



NOTES

School of Engineering and Sciences (SES) Community Engagement Meetings

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

John F. Kennedy High School Cafeteria

I. Introductions by Arturo Flores of District Staff

A. Staff Responsible for Curriculum and Instruction

1. Nancy Wai, Administrator LSU C
2. Evan Lum, Associate Superintendent LSU C
3. Arturo Flores, Associate Superintendent LSU A

B. Staff Responsible for Facilities

1. Bill West, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Support Services
2. Jim Dobson, Director of Planning & Construction
3. Richard Conn, Custodial Supervisor

C. Special Advisor

Matt Perry, Principal of Arthur Benjamin Health Professions High School

II. Purpose of Community Engagement Meetings (Arturo Flores)

The Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) will be holding a series of meetings to answer questions and inform staff, parents, students and the community about the proposed School of Engineering and Sciences (SES). The proposed location of new school will be at the Sojourner Truth Park in the Pocket area of Sacramento at the corner of Swale River Road and Gloria Drive.

Information from meetings will be shared with SCUSD Board of Education and the Sacramento City Community.

III. Process used for decision-making (Nancy Wai)

In August 2005, SCUSD staff was given the direction by the Board of Education to gather input from all stakeholders, parents, students, community members and District staff on their priorities regarding the use of bond funds as related to High School Reform.

After providing the Board of Education with different scenarios for using the available funds, the Board approved the building of the School of Engineering and Sciences on March 16, 2006. The school is scheduled to open in a temporary location in September 2007 and to open in the permanent site in September 2008.

IV. Curricular Aspects of New School (Matt Perry)

The school is scheduled to open in September 2007 at temporary site with 7th and 9th grade students. In September 2008, grades 8 and 10 will be added, with one additional grade level added every year thereafter until the school reaches a maximum of 500 students. Students will be accepted into the school through district-wide open enrollment.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Website provided as a resource for parents (www.ptw.org).

We currently have a strong partnership with California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). 12th grade students will be able to transition to CSUS to enroll in college classes

V. Questions & Answers

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Why 7th grade through 12th grade?	Opening in September 2007 with 7th and 9th grade levels, we are able to provide an articulated and supportive program for students to be prepared to take courses at CSUS as seniors. Students enrolled in the school who are below the "proficient" performance level will be able to receive an accelerated program that can start as early as the 7 th grade.
Concern with Greenhouse Impact: Will there be consideration for an energy efficient school with new technology as a learning environment?	The design of the school is part of the ongoing discussion by the committee. Considerations will include budget and the short timeframe for completion.
In regards to a partnership with SMUD, what commitment and resources will be available for the new school?	Currently, District is participating in a SMUD rebate program for lighting and energy efficiency.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>Concern: Who will be attending the new school?</p> <p>Staff at Kennedy High School are concerned that this new school will pull the “best and the brightest” from Kennedy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new SES will be open to all students in the SCUSD through Open Enrollment. • SCUSD currently has approximately 4000 8th graders within the District. This does not include private school students. With a maximum of 500 students in the SES when fully enrolled in grades 7th through 12th, we are planning to recruit approximately 90 students per year per grade level from the entire district. <p>Considering the above, we anticipate that the new school will affect a very small percentage of students at Kennedy High.</p>
<p>How are we going to provide equity between the engineering programs at Kennedy High & School of Engineering and Sciences?</p>	<p>The two schools are different. Students attending Kennedy High School and enrolling in their Engineering Small Learning Community (SLC) will have the opportunity of attending a large high school and all the benefits of a large school, including a wide selection of elective classes, sports, etc.. Students will also be able to enroll in engineering classes in their SLC.</p> <p>Students attending the School of Engineering and Sciences will be attending a smaller school. Course selections will be limited, but the offerings will have focus on engineering and sciences.</p>
<p>90% of the students at Kennedy come from two middle schools. How will we provide an equitable program without quotas? How does that work?</p>	<p>The Open Enrollment process creates a random list. There are no GPA requirements to get into any of the new small high schools. Enrollment is open to all students – this is one of the Gates Foundation Core Values. We will be recruiting students from around the Sacramento region.</p>
<p>There is a large high school perception that students are not safe – what is being done to address this issue?</p>	<p>This question will be forwarded to the SCUSD Safety Advisory Committee for response.</p>
<p>Why not make a school within a school here at Kennedy?</p>	<p>One of the limiting factors with the Gates Foundation is that schools have to be “stand-alone” facilities of 500 students or less.</p>
<p>What might the curriculum look like? What types of courses will be offered at the new school?</p>	<p>Coursework for grades 7 and 8 will be similar to courses offered in other middle schools, with an emphasis on sciences, with support for students needing academic intervention.</p> <p>Coursework for grades 9 through 12 will meet graduation requirements. In addition, the committee will consider the following features:</p>

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporates into the curriculum project-based learning and applied learning. Students will understand the importance of experimentations through hands-on learning and applications. • Integrates into the curriculum not only academic content standards, but standards for engineering and sciences and for career preparation standards. • Provides students opportunities to take their 12th grade coursework at a university campus. The study can include both SCUSD and university-level coursework. At the same time, university instructors may be teaching at the SCUSD school site. • Provides students opportunities for internship and job shadowing in the Engineering and Science fields while in high school. • Provides students timely and ongoing pyramid of acceleration. • Provides a personalized educational environment, through smaller class size <p>Support classes will be available to all students needed additional help.</p>
Is there a difference is the amount of money spent per student between the new school and Kennedy? How do you ensure equity of funding per student?	Student funding is at the same level as the large comprehensive high schools. SES is not a Charter School. SES is pursuing an effective grant initiative to attract outside money for the program.
You say that students are coming back into the District; are they really?	Yes, through the High School Reform work we are doing in SCUSD, we are bringing back private high school students to public education at \$6,000 apportionment per student.
Can this school motivate student to focus on Science & Engineering and close the achievement gap?	There will be a series of supports for the students. We will have a partnership with CSUS where graduate students serve as mentors to SES students.
Proximity to Kennedy H.S. is a concern, similar to the proximity between Hiram Johnson Main and West Campus. How will we ensure equity of ethnicity and attract a diverse student population? What are the enrollment criteria?	<p>The SES is not the same as West Campus. We will be ensuring socio-economic equity, ethnic and also gender equity through the District Open Enrollment process. The committee will be working on the enrollment process.</p> <p>The new school will not have entrance requirements, thereby ensuring that enrollment will truly represent the district student population.</p>

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>What specific impact will the new School of Engineering and Sciences have on the immediate neighbors of the Sojourner Truth location?</p>	<p>Patricia Clark, from City Councilman Robbie Water's office, has held three meetings with the immediate neighbors of Sojourner Truth Park. The community is excited about the school and is working on developing expectations for student behavior and looking very favorably on new SES. The structure will complement the neighborhood with an open and welcoming library.</p>
<p>What impact will the new school and library have on the park facility/little league fields?</p>	<p>We plan to keep the baseball fields as intact as possible in the design of the new site. It will involve some challenges, but working together we can make it work.</p>
<p>What information do we have about the Library?</p>	<p>Katie Furl from the Friends of the Library spoke about the great investment in the Community this new Joint Use Library will be. The Library will be open to the community.</p>