

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS - RIO LINDA ATTENDANCE AREA

- I worked part time last year, and substituted at several jr highs. My first thought was we need to close these schools down! It was the worst experience of my life. The disrespect and lack of motivation to learn was unbelievable. My idea is to have all the elementary school to take back their 7-8th graders. We have some empty classrooms, and could use portables. Turn Rio Linda Jr. into a trade school. This would certainly help our drop outs.

- To Whom it may concern:

I attended the Public Forum on January 6, 2010 at Rio Linda Junior High School and these questions were asked:

*Realignment of Grade Levels- ie K-5 or K-8 etc. The majority of people there favored K-8. Slot of parent's do not feel comfortable sending a 6th grade student to a school with 8th graders (too much of an age difference). So, I agree with the majority K-8. A lot of parent's felt that the Rio Linda Junior High School has been a problem for years. I have not personally had any children attending at RLJHS but there was a lot of parents there that clearly stated that they would never send their children to Rio Linda Junior High School, the Principal and Staff were horrible. Aloft of the people felt that the Elementary Schools need to be left alone and focus on the problem schools, which the majority felt something needs to be done with the Junior High Schools. So, the solution would be have the K-8 schools instead of 7-8 schools. I have been told by other parent's that they would send their 7th and 8th graders out of our area if they have to attend the Junior High School. Other parent's said that they would home school their children and that means less money for TRUSD. Hearing all of these concerned parent's I would not feel comfortable sending my children to Rio Linda Junior High School and I would be forced to look into other options also. I know that I would feel comfortable sending my children to Rio Linda High School and a matter of fact, I have had two children that are graduates of Rio Linda High School but they went out of the area for Junior High.

*Consolidation of Schools- What school or schools would you close?

I would turn Rio Linda Junior High School into a K-8. Close Dry Creek Elementary School and the children currently attending this school would still be able to walk to school. I would also bus in students that attend Larchmont

and of course close Larchmont. Someone mentioned closing Rio Linda Elementary School.

*Reuse of schools- If a school is closed, what could the school be used for? So, if Larchmont is closed you can use Larchmont for a senior living complex- The School district would make a profit with rentals. Or Larchmont could be used for an emergency animal hospital, we do not have this available in our community and if Rio Linda is closed it could be used for a senior living facility. Both locations would work. Larchmont could also become an Urgent Care Center-again something that our community needs and is located on a main street. Someone mentioned that the school can lease the Rio Linda Elementary School land to the county for the New Library or sell the property to the County.

Dry Creek School could be used for a college outreach program or something that will produce revenue for the School District. Of course when you can produce revenue, it will go back to the school children.

In the information that was given out, it states about some of the major decision factors and one states year of modernization. With the Elementary Schools in the Rio Linda area there was a bond measure passed and it clearly stated what schools were going to be modified. So technically you can not base this as a deciding factor because our Rio Linda Community was promised that ALL the schools listed would be renovated. If all the schools do not get renovated, does that mean the school district is going to give ALL of the property owners their money back if these projects are not completed?

As for the Capacity Goal of 500-525, I feel that this number is way too high. I would like to see the range begin at 450.

I know another factor is if a school has enough land to have modular units on them. Rio Linda Junior High School has a lot of room to put modular units on the property as well as many other schools, Orchard, Dry Creek and even Rio Linda Elementary School.

I'm sure that any decision that you make is going to be a hard decision and I appreciate that Twin Rivers School District is giving our Community the opportunity to be apart of this process.

- This is in response to the Jan. 6th meeting information. I heard from other community members and parents that there is a possibility of school closures in the Rio Linda area, and that community/parent input is desired. My suggestions are:

*If school closure is a must, the consolidation of schools to K-8 grades would be best. I recommend the closure of the junior highs and conversion of all elementary schools to K-8 grades.

(The transition to Junior High from elementary school is a difficult one for students in this age group who are dealing with so many other changes. Staying at their 'home elementary schools' would possibly help ease their stress levels, thus helping them focus on their academic achievement. I, as a 'protective & concerned parent', know that my child will never attend Rio Linda Junior High. It's poor long-time reputation has never improved.)

*If a school is closed, I highly recommend the site to be used as 'Senior Housing'. This is very needed in the Rio Linda area. I have experienced first hand the pain of senior loved ones being forced to move out of their beloved Rio Linda, because of the lack of senior housing. Thank you for your time & consideration. (Resident of Rio Linda since 1969)

P.S. Another idea may be to follow what the Westside campus has done the past few years. Have K-6 as elementary and 7-8 as charters, or be straight K-8. The 7-8th grade charters have proved very successful academically, and the small class sizes have helped students feel less 'lost' and more like part of a close-knit group.

- What about closing down the Jr. High completely? Send all the 7-8th grade to Norwood. May need to shift some kids to MLK to make it work. I don't have numbers on capacities so I don't even know if this is a viable option. The bus route is a bit lengthy but it would give us a year or two to reset the culture, disperse the current staff, etc. This would probably be a political nightmare. No need to reply. Just a thought.
- This email is in response to the SFAC parent forum. Regency Park's Site Counsel would like our ideas to be considered. Please forward this email to the appropriate person for consideration.

Much of our discussion was based around the fact that many parents are not comfortable with their children attending Rio Linda or Norwood Junior High Schools. We acknowledged that the Twin Rivers district is losing kids to other districts when children advance to 7th grade. Please consider the following:

- K-8 schools. For our site and others we realize this may mean that schools may have to implement a track system for the increase of students. However, parents seem to like the idea of K-8. The downside may be that K-8 does not prepare students for high school.
- Combine 6th with the junior high schools and create a continuation junior high school. We recognize that students would likely leave the school district in sixth grade instead of seventh. However, the creation of a continuation junior high and the promise of separation between the 6-8th grade levels may set parents' minds at ease.
- Expansion of Westside Charter and/or the creation of additional charter junior highs. Parents like charter schools. Parents have expressed a desire for a charter school that is zero tolerance for behavior problems in addition to the existing charters. In addition, parents felt more comfortable with their sixth grade students attending a charter junior high.
- One parent suggested that the district should shut down Rio Linda junior high and start over.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns and proposed solutions.

- Listed below are possible solutions shared with many members of the Regency Park Community. The list is compiled by the principal who has spoken with parents at SSC, PTA, SFAC, Leadership Team and informal phone/personal contacts. The ideas are listed in order of preference with the top idea being the one that seems to have the 'best traction' with our parents. Please understand that our final solution may be a combination of a number of these solutions as exact enrollment figures and enrollment target numbers have not been decided.
1. Turn Regency Park into a K-8 School, Multi-Track, Year-Round. This option has generated a number of questions, but has an overwhelmingly positive response from parents. The main issue to resolve is programmatic. A significant number of parents want to see a clear path from 6th grade to college. This last item is an issue regardless of what we decide to do.

2. Change all kindergarten classes back to $\frac{1}{2}$ day program. This would open up about 3 classrooms, but will not relieve our overall enrollment numbers. This is a poor choice for our students.
3. Send 6th grade program to Norwood School (This option needs further exploration and is receiving mixed reviews-although more positive than Rio Linda Jr. High). Regency Park School Team (including parents) will be visiting the Norwood Campus on 1/15. I would estimate that we would lose 20-30% of our 5th and 6th grade families on the transition. They will enroll in Natomas Charter Programs or Westside Charter.
4. Send 6th grade program to Rio Linda Jr. High School. This is the least favorable option and will result in a significant loss of enrollment.