

### Second Meeting

The second meeting of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee took place Tuesday, October 13, 2009 from 6 to 9 p.m. Advisory members spent the first half of the meeting discussing a number of foundational items including:

- Ground rules for committee work
- Twin Rivers USD mission, vision, values, and beliefs as defined in the Spring 2008 community summits
- Decision-making criteria for realignment of facilities and programs

The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussing several possible realignment options. There was a robust discussion utilizing the decision criteria to analyze the initial options. No decisions were made.

### Ground Rules for Committee Work

The major ground rules set by the committee include:

- Decisions will be made by consensus
- Meetings will start and end at scheduled times and members are expected to attend each meeting
- Once decision has been reached, all SFAC members will support the decision
- SFAC is a limited advisory committee that makes recommendations for consideration
- Discussions and actions taken at SFAC will remain confidential

### Alignment with Mission, Vision, Values, and Beliefs

In the Spring of 2008, more than 400 community members attended a series of forums that provided the input and foundation for Twin Rivers mission, vision, values, and beliefs. Higher standards, more choices for families, and inspiring learning environments created with strong academic programs were among the requests of Twin Rivers community members. School site and program realignments are one of many areas under consideration to limit additional staffing cuts and strengthen programs. Our district can save approximately \$500,000 by moving students and staff from one school to neighboring schools. That means \$500,000 less in cuts that would need to be made in the next year, and in some cases that creates the additional number of students needed to bring more robust programs to sites.

While the budget benefits are obvious and most can agree that more resources and programs for our remaining schools is a good idea, consolidating school sites is a very emotional process and must be done as fairly and transparently as possible to align with our values and beliefs as a district.

### Decision-Making Criteria

The major decision-making criteria for the committee as they review possibilities for facility and program re-alignment include:

- Facilities:** legal compliance, appropriateness for programs, condition, enrollment capacity, expansion possibilities
- Operational:** attendance boundaries, transportation implications, surrounding environmental factors, vehicle factors
- Programmatic:** program expansion capacity, student demand
- Academic:** current performance and trends, special education and EL programs, preschool programs
- Community:** partnerships, access, safety, equity and balance
- Fiscal:** cost to operate, revenue generated by enrollment and programs

### Going Forward

It is natural for possible school consolidations and realignments to cause anxiety and for staff and community members to attempt to guess at possible outcomes. Many will wonder about the impact on their job and that of their colleagues. If there are any consolidations of sites, those personnel will be entitled to positions at other sites based on the provisions established in collective bargaining agreements.

We hope that sharing the process with everyone and providing opportunities for public participation will ease that anxiety and allow us all to focus on the important work of supporting and raising student achievement. To submit information for committee consideration, email [SFAC@twinriversusd.org](mailto:SFAC@twinriversusd.org) or plan to attend public sessions in December and January.