

SAN MATEO – FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 12, 2009

Board Meeting: February 19, 2009

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO MANAGE THE PROJECTED ENROLLMENT INCREASE IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN FOSTER CITY.

DISTRICT GOALS:

- We will prepare all students for success using a rigorous, thought-provoking, standards-based curriculum in a stimulating learning environment.
- We will actively involve all students' families and all segments of our community.
- We will pursue appropriate resources to ensure efficient and successful accomplishment of the District's mission in a fiscally responsible manner.

COMMITMENTS:

- Students will be our primary focus in all decision making.
- We will provide a safe, caring, and well-managed learning environment.
- We will value parents and community as active partners and encourage participation in all areas affecting our students' education.
- We will exercise fiscal responsibility efficiently using our financial resources and strategically ensuring our long term stability.

BACKGROUND:

The San Mateo – Foster City School District is projecting a potential increase in student enrollment which is impacting certain neighborhoods and schools in the District. An Enrollment Study Committee was formed in 2007 to study the issue of impacted schools and to recommend a plan to accommodate this potential growth. The members included the principals, administrative assistants, teachers and parents from potentially impacted schools.

At the June 19, 2008 meeting of the Board of Trustees, staff received direction for proceeding with the study of the impacted enrollment and providing an opportunity for community input before recommendations were brought back to the Board.

The administration and Tish Busselle, with whom the District contracted to analyze the projections, develop options, and develop and conduct a community input process, provided reports to the Board of Trustees at its December and January meetings. Those reports included projected enrollments and classroom needs, the process for using Focus Groups for community input, and the timeline.

Description Details: At the February 5 Board meeting, the administration provided the Board of Trustees with a summary of the input received during the Focus Groups held in January and the administration's recommendations on managing the projected enrollment increases. These recommendations are attached.

Please note that the long term option of building a fourth school in Foster City requires collaboration with the City of Foster City. It is hoped that preliminary discussions on potential land options and design possibilities could be completed during the spring and summer of 2009 so that decisions can be made by the fall of 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Cost for increasing capacity

ITEM PROPOSED FOR:

Action

PREPARED BY:

Amber Farinha, Coordinator of Community Services

Joan Rosas, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

San Mateo – Foster City School District
February 2, 2009

Recommendations for Impacted School Enrollment in Foster City –
Audubon, Brewer Island and Foster City

Short Term:

Focus group participants (staff, current parents, incoming parents and community members) overwhelmingly supported Option 1 which was the concept of adding capacity to the current elementary school sites for the short term. It was the administration's impression from the focus group conversations that there was support for magnet programs in San Mateo as viable options, however, it did not seem realistic that those programs would attract the nearly 200-400 students from Foster City needed to solve the impacted enrollment situation. There was also great concern expressed about maintaining the high quality of the elementary school program, therefore, options which changed the program such as am/pm kindergarten, increasing class size, eliminating child care and the like were less preferable.

Due to the overwhelming support for the concept of adding capacity, the administration recommends that Short Term Option 1 be implemented.

The complexities of implementing this option are clear. There will be a need for 5-7 additional classrooms in Foster City. Also, Foster City Elementary School will begin a whole school modernization project which will take two school years to complete. No additional capacity can be added to that site at this time. Therefore, the additional classrooms need to be added at Brewer Island and Audubon, at least in the short term. It is recommended that 5 permanent relocatables be placed at Brewer Island Elementary and that the 2 temporary portables be removed providing a net gain of 3 additional classrooms at Brewer Island. It is recommended that 5 relocatables be placed at Audubon.

There will not be enough capacity for all Foster City Elementary School kindergarten students and new students in grades 1-5 in the short term. Therefore, Foster City Elementary kindergarten students and other new students who have a concurrently enrolled sibling in Foster City Elementary School would have priority to enroll in Foster City Elementary School. All other kindergarten students or other new students would be placed in a lottery for remaining Foster City Elementary School spaces. Students who are not accommodated at Foster City Elementary School do have the option to make a transfer request to either Brewer Island or Audubon. They could also apply to a magnet school or San Mateo neighborhood school. All other Foster City Elementary School students would be placed at Audubon or Brewer Island as space permits.

Transfer application timelines will be adjusted to accommodate this process. The registration process will be explained in detail at the parent meeting on February 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bayside Performing Arts Center.

Recommendation: It is the administration's recommendation that the Board approve Option 1 adding additional capacity to the elementary schools in Foster City for the short term.

Long Term:

Overwhelming support was expressed for the administration to continue conversations with City Officials with the goal of locating a site and building a fourth elementary school in Foster City. The capacity needs in the long term are for 15-17 classrooms plus auxiliary space which is the size of an additional school. It is the recommendation of the administration that discussions continue with Foster City officials to identify a site for a fourth elementary school in Foster City with recommendations to be finalized by the fall of 2009.

Recommendation: It is the administration's recommendation that the Board approve Option C, that discussions continue with Foster City officials to identify a site for a fourth elementary school in Foster City as the long term solution to increasing student enrollment with recommendations for potential sites to be presented to the Board of Trustees no later than September, 2009.

SAN MATEO – FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**January 28, 2009****Board Meeting: February 5, 2009**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECEIVE THE REPORT OF THE ENROLLMENT FOCUS GROUP PROCESS WITH THE FOSTER CITY COMMUNITY AND THE ADMINISTRATION'S ENROLLMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.

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The administration and Tish Busselle, with whom the District has contracted to analyze the projections, develop options, and develop and conduct a community input process, provided reports to the Board of Trustees at its December and January meetings. Those reports included projected enrollments and classroom needs, the process for using Focus Groups for community input, and the timeline.

Description Details: At the February 5 Board meeting, the administration will provide the Board of Trustees with a summary of the input received during the Focus Groups held in January and the administration's recommendations on how to deal with the projected enrollment increases. Both Ms. Busselle's report and the administration's recommendations will be provided to the Board of Trustees and the participants in the Focus Groups by February 3, 2009 and posted on the District's website by no later than February 4, 2009. Action by the Board of Trustees is scheduled for the February 19 Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Varies with option

ITEM PROPOSED FOR:

Information

PREPARED BY:

Tish Busselle, Consultant to the District
Amber Farinha, Coordinator of Community Services
Joan Rosas, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources