

**Community Engagement Meeting Regarding Program Planning and Recruitment
of the Consent Decree High School at the Marian Anderson School Site
Questions and Comments
February 27, 2008**

Questions

- As stated in today's Sacramento Bee – Consent Decree is obsolete and there is declining enrollment at High Schools. Please comment.

The Consent Decree is not obsolete. All parties are bound by the terms as it is a legal agreement. The District will implement both the spirit and the letter of the agreement.

We are experiencing declining enrollment generally, but at the high school level, enrollment has increased the last 2-3 years.

- Will students go to their home school or closest comprehensive high school for athletics or can they choose?

The agreement stipulates that students will go to the closest district high school, which is Hiram Johnson High School.

- Where will you recruit teachers? Inside district or outside?

The District will follow the posting and hiring process as outlined in our SCUSD/SCTA contract in hiring and have teachers on board before opening school.

- Will resources be available for students?

Yes, resources will be provided for students based on need and fiscal viability.

- Do you have bus lines that go into Marian Anderson?

There are bus lines to that area with adequate public transportation to the school.

- Will classes be smaller?

Classes will follow the contract maximum of 35 students.

- After March 12th, if 150 students have not registered what is the minimum number of students needed to open the school?

We are planning for 150 students. All small high schools continue to recruit and take students after open enrollment ends.

- How will you accommodate IEP students?

Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will have services and support.

- What are the plans for current Marian Anderson students in the Therapeutic Center?

At the Marian Anderson site there are now 3 programs: Success Academy, the Special Education Therapeutic Center and the Children's Center. The Success Academy will move to another location for the 2008-09 school year. The Therapeutic Center will move to a new location for the 2009-10 school year. The Children's Center will remain at remain at the Marian Anderson site. All programs have separate entrances and exits.

- Concerned about time factor to open facility in 6 months. How can you attract students to school without the necessary facility upgrades, teachers or program?

The timeline is tight and we are doing several things at once. We have a project manager for the facilities coordination. We are engaging the community, recruiting students and planning the educational program. The interim administrator is going to all middle and K-8 schools to talk to students and a mailer will be sent out to all 8th grade families.

- Has the district hired a consultant to review facility use?

Yes, 92 sites have been reviewed. The district is looking for the best use of our facility resources and will continue the study.

- Sounds like this is a short-term proposal. What are the plans for long-term?

We are not planning for the short-term. We are planning for a high school with a rigorous curriculum. By the tenets of the agreement, this school is to have a minimum of 500 students.

- SCUSD is hiding behind the Consent Decree agreement rather than providing what the community wants. Even the name suggests that it is unappealing.

The Consent Decree provides a context only. As outlined earlier, the naming process will take place. There have and continue to be competing interests and constraints, including fiscal and facility constraints. The district reviewed 41 sites over 3 to 4 years and worked with an advisory committee to find a suitable location to sustain a quality program.

- What about planning for the long term? This dense urban region, East Sacramento/River Park, has not been served well. It seems like the Consent Decree was intended to fulfill the law, but is not about different solutions for students. I don't like the idea of portables. Can you talk more about what you envision the campus to be in the first few years?

This is a 2-phase project. The main building provides flexibility for program. The plans include reworking the main building, adding a gym and providing a soccer field in addition to the science labs, bathroom retrofits and library upgrades.

- On the district website it said that 20 thousand housing units were going in the downtown area and there would be a need for two more schools to handle the number of people coming into downtown. Please comment.

We have been in touch with Thomas Enterprises and have discussed the plans to date. The first phase of the project will be commercial and is still many years away.

- Has the district ever considered selling Marian Anderson to U. C. Davis and using the money to build us a new High School?

It is not being considered at this time.

- How realistic is it, with the current numbers of students interested in the school, to want parents to help with the design?

We have some design templates and we want input from the students and families who plan to attend the school. Marian Anderson has been modernized and was built in a modular design. This allows for creativity and an opportunity to work with the architect to design an optimal facility.

- I was part of the first planning meeting trying to stay open minded. Why did the Board vote to spend \$5 million dollars on Marian Anderson when it won't meet the needs of students? Why is Sac High only 1/3 full?

The Board allocated \$8 million for the Marian Anderson project and staff estimated \$5 million for the project.

Sacramento Charter High has approximately 1,000 students. The school is currently being modernized and only ½ of the campus is able to be utilized. The use agreement is in process of negotiation under guidelines of Prop. 39.

- When does the Board consider the facility use for Sacramento Charter High School?

Sacramento Charter has submitted a Prop. 39 request for facilities. The district must make a preliminary offer by April and a response is required by May 1st. The district will follow the Prop. 39 guidelines.

- Susan, have you met someone, anyone, who wants to send their child to this school?

I have not met a person by name who has completely decided to send their child to the new school. However, I have talked to many people who are interested in the school.

- Can we put in a Prop 39 request?

We are required to give a preliminary offer April 1st and a response is required by May 1st. Prop. 39 says that if we have space for a reasonable request we then have to offer the space to a charter. We must follow the law consistently.

- Since there will not be a full program of electives and the 9th grade program may not include a foreign language, will the district change the graduation requirements?

The ninth grade on any campus is impacted by the requirements that students have to take; the core program (5 classes) and an option for an elective (1 class). This is consistent for all schools. As the new school grows, more options will come available as staff, students and families plan the program options.

- It sounds like you are not listening to your constituents. Why Not?

The district does not mean to give the impression that we are not listening. We are taking notes and will take them back to the Board. We know the school will not meet the needs of all and we have heard that the east area does not have a comprehensive high school.

- I read the current agreement regarding discretion of the district to determine if St. Hope is meeting the Prop 39 standards and criteria. Do they?

Yes, Sacramento Charter High School is meeting the terms of Prop 39.

- Would the district be willing to release students to go to the San Juan district if the family is not happy with the district options?

There is currently an inter-district permit process.

- I am worried about teacher qualifications. How are you going to recruit and get qualified teachers?

We are constantly recruiting teachers with proper qualifications to refresh our pool. We have high expectations that the staffing needs will be met.

- Will the Board consider co-locating West Campus and the new comprehensive high school on the Sacramento High School site and use the West Campus site for Sacramento Charter High School?

We will record that idea and forward it to the Board for consideration.

- The school district has done a great job with the West Campus model. Not all students can get in. What about the Hiram Johnson High School campus maybe they need a smaller campus and West Campus needs a larger campus. Is a switch possible?

We will put that idea forward for consideration.

- As an East Sacramento parent with pre-school children, who can we talk to about the need for a comprehensive high school?

By attending these community meetings, you are providing ideas and suggestions as well as stating your concerns. You may also want to attend a Board meeting and a planning meeting.

- It is late for planning? Would it be possible to move another site out for the Consent Decree high school? How about Kit Carson or McClaskey?

Forty-one (41) sites have been analyzed including the Kit Carson site. Two years ago there were community meetings to consider Kit Carson and the community members were very concerned with the added traffic and had many safety concerns. The McClaskey site is fully utilized and the portables are not going to be on the property after June of 2008.

- Do you have the precise budget amounts for Phase I and Phase II of the Marian Anderson project and are the funds already available?

\$8 million dollars have been allocated for the site for the total project. Costs are estimated for both phases at \$5 million.

- You mentioned a Gym as an improvement feature of the school. Is there enough funding for the gym?

The gym is currently figured into the cost of the facility renovations.

- Will this high school meet needs of all students even those not college bound?

All of our district high schools have a college prep academic program. We understand that not all students will go to college, but we believe that all students should have the option of college.

Comments

- River Park position: Opposed to preparation of Marian Anderson for Consent Decree, but not opposed to renewal of St. HOPE Charter. Opposed to allow St. HOPE to use Sacramento High School site.

This area has been overlooked for 5 years. We have searched for schools with openings. It is hard to get excited about Marian Anderson with 5 portables on 6 acres.

- My kids are in good SCUSD schools: David Lubin and Sutter. My school now is Hiram Johnson High School. It is a Program Improvement school and Sac Charter is also a Program Improvement school with a declining enrollment. I am disappointed in my high school options.
- What I heard is that the district has to make facilities available for charter schools. I hear political dialogue to support Kevin Johnson. The district is hiding behind Prop 39.