not a reason for closure  
Small classes and the small school is a positive feature  
Families need child care services  
Police department is nearby  
Many parents work around the campus

**Questions:**

**What are the schools with 4<sup>th</sup> R programs?**

*The 4<sup>th</sup> R Programs are located at Alice Birney, Bret Harte, John Morse, O.W. Erlewine, Phoebe Hearst, Pony Express, Hubert Bancroft, John Cabrillo, Sequoia, Thomas Jefferson, Fruit Ridge, Golden Empire, and Hollywood Park.*

**Can we blend Special Education students with existing students in the vacant classrooms at Marian Anderson?**

*The plan for the Special Education Center calls for a site with special features to serve the needs of the students. It is necessary to have a site specifically to accommodate the needs of the special education students.*

**How will English Learners be supported?**

*English Learners will be supported as they are currently by teachers with the credential specifically designated to work with English Learners. These teachers are in all of our elementary schools and utilize the same instructional strategies and materials.*

**Can overenrolled students be bussed to Marian Anderson?**

*Marian Anderson currently receives overenrolled students from other schools. The schools designated to receive students are determined by how close the students live to the school sending the students. Since there is a decline in elementary school students throughout our elementary schools there are not a significant number of students around the Marian Anderson school needing another school placement.*

**Will transportation be available for students going to another school?**

**Will transportation be available for safety reasons?**

*Board policy states that elementary students who live more than one and half miles from their designated school will be transported by district transportation. The district also makes considerations for safety issues such as busy streets and freeway overcrossings.*

**What are the safety concerns related to Marian Anderson students?**

*The safety concerns are related to a school being in a commercial area that may include increased traffic, speed of cars, large number of people coming and going into the surrounding buildings. In the case of the Special Education Center, the number of students are fewer and with more adult supervision.*

**Can GATE classes be brought in to Marian Anderson? Why do we send GATE students out?**

*Currently, there are schools with designated GATE classes or centers. Some elementary schools also offer multi-grade classes for Gate and high achieving students. The Gate centers are Peter Burnett, Pony Express, Sutterville, Phoebe Hearst, and Isador Cohen. Schools with multi-grade classes or classes for high achieving students are Lisbon, Martin Luther King, Jr. Theodore Judah, David Lubin, Bret Harte, and Crocker/Riverside.*

**Will there be a special Open Enrollment session for Marian Anderson students and will they have an opportunity for application as the other student/families have?**

*We will provide a special time for parents to apply for Open Enrollment. The district is currently working on the details.*

**What might be the schools that the Marian Anderson students would attend?**

*The schools might be Caleb Greenwood, David Lubin, Bret Harte, Tahoe, and perhaps Oak Ridge. Parents may also apply to Phoebe Hearst and Keith B. Kenny through Open Enrollment. There may be other schools depending on the school closest to the student's address.*

**Would there be boundary changes?**

*The district will be examining the boundaries for all of our K-12 schools in the near future. For Marian Anderson students, there will be adjustments to the neighboring schools attendance areas.*

**Would 6<sup>th</sup> graders be able to attend Kit Carson instead of designated elementary schools?**

*Currently, Kit Carson is being considered and studied for a 7-12 grade configuration. The plans at this time are not to have 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Kit Carson.*

**Has there been a study to determine that it is educationally sound to put special education students together?**

*This Center concept is based on the practices of other districts and the need for our district to build a transitional program for some of our special education students. The Center is designed to meet a therapeutic component specifically designed to meet the needs of the students and increase the probability that as students gain success in meeting their goals they will be transitioned to their neighborhood school.*

**Can we put both the Special Education Center and Marian Anderson students together?**

*A significant amount of space is needed for the Special Education Center and there will also need to be some retro-fit of the rooms to accommodate the needs of the students.*

**What are the special facility needs of the Special Education Center?**

*Some of the special facility needs include consultation rooms, time-out rooms, family counseling rooms, testing rooms and rooms with observation capabilities*

**How long would the transition take?**

*The transition to other schools could be planned in the spring of 2006 for implementation August/Sept. of 2006.*

**What is the transition process?**

*The transition process includes but is not limited to the following: determining the capacity of neighboring school; the number and grade levels of the students closest to the neighboring schools; making the new school assignments; identifying students and communicating to parents; and determining transportation needs and routes.*

**Is the decline in enrollment a permanent trend?**

*At this time our projections show that the decline of elementary schools students will continue for several more years. This decline is also apparent in other school districts in California as San Juan and Oakland have closed a significant number of elementary schools.*

**What are the education programs in place at the other schools for Marian Anderson students?**

*All of the neighboring schools have No Child Left Behind programs, school improvement programs, and services for English language learners.*

**Is the plan to fill the other schools? And what is the capacity? Will there be extra staff?**

*Part of the transition phase will be to determine the capacity of each of the neighboring school sites and to determine if the school currently has space for the students. The capacity of each school site is different depending on the building configuration and the number and size of the classrooms. The appropriate number of teachers will be added to accommodate the students.*

**What is the ideal size of an elementary school and will we be making large elementary schools?**

*The ideal size of an elementary school is often determined by the needs of the students. An ideal elementary school is usually in a range of 500 – 550 students. It is the district's intent not to make a school larger than the facility can accommodate nor extremely large in student numbers.*

**How can you avoid concapping out incoming Marian Anderson students if the school is full at that grade level?**

*During the transition phase the number and grade level of the students will be studied to properly plan classroom and staff for the students.*

**Would the Special Education Center take the whole site?**

*The Special Education Center will not take the entire site in the beginning. However, the Center is expected to grow and house other special education programs.*

**How can the Mind Institute help the students?**

*Partnership discussions are in the very early stages and future discussions will need to take place to determine the specific assistance.*

**Is there a new development to the east of the Marian Anderson?**

*The Seven-Eleven Committee studied the new developments and this one was not noted. The district is currently researching this area.*

**If a family has two or more children will the entire family be accommodated at the new school?**

*Yes, the entire family will be assigned to the new school.*

**How will future kindergarten students be notified?**

*The district is sending communication to the residents not just the parents of current students. We will also advertise in the newspapers, with the Neighborhood Associations and in the ethnic papers and radio stations.*

**Would the Marian Anderson Child Care Center stay at Marian Anderson or relocate?**

*At this time, there are no plans to relocate the Child Care Center.*

**How many students will attend the Special Education Center?**

*Initially, the plans are for about 110 students. The Center is expected to grow with other services.*

**What happens to the class sizes as Marian Anderson students transition to other schools?**

*All elementary schools currently have a class size of 20 students in Kindergarten through third grade classes. The class size for fourth through sixth grades is 33 students.*