

**BEAR FLAG and CAROLINE WENZEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2007
6:00 p.m.
Bear Flag Multi-Purpose Room**

Facilitator
Joan Polster, Associate Superintendent
Learning Support Unit D

Attendance:

32 Parents/Community
11 Staff
1 Principal
5 District

Talking Points:

- The District Facilities Committee has been looking at full utilization of our schools.
- Two schools that have been reviewed as underused school sites are Caroline Wenzel and Bear Flag.
- We are beginning a series of community meetings to hear tonight from Caroline Wenzel. Feedback from these meetings will be presented to the Board of Education. We also want to listen to issues so we may address your concerns.
- This past year the 6th grade students at Bear Flag were moved to Caroline Wenzel due to low enrollment at Bear Flag.
- Typically, we need 450 students enrolled in our elementary schools to meet our costs.
- Open Enrollment will be available for both schools should the Board of Education decide to blend the two schools.
- Families on permit are renewed annually dependent upon space availability at a school site in the grade level being requested.
- With smaller enrollments on campus, the schools receive less in resources.
- Due to the smaller enrollment at Bear Flag, grade level meetings do not occur at all grades because they do not have the multiple grade level capacity at Bear Flag.
- Last year, the Board of Education looked at a similar situation at Marian Anderson Elementary School and students were transitioned to other school sites for full utilization plans.
- Sacramento City Unified School District has 14 schools with less than 350 students.

Comments:

- How about re-designating boundaries? And are you looking at the Section 8 housing along Riverside?
- Is it possible to blend our kids with high school charter kids?
- Can we have some consideration for families to be put at the beginning of the Board Agenda?
- Instead of moving kids out of Bear Flag, can we Con Cap to Bear Flag?
- Why can't half of Caroline Wenzel come over to balance count?
- We only have one split class at Bear Flag.
- Is it a greater impact if parents have a voice? Parents need to voice concerns. These chairs aren't full. We need to pass along information to parents. The District Guiding Principle reads to value and honor stakeholders. Parents should get the same level of service at the new school.
- Caroline Wenzel has small pods. Smaller classrooms.

- I am concerned how serious the Board takes our concerns of a 5 year old walking to Caroline Wenzel.
- I find it really nice to have Small Learning Communities in elementary. Let's do small schools where it counts – Keep all small at elementary.
- We were caught off guard at staff meeting on Thursday about this proposal. Parents were not informed until Friday.

Questions:

Will after school services be provided at Caroline Wenzel?

Yes. Presently the 4th R Program is at Caroline Wenzel and Bear Flag Elementary has an after school Children's Center Program.

Can my child go to Alice Birney for Special Ed?

Special Education will work with you and the families to support your child's program needs.

Will we have subsidized programs at Bear Flag to follow students to Caroline Wenzel?

We will need to research both programs to make the information available for parents regarding subsidized care as outlined by state guidelines. A determination has not been made.

Is Caroline Wenzel on the list for after school programs?

Yes. Caroline Wenzel has after school programs for children through 4th R.

Will transportation be provided?

Board policy states that elementary students who live more than 1.5 miles from their designated attendance area school will receive district transportation. Safety is always a consideration.

How many students can be enrolled at Caroline Wenzel? Are there more classrooms at Caroline Wenzel? Can Caroline Wenzel hold all of the students of Bear Flag without being disruptive?

Caroline Wenzel can hold up to 500 students. There is more classroom space at Caroline Wenzel. Capacity at Caroline Wenzel is designed to support elementary schools for class size of 1 to 20 in grades K-3; and up to 33 students in grades 4-6.

How many teachers will transfer to Caroline Wenzel? Will they move with students?

The number of teachers that may transfer to Caroline Wenzel is determined by how many Bear Flag students go to Caroline Wenzel. We work with the teachers' union to identify teachers.

When is the earliest this would be implemented?

If the Board of Education should decide to implement this plan, transition would be scheduled for the start of the new school year in September.

Will we know at February 15th what Board decides?

The 1st meeting for the Board of Education to review the proposal is Thursday, February 15. The Board meetings begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Serna Center located at 5735 47th Avenue (47th and Stockton).

Is the facility larger at Caroline Wenzel or Bear Flag?

The facility is larger at Caroline Wenzel.

Will pre-school program move with Bear Flag? What will happen with pre-schoolers?

The pre-school program is based upon need, and that would need to be determined.

Do permits automatically transfer? What will happen to my permit? Will it follow a kid?

Permits do not automatically transfer. Permits are renewed annually at each school site dependent upon space availability.

Is February 15 a public meeting? What is the mechanism for future meetings? When will we know the answer to these questions?

Yes, February 15 is a public Board of Education Meeting date. We will conduct more community meetings to provide responses to the questions asked. We will post information on SCUSD website.

What becomes of this site if Bear Flag moves to Caroline Wenzel?

The Board of Education will discuss the utilization plan for Bear Flag if the two schools should blend. One proposal is to make this facility an interim site for the Engineering and Sciences Small High School. Also, Proposition 39 allows for charter schools use of District facilities if facilities are underutilized. We have 13 formal requests for charter.

What does charter school mean?

This is public funding with state funds run by non-profit organizations.

In Open Enrollment, can I apply to Crocker/Riverside instead of Caroline Wenzel?

Yes. Open Enrollment is a lottery system based upon grade levels available at school sites if space is available for the grade level requested.

Is space available at Didion in Open Enrollment?

Didion does not participate in Open Enrollment as there is no space available in their grade levels.

When is the earliest/latest for deciding on this subject?

The earliest the Board of Education may decide on this subject would be the March 15 Board Meeting.

If all of our kids go to Caroline Wenzel, will we have some con-cap?

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

Should the Caroline Wenzel Principal be leaving, what is the process for hiring a new principal?

The vacancy could be an administrative transfer or posted for the hiring and interview process.

Does this all mean that A.D.A. funding is less at Bear Flag?

Yes, as number of students decline, so does funding. Funding is based on per-pupil daily attendance basis.

Is any of this based on test scores at Bear Flag?

No, the proposal to review the utilization plans at Bear Flag and Caroline Wenzel is due to declining enrollment and a need to fully utilize school sites.

Is there any other way to get funded?

Presently the schools are funded through state and federal dollars. Other ways that schools receive funding include grants.

Will the autism class move from Bear Flag to Caroline Wenzel?

Special Education will be involved to determine program needs for the students to be served.

Open Enrollment ends this week. What will be done for Open Enrollment?

We will have separate process for Bear Flag families and do it at the school site if the Board of Education should decide to blend the two schools. The Open Enrollment lottery process will not take place until we have direction from the Board of Education.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, February 13, 2007 6:00 p.m. at the Bear Flag Multi-purpose Room

Focus:

Answering Questions