

Irvine Unified School District

Irvine, California

Board of Education Minutes of Special Meeting December 17, 2003

Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President McInerney at 4:09 p.m., in the District Administration Center, 5050 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America was led by President McInerney and was followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Steven Choi, Debbie Coven, Sue Kuwabara, Sharon Wallin, Carolyn McInerney

Members Absent:

None

Staff:

Dean Waldfogel, Superintendent
Sue Long, Deputy Superintendent, Human Resources
Vern Medeiros, Deputy Superintendent/Chief Financial Officer
Leah Laule, Asst. Superintendent, Education Services
Lee Brooks, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Other Staff:

Anne Caenn, Mary Cliff, Janelle Cranch, Jim Helman, Lloyd Linton, Lorrie Lujan,
Paul Mills, Mari Perini, Mark Sontag, Lynda Wilson

Study Session

School Configuration Committee Report

Members of the School Configuration Committee were recognized and those in attendance were introduced:

Community Representatives:

Eric Bianchi, Carolyn Fromm, Marilyn Jacks, Christine Knowland, Victoria Parret,
Beverly Rice, Linda Roberts, Cyndi Runstrom, Ken Stone, David Vered

Staff Representatives:

Nancy Albers, Anne Caenn, Janelle Cranch, Bob Curley, Heather Evans, Pat Gibson, Jeff Herdman, Sue Long, Vern Medeiros, Mari Perini, Dean Waldfoegel, Lynda Wilson

Deputy Superintendent Sue Long introduced Ken Stone, who made a Powerpoint presentation including a review of the charge of the School Configuration Committee, encompassing a review of Board of Education policies and guidelines affecting school configuration (completed January 2003), and a Ten Year General Plan for school configuration and housing. He advised that recommendations relative to central Irvine would be postponed pending finalized plans for the development of the Tustin Air Base.

Superintendent Waldfoegel reviewed ten year enrollment projections for the north Irvine area, and Curriculum Coordinator Mark Sontag presented the educational advantages of a 6-8 grade level configuration for middle schools.

SCC recommendations for north Irvine were then presented as follows, including possible site locations.

Grade Level Configuration

- ▶ From a school facilities utilization perspective, make the change to a K-5, 6-8 configuration whenever possible and practical over the coming years.
- ▶ Plan any new school facilities to accommodate a K-5, 6-8 configuration.
- ▶ Plan for K-8 is also acceptable since some of the instructional advantages can be realized in a K-8 setting.

Projected Ten Year Requirements and Capacities

High Schools:

- ▶ Maintain access to existing funding resources to accommodate future facility expansions, if required.
- ▶ Consider establishing the ultimate attendance boundaries for the high schools early to minimize "misunderstandings" with the community regarding the assigned high school for each new development area.

Middle Schools:

- ▶ Construct two new middle schools (6-8) and one K-8 school.
- ▶ If 6-8 program adopted, relocate Westwood Basics Alternative Program to another site (potentially new) and integrate existing facilities into Sierra Vista campus to accommodate expanded program.

Elementary Schools:

- ▶ Construct up to four new elementary schools (K-5) and the previously referenced K-8 school.
- ▶ Relocate Westwood Basics Alternative Program to another site (potentially a new site). Integrate Westwood school complex into Sierra Vista campus.
- ▶ Relocate the El Camino Alternative Program to another site (potentially a new site). Close the existing El Camino facility.
- ▶ Over time, potentially close one additional existing elementary site, in response to anticipated decreases in enrollment for existing communities.

Placement and Relocation of District Programs

- ▶ Request staff to develop specific guidelines relating to the placement of District programs which take into consideration stability of program placement, geographic distribution, and balance within the total school program.

Mr. Stone presented next steps, pending Board adoption of the recommendations, and expressed appreciation to committee members for their work.

Board members discussed the benefits and possible concerns surrounding the proposed change to a 6-8 grade level configuration.

Harvard Barranca Site

Deputy Superintendent Vern Medeiros provided a status report on the Harvard/Barranca site outlining recent changes including flexibility to include grades 9-12, consideration of a utility easement with the Irvine Ranch Water District by the Department of the Navy, and verbal approval to extend the occupancy timeline to December 2006. He provided supporting rationale for placement of a 9-12 school at the site, and outlined the revenue sources to finance construction of the facility.

Speaking to the topic:

Rich Knowland, Lennar Homes

Adjournment

On the motion of Member Kuwabara, seconded by Member Coven and carried 5-0, there being no further Board of Education business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Carolyn McInerney
President

Dean Waldfogel
Superintendent