

**COMMUNITY MEETING 12/10/09  
GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREA  
GRANT HIGH SCHOOL**

**NORTH AVENUE**

COMMENTS:

Having a 10 acre requirement is ridiculous. North Avenue sits on a 9.5 acre and you are considering closing due to a .5 shortage. You don't need the Mercedes, the BMW, the Lexus, etc. . . . . Quit pretending you care cause we already know you are going to close North Ave cause it's in the ghetto.

Morey Avenue kinder students belong to this community. They could be moved here, that way students will remain in the community and the community would not feel cheated out of their rights just because they are minorities.

87% Elementary; 58% Jr. High; 57% High. Estimated savings \$400,000.00. Consolidate Jr. and High schools. Est. saving \$2.5 mill. QEIA funding smaller classes with results. 2003 - 543 API; 2009 - 725 API; +180/6. *(Teacher comments.)*

The parents/guardians are mostly elderly and won't be able to reach students. Stake holders (24) - Superintendents and Facility Advisory Committee. Realign the boundaries to enhance numbers.

After the studies research and numbers have been calculated what about the facts. The committee needs to come out and find out what's going on. Walk from North Avenue to Castori or Del Paso Elementary. Walk the neighborhood period.

Students do better at a smaller school and lower size classroom. Community needs stability of a neighborhood school. A school to be proud of. Scores at North continue to rise - 725 from 300. Take 4 kinders from Morey and put them at North. North was modernized when Del Paso, Garden Valley *(sentence not finished)*.

I want to say not close the school because we no have transportation and my son have a speech therapist and see very advances. He is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Thanks.

North Avenue gets \$250,000.00 as QEIA money. Because of that North Avenue has smaller classes and was able to meet the AYP goals. The smaller class size was a legal requirement. It would be against the legal requirement to take the sts of NA and put them in a 30-35 sts class. It was not done in any other district. Even Sac City would not close a smaller but performing school. It could be the legal requirement would not be met if NA Elementary closes.

My daughter has improved her reading/math skills more than half when school started. My daughter is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and is reading at 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level. High School students can take care of themselves walking/taking the bus to school.

*(Regarding closing the school to save \$500,000.00).* . . This sounds absurd. Our children deserve a quality education all of the odds are already against them. The majority are African American, Hispanic, Hmong and other minorities creating a stressful environment and chaos. Lets come to reality we live in an area that's below poverty level and the last issue we need is an accident, a mistake, misjudgment or improper placement.

Recommendation: Close junior/high school since they have lower enrollment. Elementaries have a higher enrollment as you say 87% compared to 59%. North Avenue has improved dramatically on test scores due to fewer students and awesome teachers.

### QUESTIONS:

Why don't we cut your pay to make up for the lost money you are complaining about?

What could we do to prove we should stay open?

What health/safety issues were considered? How did you go about trying to raise numbers of enrollments? Could we at least put staff and principals w/ children from North to continue test scores?

Can we have Noralto/North join together?

Why punish a high performing elementary school when High School enrollment is down? You just paid to put in a functional library, isn't that a waste of funding? What will be at the North site when it is closed?

Why close elementaries?

Why would the district close a performing school?

Where does Twin Rivers after One Year of Service, a multi-million dollar district office, cutting of classified workers and budget cuts get off planning to close an Elementary School to save \$500,000.00?

How could transportation be promised when classified jobs including bus drivers are being cut? Proximity to other schools? Should children be forced to wait for a bus when they could already be in school? Why has Castori been restructured vs. North Avenue? Could North Avenue be turned in to a Charter school? Why has North Avenue been selected for closure? What are the alternatives? What about the preschoolers? Does the budget include a new district office? Instead of a new district office shouldn't North Avenue *get* millions of dollar to be updated? Why instead of closing an elementary school shouldn't there be an alignment and expansion be done?

Why you didn't modernize North Ave before the budget cuts?

North Ave was modernized in 1996 - what about the QEIA Funds which brings about \$250,000.00 to our schools?