

**COMMUNITY MEETING 1/7/10  
GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA  
GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL**

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS:

- If schools closed will TRUSD have money to provide bussing/transportation? Walking distance/safety of students.
- Will students truly fit into other sites without raising class sizes?
- How can TRUSD run all of the busses to take North Avenue students to other schools - Bus Drivers & money.
- History of school - don't forget.
- Time on bus a concern for students; 30-45 minutes is a long time and can be difficult on families if the student misses bus to get them to school/up too early.
- Quick to close a school - change programs first.
- Letter #1 read to group:

This letter is to express our concern, about closing the North Ave. School. We are against the closing of the school, although the school has had performance problems in the past it has made progress lately, it would not be fair to close now; and we feel it would create more learning problems to ship our son to a new father away school. The fact that the school would be so far from our home will create transportation issues. Right now we can walk to the school if the need arises - but we are a one driver home. The new proposed school is so far away that if the need arises that we would have to go to school for our son - transportation will be a problem.

The family would lose job money; it will cost more in time and transportation for the new school. Also we are concerned about our son being able to transverse the various schools he would end up going to - with his same peers - these schools are a great distance apart. We are against the closing of the school.

- Change in teachers causes difficulty for students learning. Don't bring students from other areas - takes time (learning) from students. After school programs to assist student learning.
- Start with where most openings are, Jr./Sr. High.
- Start the SFAC process over.
- Student statement/letter #2 read to group:
 

I asked my Dad if it was ok if I spoke to you and he said it was. He and some of my other friend's parents spoke at the last meeting. I think you shouldn't close North Avenue even though next year I will be in 7<sup>th</sup> grade my sister Lexi will still go to that school. Lexi's in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. Her and her friends will have to go to another school. And if Lexi has to go to another school things will be really hard Lexi and my dad. My dad will have to get up earlier to take her to school, or she'll have to catch a bus. And things will be too hard for Lexi.  
Thank you.
- Respect personal space of person speaking, don't take mike away - wait.
- Parents with multiple kids in family - are they all going to same school?
- Transportation a concern for parents/family in community - particularly if going to multiple sites.
- Question about acreage - what does it have to do with the school - is the district going to sell the land and build houses?
- What is going to happen to a closed school site?
- School Site Council role in preliminary recommendation - legal responsibility - District/Senate/CA Governor. Letter #3:
 

live in Del Paso Heights all 36 years of life and a North Ave Alumni. 4 students in District; 2 Elementary, 1 Jr. High, 1 High School.  
As a member of the North Avenue School Site Council, I am deeply concerned about this process and how the Site Council has been overlooked. According to the legislation that guides the Site Council's role in the school, we should certainly be a part of this process. Yet, I have not received any correspondence from the school or the district regarding the role and voice of the Site Council as it related to the closure of North Avenue Elementary. I believe that the Site Council should have been consulted long before now, and

certainly not overlooked. As Site Council is a legislative requirement, and a fundamental component in the "shared-governance" role of schools, communities and parents, we should have a strong voice in this matter. If there are legal resources available to us, under this legislation, we should immediately begin that dialogue with our legislative representatives, at both the local and state levels. Upon reviewing your handout from the presentation by Superintendent Porter and a staff person at Martin Luther King Jr. High School, I noticed that on the slide entitled "Preliminary 2010-2011 Recommendations - Rio Linda Schools," there was a bullet that stated: SFAC (Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee) requests additional input (staff, community, families). Upon reviewing the WHOLE document, I did not note this particular comment on any of the other schools identified for closure. My question is why? Why are the Rio Linda community being given additional opportunity of input and our school community is not?

I agree with the other speakers, you need to come to our schools with this dog-and-pony show so that we can see, up close and personal, just what you are proposing and review all data to ensure that honesty and integrity are at the forefront of this process. It seems to me that you have already determined which communities will be protected and preserved. I do not believe for one minute that this has anything to do with enrollment or funding; this is an agenda that will unfold in the future, an agenda that will benefit a select few...Not all children and families.

North Avenue is a QEIA school it is supposed to be.

- QEIA funds - needs to be small, reduced class sizes.
- Teacher notification of new site in March?
- SFAC recommendations to Superintendent by January 15. Doesn't the Superintendent already have all the information?
- Next steps in process
- How to communicate final decision
  - Hmong Radio?/Spanish TV?
  - Send out letters
  - NTI
  - Website - Libraries/Churches have internet access
  - **WANT MORE INPUT** before final decision is made by Board - January 28<sup>th</sup>

- How were the people picked, where were the people picked from, where did they formerly work?
- How was committee formed? Rep from TRUE in her first year at North Avenue.
- We are the community - those who live here need a voice - we have a long history.
- Fix the problems - don't pass them along.
- Inequity of SFAC - TRUSD needs to address why were vital people from the community (North Ave.) not a part of this committee.

The presenters/district need to answer this community about whether the committee will be redone.

- What is being done to provide fair and equal facilities for the charter schools in the district?
- Is there going to be another meeting here in this area? Increase representation of the High School areas, i.e., 3-4 people.
- Suggestion - hold meeting with community to review recommendations prior to board action.
- Questions from last public meeting should have been at least partially answered - should have been in the slides of PowerPoint.
- Board Member of Trustee area should be at meeting assisting with facilitation.
- Follow up on how questions will be answered and how soon will they be answered.
- Larchmont Ideas:
  - K-8 with focus service learning/technology? etc.
  - Don't give up, come up with solutions
  - Solutions from site level
- Cuts to budget need to be from top and bottom including administrative staff, i.e., Assistant Superintendents.
- Segregated staffing and services in TRUSD.

- North Avenue Comments:
  - SFAC parent representation
  - School Site Council participation
  - Legislature make aware of lack of SSC process
  - Speaking with North Avenue staff/community
  - Start process over

- Letter #4:

I am here to state that I do not understand how you can establish a "Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee" without any parity or representative consideration for parents and community members. You have listed a total of 24 individuals on this committee; only four of those listed are identified as "parents" or "community" members. Further, you have overlooked a legislated body required by each school: School Site Councils. The issue of school closure has an impact that should be considered with and by the School Site Councils. You have had more than enough time to engage and involve these required councils in this process. Each Site Council, all 54 of them, are required to have had a voice in this process. An action is required. Since the CA Legislature has mandated and set the guidance for school districts, with regard to these Site Councils, I believe that the Legislature should be made aware of your total disregard for their roles in our public school systems. In addition, you have completely overlooked the need to engage the School Site Council members for the schools you propose to close. As elected officials, this action is unforgivable, you sit in trust over one of our community's greatest assets, you are only in the positions that you hold because of the public's belief in your ability to govern fairly, with equity and honesty. This sham of a committee and untimely proposal for public input is just simply ridiculous. You need to rethink this whole process; you need to at least have enough integrity to hold community meetings at the schools that your proposed actions will impact; you need to work with our School Site Council representatives, which ironically comprised of the principal, teachers and parents/community members. That is if you truly want public input. I live in the North Area, and I am not entirely sure who represents my community. It's been more than year since the last election and I am not aware of one community meeting that has been or ever was called by my representative. Your actions are both cowardly and disrespectful to the children and families that you are supposed to serve.

- Question:
  - Impact on class size - commitment to not increase class size

- Move Smythe Academy to MLK campus - what happens to students at MLK that cannot be placed into Smythe Academy? Program at Dos Rios that does not fit - where to place the campus?
- Concern - Everyone have a real education option - how to change and provide programs to improve education. What happens to students left behind? Response - Build programs.
- Why is money for renting buildings not being spent on our schools - (students) at McClellan AFB.
- Plan ahead of everything - did not hear about the plan until after the fact - more Rio Linda culture than TRUSD, Election at 2011
- How does Castori have room? Child moved three times current year. 35 students with 3 teachers.
- Teachers go with students - what happens to teachers at the school?
- Old sham - last to know - our community - where will they get their education if close North Avenue School? Kids not going to walk to school?
- Question - Speech therapy in "K":
  - How to promise same levels of service if transferred to another school?
  - How to make students comfortable with other students in new school?
  - Shorter K-7 grade
- Smythe Academy 350 kids - move them back to MLK, Norwood, Rio Tierra;
  - Will make MLK stronger
  - Some parents talk badly about MLK (past district - spend money on MLK to improve and publicize program
  - Close North Avenue - open community charter
  - Not having a unified school district
  - Community is unified around this issue - Do not ignore the community
  - Disappointed in Board/Superintendent
- Look at who is voted into office - trusted these people - look at what they have done.

- Who is Board Member that represents North Avenue School? How many consultants?
- Do we hear about the recommendation before a decision?
- SFAC committee - make up is up to question.
- How were committee members selected? (SFAC)
- Concern about moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with 7/8 grade students.
- Passion and distrust indicates a flawed process;
  - Need community participation
  - Slow the process down - go back to drawing board
  - Requires more time and debate
  - Don't let this rest - show up at next meeting
  - Further study of the process - how it is done is as important as what is done
- Have we considered impact on children - moving them to strange places.
- Are there phases of school closures?
- Have people who can answer questions - not fair to staff.
- Close Smythe Academy - turn into community elementary charter - attract neighborhood kids and others.
- Questions asked - no answers - set a date for answers - need answers.
- Tell somebody - bring our children back! Trust our educators and schools.
- Closing elementary schools would affect the Jr. High and High School students.