

Rio Linda High School Area Public Forum  
January 6, 2010

The Superintendent's Facility Advisory Committee (SFAC) could not come to consensus on a variety of ideas to consolidate schools or programs and has requested that information be gathered from the community by asking the following 3 questions.

1. What Realignments of Grade Levels would you like to see?
  - K – 5, 6 -8, 9 – 12
  - K – 6, 7 – 8, 9 – 12, Keep current structure, but reconfigure the schools, send the Norwood students to RL Jr. and use Norwood to relieve the pressure on Regency Park.
  - Keep the same format, but if there is change go K – 8.
  - K – 6, 7 – 9, 10 – 12
  - Can we get some K – 8s while you are working on the Jr. High – similar to Westside, Transitional program.
  - Could having K -8 keep people from moving out of the district/ Parents don't want their children attending RL Jr.
  - RL Jr. has a bad reputation, low curriculum expectations, not a good culture, extend the K – 6 program at the elementary schools
  - .K – 8 at Elementary sites if 5 to 10 years later could there be K – 4/ K – 5, 5 – 8/ 6 – 8 configuration, would that also be creating some capacity problems for the future?
  - Target 500 for elementary enrollment, currently most don't have that capacity, Can they be made to house more students? Add Portables? Do the sites have the land size to add more classrooms?
  - Don't forget the children and their education, they need to have a quality education.
  - 5-6-7-8 or 6-7-8 Keep grades separated, but share campus.
  - K -4, 5 – 8, Keep tight knit system that provides students support
  - 8 – 12 schools at High Schools
  - 7-8-9 Jr. HS connection with High School @ 9<sup>th</sup> grade for electives (band, art, etc.)
  - Regency Park move the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to another location.
  
2. What Schools should be Consolidated?
  - How do you chose what schools will be impacted by a school closure?
  - To many Special Education classes at a site could impact the API/ AYP
  - No Schools should be closed – too many Special Education classes
  - Problem appears to be Jr. High, closing an elementary school doesn't address the issue
  - Close Rio Linda Junior High School
  - Put charter schools on Rio Linda Jr. High campus, close RL jr.
  - Live here because the community likes the small schools
  - Will class sizes be raised if schools consolidate?

- Raising class sizes raises the stress in a class/school and lowers test scores
- RL jr. to become K – 8
- By closing a school will it make other schools at 500? Can portables be brought in?
- Close RL Jr., bring Dry Creek over here.
- Make elementary schools K – 8 and give parents a choice to send 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders to Norwood, close RL Jr.
- Must consider bussing/ Transportation in decision process, routes and cost.
- Jr. High get to elementary students sooner
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade full/ smaller is better
- Demographics – who is the school serving?
- Bussing costs, will this save money?
- Consolidate 2 Jr. Highs in to 1
- Charter elementary
- Expand Westside Charter 6 – 8 or higher
- Make elementary schools K – 8, then move Westside charter to RL Jr.
- Clear path K – 12 that is college track, higher expectations, opportunities
- RL Jr. and/ or Norwood become a charter (AVID or MESA but more)
- GATE options that challenge students
- Climate and culture of school are questionable, perceptions are important
- Safety of students at school
- 4H program at school
- Develop long term plan that accommodates if enrollment increases – focus on quality
- Parent communication is poor at RL Jr. High between staff and parents
- Need to see something dramatically different.
- Permanent mentor teacher for each student to be supported
- Dry Creek's 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to be on RL Jr. High campus for 1 week
- Get input from each school principal and staff

3. If a school were closed, what would the community want to see placed in that building? What would be beneficial to the community?

- Close RL Jr. and expand the Senior High on to this campus
- Library with long hours with programs and technology/ computers
- College outreach American River College for Rio Linda Sr. High and Community
- Community College/ Adult Education/ Trade Schools
- Senior Living Community, living on site, assisted living
- Agriculture Academy to retain students who go to East Nicolas High
- Adult Education classes have ESL/Culture classes/ Welcoming Center
- Urgent Care tied to Medical Academy at RL Senior High
- Community Center, see other options as to what to have at center
- Quality Extended Day Care include both before and after school care

- Tutorial center preK through Adult
- Bring in money, anything that goes in needs to be self supporting or make profit.
- Adult Education/ EL Classes
- Intervention programs
- Rent out spaces
- Seminars
- Sports complex
- Partner with Kings
- Library
- Preschool center
- Family resource center

4. General Comments

- Redo RL Jr. High – Fire Staff
- Send 8<sup>th</sup> to High School
- Closing a school is a trade off if students and the community really benefit
- We support K – 8, we don't want our children at RL Jr.
- In the past the South Shore school district had a very full school and an under enrolled and the district opened it up to parents who wanted to voluntarily transfer their child to the under enrolled school and it balanced the school enrollments.
- Funding Levels for Special Education SH/ LH classes need to be considered when evaluating whether or not a school should be consolidated.
- Parents should invite other parents to these meetings so that communication can continue to improve.
- I would not want my 6<sup>th</sup> grader to be at a Jr. High. I think they are too immature for the activities and pressures they are exposed to there. I would prefer a K-8 model if possible.
- As a teacher of 5<sup>th</sup> grade (and a prior teacher of 6<sup>th</sup>), I feel the placement of 6<sup>th</sup> grade in middle school is developmentally inappropriate. Students today are faced with more pressures/ negative influences than ever, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders would benefit from staying in elementary school one more year. I don't feel I can prepare a 5<sup>th</sup> grader for middle school as well as I could a 6<sup>th</sup> grader for Jr. High. There is a level of maturity that is necessary for the issues faced today at the Jr. High level, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, in my view, aren't ready.