



NOTES

School of Engineering and Sciences (SES) Community Engagement Meetings

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

John F. Kennedy High School Library

I. Introductions of District Staff (Nancy Wai)

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. Dave Taxara, Project Manager

C. Special Advisor

Matt Perry, Principal of Arthur Benjamin Health Professions High School

II. Purpose of Community Engagement Meetings (Nancy Wai)

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 and Answers:

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Why aren't we putting the SES at Kennedy High School?	<p>The new SES is part of the SCUSD Small High School Initiative, which is co-funded by Gates Foundation funds. The school will enroll no more than 500 students. This small school will be a separate program from John F. Kennedy High School.</p> <p>The Small Learning Communities at Kennedy High School are funded with Carnegie Funds and federal Small Learning Communities funds for high school re-design.</p>
Is Kennedy High School going to lose students to new School of Engineering and Sciences?	<p>We do not anticipate a significant impact to the student enrollment at Kennedy High School.</p> <p>The SES will be ensuring socio-economic equity and also gender equity through the District Open Enrollment process. For more information on the Open Enrollment process, you can visit the District website at www.scusd.edu</p>

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Is there a factor in Open Enrollment process that will prevent School of Engineering and Sciences to be a “pocket area” school? Can you do a zip code analysis of other small schools? How many students living in the 95831 area attend John F. Kennedy?	Yes. Open Enrollment process will prevent SES from becoming a “pocket area” school. We have done a zip code analysis of other small schools. Open Enrollment randomizes and ensures that enrollment is open to all students. Also, there will be no entrance requirements for students.
Some of the other small high schools are not filled; why not use that site and combine schools?	One of the prerequisites for the Small High School Design co-funded by the Gates Foundation is that the small high school be a “stand alone” facility of no more than 500 students.
Regarding Kennedy modernization: Will modernization efforts be affected by new work at SES? Why hasn't JFK been completed?	Modernization money for John F. Kennedy will not be affected. The Kennedy modernization is currently being value engineered or portioned out in order to complete project within budget. Construction costs higher today than yesterday which require this new “value engineering” process to complete the process.
What are the District's priorities for High School Reform?	<p>In August, 2005, SCUSD staff was given direction by the Board of Education to go to sites and gather information from all stakeholders, parents, students, community members and District staff, for priorities regarding the use of Bond funds and High School Reform.</p> <p>On March 16, 2006, the decision to move forward with a new school for School of Engineering and Sciences was approved by the Board.</p> <p>Currently the District has five small high schools as part of the high school reform effort. Genesis High School, Health Professions High School, New Tech High School, America's Choice High School and the MET High School</p> <p>The District will add three more small high schools as part of the high school reform effort: School of Engineering and Sciences, Waldorf/ Social Justice School, and Consent Decree High School.</p> <p>Finish what we started was one of the imperatives used for deciding how to use the remaining Bond Funds. Other high school modernization projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JFK Theater • Modernization at Luther Burbank High School. • Modernization of Sacramento High School Charter Site

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>Didn't Luther Burbank have an Engineering, Math & Science program at one time in the 80's?</p>	<p>Luther Burbank did have a magnet in the early 80's as part of "voluntary desegregation". The school currently has an emerging International Baccalaureate Program.</p>
<p>If you have a 7-12 grade school enrolling up to 500 students, how are you going to offer a variety of curriculum, such as band, sports and other non-core curriculum.</p>	<p>C.I.F. Small High School Agreement states that students attending small high schools can participate in sports at their resident high school.</p> <p>At this time there is no agreement for other activities, such as Band. Small high schools will need to be innovative in meeting the needs of those students who would like to participate in Band and other similar activities.</p>
<p>Why are we investing resources in Small High Schools? Why aren't we taking those resources allocated for small high schools and investing those funds in the current Elementary, Middle and High Schools to support our low scoring student population?</p>	<p>The School of Engineering and Sciences is part of the High School Reform to provide alternative to our students who may want a smaller learning environment. The Gates Foundation is supporting our district to provide this opportunity for our students.</p>
<p>To what extent will the District help with the student's transportation needs while they are attending CSUS or Sac City College? How can students be full participants with transportation issues?</p>	<p>Students will be asked to find their own transportation when attending any small high school in our district</p>
<p>What will the impact be on the John F. Kennedy teaching staff? Will the SES site recruit teachers away from JFK?</p>	<p>We will be recruiting teaching staff from within as well as outside our district.</p>
<p>Concerned that SES will hold a total of 500 students out of 52,000 eligible to attend within SCUSD; what are the chances that my child will be able to attend the new SES?</p>	<p>All students will need to apply for admission through Open Enrollment.</p>
<p>How will SES enrollment be representative of the District student population? E.g. ethnicity, socio-economic status, etc.</p>	<p>Through the Open Enrollment process we will develop a random list of students based on the SCUSD demographics. In addition, we will develop a waiting list of students who want to attend SES.</p>
<p>Why is the new small school being built when large high school needs are apparent? This is an attractive alternative school, but would like to maintain the integrity of the Kennedy High School program.</p>	<p>The district is supporting both large and small high schools. Students who want the large high school experience will select to attend Kennedy High School. Some students need smaller school setting and will select to attend the small high schools.</p>
<p>How will Library be staffed?</p>	<p>The library will be staffed by the City of Sacramento and the Library Association.</p>
<p>Do these small high schools fulfill a-g' requirements?</p>	<p>Yes, coursework will meet UC/CSU 'a-g' freshmen admissions requirement.</p>

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
How are we building and learning from past mistakes? In past we build for 500 students and enroll 1000. (e.g., Sutter MS.).	District follows OPSC / DSA guidelines of student to acres ratio. Small high schools cannot exceed 500 students.
Is it a requirement that students enter in 7 th and 9 th grade? What about 8 th and 10 th graders?	School will open in a temporary location with grades 7 and 9. In the next year, we will add grades 8 and 10. Grades 11 and 12 will be added in the following years.
How will Junior High curriculum look vs. High School curriculum?	Most of the 7 th and 8 th grade classes will be self-contained. Math classes will probably be mixed.
Pocket residents send their children to JFK because of strong Math and Science program. Concerned that the SES will draw students away from area schools.	Again, students attending the SES will be selected through open enrollment. Students from all regions of the district will be applying for enrollment