



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1

Meeting Date: February 7, 2013

Subject: District Right-Sizing: Closure of Under-Enrolled School Facilities

- ☐ Information Item Only
- ☐ Approval on Consent Agenda
- ☒ Conference (for discussion only)
- ☐ Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- ☐ Conference/Action
- ☐ Action
- ☐ Public Hearing

Division: Superintendent's Office

Recommendation: Receive updated information on the Superintendent's recommendation to "right-size" our District by closing our most under-enrolled schools.

Background/Rationale: With few exceptions, SCUSD elementary schools are substantially under-enrolled per their capacity. Districtwide, SCUSD elementary enrollment stands at 56% of capacity. This model is not fiscally sustainable and drains resources from other students and schools.

Enrollment for the 2012-13 school year is down approximately 800 students. Preliminary projections for 2013-14 portend a similar trend.

Under-enrolled schools result in more split-grade classes (i.e., 2nd and 3rd grade students in the same classroom due to insufficient enrollment numbers for individual grade-level instruction), concapping (the movement of students to other schools to accommodate class size constraints) and – most importantly - fewer resources for students, staffs and families.

At the January 17 Board meeting, the Superintendent recommended the proposed closure of the following schools based on the most severely under-enrolled elementary schools: Fruit Ridge, James W. Marshall, Washington, Tahoe, Collis P. Huntington, Susan B. Anthony, Bret Harte, Joseph Bonnheim, Mark Hopkins, Clayton B. Wire, and Maple elementary schools.

Additional information at the Board meeting will include a report on updated school capacity numbers as well as information gathered at community meetings. The following dates scheduled for these meetings are below:

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| • Wednesday, January 30 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | Tahoe Elementary School |
| • Monday, February 4 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | Bret Harte Elementary School |
| • Monday, February 4 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | C.B. Wire Elementary School |
| • Tuesday, February 5 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | James Marshall Elementary School |
| • Tuesday, February 5 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | Susan B. Anthony Elementary School |
| • Wednesday, February 6 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | Mark Hopkins Elementary School |
| • Wednesday, February 6 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | Fruit Ridge Elementary School |
| • Wednesday, February 13 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | Washington Elementary School |
| • Wednesday, February 13 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | Maple Elementary School |
| • Tuesday, February 19 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | C.P. Huntington Elementary School |
| • Tuesday, February 19 th (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm) | Joseph Bonnheim Elementary School |

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding the recommended school closures are posted at <http://www.scusd.edu/post/frequently-asked-questions-2>.

Final action on school closures, effective for the 2013-14 school year, is scheduled for the February 21 Board of Education meeting.

Financial Considerations: Despite the passage of Proposition 30, the District expects to once again be confronted with a substantial deficit for the 2013-14 school year caused by rising costs and declining enrollment. Due to substantial cuts in recent years to certificated and classified employees such as teachers, counselors, custodians, plant managers, librarians, school nurses and assistant principals, central office staff and cuts to programs like home-to-school transportation and adult education, no more viable options exist to balance our budget.

Failure to submit a balanced budget to the Sacramento County Office of Education would result in a “negative certification”, which is a financial rating that will expose the District to the risk of a state takeover. A “negative certification” would also adversely affect the marketing and sale of bonds approved as Measures Q & R. It would quite possibly reduce the number of potential investors and increase the interest rate that the District would pay for the bonds. Additionally, the District will end the year in a negative cash position if we are unable to issue Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS). The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) must review our financial situation and offer assurance that the District will be in a financial position to repay the Notes. If SCOE cannot provide that assurance, the District’s budget will be negative as of June 30, 2013. The proposal to right-size the District is projected to save the District approximately \$2.5M per year in ongoing savings.

Documents Attached: Additional information will be provided at the February 7 Board meeting.

Estimated Time of Presentation: 30 minutes
Submitted by: Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent