

City of Foster City

ESTERO MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

610 FOSTER CITY BOULEVARD
FOSTER CITY, CA 94404-2222
(650) 286-3200
FAX (650) 574-3483

March 5, 2009

Cathy Rincon, President, Board of Trustees
San Mateo-Foster City School District
1170 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA 94404

Dear Ms. Rincon:

The City Council met on Monday, March 2, 2009 to consider the letter sent by Superintendent Penderly Clark on behalf of the Board of Trustees requesting to begin the formal process of identifying a potential site for a fourth elementary school in Foster City and to receive a response from the City regarding the City's willingness to work with the District in order to identify potential sites within the next two months and no later than April 30, 2009. After reviewing the City staff report, hearing public testimony and discussing this issue amongst the City Councilmembers, Minute Order No. 1131 was unanimously adopted (see attached).

Pursuant to this minute order, the City Council has formed a subcommittee consisting of Councilmembers Pam Frisella and Linda Koelling and requests that the San Mateo-Foster City School District also form a subcommittee consisting of two trustees. These two subcommittees, along with the respective staffs of the City and School District, should then meet as soon as possible to begin addressing the issues related to increased student enrollment and its impact on school capacity in Foster City and its impact on the community itself.

The City recognizes that under state law, the School District has the legal and financial responsibility for the construction and operation of the public elementary and middle schools in Foster City. The City also recognizes that under state law, the City has the responsibility for land use and zoning decisions in Foster City.

At the Council meeting Monday evening, the City Council did not have answers to a number of questions that pertain to the School District's request and that would be helpful to have as part of this collaborative process (see attached). Likewise, the School District may have questions that you would like the City to answer; if so, please forward them to the city manager.

In closing, the City knows how important it is to our residents that their children receive a quality education. Indeed, several members of the public who spoke at the last Council

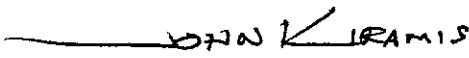
meeting stated that it was one of the reasons they had moved to Foster City. These children are represented by both the City Council as our residents and by the District Board as your students. Therefore, it is important that we work together to seek solutions to the issue of current and projected increases in student enrollment in Foster City. The City Council had already made this a priority issue when it adopted its Policy Calendar for 2009 on February 2, 2009.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding the formation of a District subcommittee to meet with our City subcommittee and our respective staffs. Please contact our city manager to schedule the first meeting. At that first meeting, it will be important to:

- establish a process to be followed, including periodic updates to the City Council and District Board who have final decision-making authority
- discuss how to engage the many stakeholders in the process
- develop ways to keep the public informed and involved
- define respective roles and responsibilities
- identify issues that need to be studied
- determine information, analysis and other deliverables needed
- establish ground rules, frequency of meetings, time frames, etc.

Your prompt reply will be most appreciated.

Sincerely,


John Kiramis
Mayor

Attachments: Minute Order 1131
List of Questions for School District

Cc: City Council
James C. Hardy, City Manager
Kristi A. Chappelle, Assistant City Manager
Richard B. Marks, Community Development Director
Board of Trustees
Pendery A. Clark, Superintendent
Joan Rosas, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Micaela Ochoa, Chief Business Official

MINUTE ORDER

No. 1131

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
FOSTER CITY, CALIFORNIA

Date: March 4, 2009

Attention: City Council/EMID Board
San Mateo-Foster City School District Board of Trustees
James C. Hardy, City Manager
Pendery Clark, SM-FCSD Superintendent
Kristi A. Chappelle, Assistant City Manager
Richard B. Marks, Community Development Director

City Council/EMID Board Meeting Date: March 2, 2009

Subject: Review of San Mateo-Foster City School District's Formal Request to Begin the Process of Identifying a Potential Site for a Fourth Elementary School in Foster City

Motion by Councilmember/Director Koelling, seconded by Councilmember/Director Frisella, and carried unanimously, 5-0-0, IT WAS ORDERED, directing the City Manager to work with the Mayor to prepare a letter to the San Mateo-Foster City School District incorporating the concerns of the City Council and to form a Council subcommittee consisting of Pam Frisella and Linda Koelling. The letter will further request that the School District form a subcommittee of two trustees and that the City Council subcommittee and the District subcommittee of trustees, along with their respective staffs, meet as soon as possible to work collaboratively to find a long-term solution to the projected increases in student enrollment in Foster City.


CITY CLERK/DISTRICT SECRETARY

LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

1. What is meant by “the District will need to receive a response from the City regarding the City’s interest and willingness to work with the District in order to identify potential sites”, especially given the information the City already provided to the School District last October?
2. Is the School District looking just at property owned by the City or is it also looking at property that is privately owned? For City-owned property, how does the School District propose to compensate the City for the acquisition of its property?
3. What is the funding source for this fourth elementary school? Does the budget and funding source include the costs of acquiring the land as well as constructing the school? If the funding source is Measure L, has the School District obtained an opinion from its Bond Counsel regarding the legality to use Measure L funds and if so, can the District provide the City with a copy of this opinion?
4. What analysis has been done regarding accommodating students on property in Foster City that is already owned by the School District? Has the School District considered constructing multi-story buildings on its existing sites as an alternative?
5. What is the impact of this projected increase in enrollment on Bowditch Middle School and will added capacity be needed at this site?
6. What are the long-term plans for school classrooms (e.g., how many will be located in permanent buildings, in permanent relocatables, in temporary portables, etc.) and auxiliary spaces at each of the existing sites? How does this planned capacity then translate into a shortage of classrooms and therefore, the need for a fourth school site?
7. Based on this shortfall in capacity, what type of school does the School District believe it needs to construct and what is the approximate acreage and other site requirements for a fourth school to be safe and functional?
8. What are the requirements and limitations imposed by the State of California, the School District and others for siting public elementary schools?
9. How confident is the School District in the accuracy of their future enrollment projections? What factors could affect these projections either positively or negatively? What impact does the recently signed State budget and Federal stimulus package have on the School District’s school capacity assumptions (e.g., class sizes, etc.) and proposed capital project plans?
10. What specific information does the School Board need in order to make a decision by September, 2009?