

Marian Anderson Community Meeting
March 14, 2006
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Twenty-five (25) parents/residents attended

Comments:

Many questions about how new boundaries would be determined
Is it possible to have the elementary school and Special Education Center at Marian Anderson
Concerns about 4th R
Parents without transportation were concerned about how their children would get home from school if they became ill during school
Some parents attended Marian Anderson because of their work location, not because they were within the Marian Anderson boundary lines
Need a map that includes all schools that border Marian Anderson
Some parents felt that the decision to close Marian Anderson has already been made and their input would not matter
There is already talk about current students and their achievement level by other schools
Need transition plan to welcome Marian Anderson students to other schools
Someone should explain to students why they must attend another school
Students should not be directed to a Charter school because it would impact district's funding

Questions:

When will boundary changes be made and how will parents be notified? Also, will parents have input on boundary changes?

The district will not proceed with boundary changes until the Board of Education makes a decision to put the Special Education Center at Marian Anderson. If a decision is made to move forward, parents will be informed through written communication as well as Connect-ED (telephone). Staff will make recommendations with regards to appropriate boundary changes and share with parents for their input. Final recommendations will be presented to Board of Education.

Would a 2-story building at this site be feasible?

No, because it would be too costly.

Can we co-locate the Special Education Center with Marian Anderson students?

No, the plan for 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.

Will students from a family be placed at the same school?

Every effort will be made for all students from the same family to be placed at the same school.

What happens if a class or grade level is full? Will my child still be able to attend the assigned school?

We will make every effort to keep students of families together, however this may not be possible in some cases. If this occurs we will provide other possible options for placement.

If a child gets ill at school and a parent doesn't drive, how would that student get home?

The school will work with the parents to insure that the student gets home safely.

Some students attend an elementary school based on location of the parent's employment. Will parents be accommodated in this way?

Students will be placed by resident address first. If parents want another school because of employment location, we will assist in placement to another school. However, students in the assigned attendance area would have first priority into that school. Parents can use the Open Enrollment and Permit process to attend other schools.

How will special education transition (mainstreaming) occur if the site is totally special education?

These students come from throughout the district and have very special needs. Mainstreaming decisions will be made on an individual basis.

What will happen with the 4th R program currently at Marian Anderson?

Marian Anderson currently has a Child Care Center and at this time there is no plans to relocate it. We will assess the needs in the transition process.

Will 4th R be available at the other schools?

Again, we would work with the City of Sacramento to determine the need and possibility of establishing new 4th R Programs. It would really depend on the need and facility.

What will happen to current Special Education students who currently attend Marian Anderson? Would siblings remain together?

The Special Education department would assign them to appropriate programs based on their specific needs. We will try to keep siblings together but this may not be possible in every situation. It will really depend on programmatic needs of the student(s).

When will parents be officially notified that their children will be assigned a new school?

Once the Board of Education makes a decision to put the Special Education at Marian Anderson, staff will be directed to put a transition plan in place. Parents will be notified as soon as possible.

Will special need students still travel for speech and other services at the Special Education Center?

The goal is to provide all the services needed at the Special Education Center.

Will Father Keith B. Kenny be available for student enrollment?

Keith B Kenny is a charter school. Parents would have to apply to get into the school. It will not be one of the assigned schools for placement.

Is Marian Anderson the only school with declining enrollment? Why is this school being targeted for closure?

No, there are other schools with declining enrollment. The school is being considered for the following reasons: location, partnership opportunities, 85% of current enrollment is being bussed in, facility is conducive to creating a high quality Special Education Center, centrally located.

How will district help students in transition process?

District will work with Marian Anderson staff, students, and receiving schools to ensure a positive and welcoming transition.

How will parent input be valued? Is this a done deal?

Parents concerns and suggestions will be recorded and provided to the Board of Education on March 16. In addition to these meetings and through our website, parent input can occur at the upcoming Board of Education Meeting at the Serna Center on March 16. This is not a done deal until the Board of Education approves the recommendation.