

Meeting Date: April 12, 2011

Item Title: Implementation of Alameda Unified School District Master Plan for 2010-2015

Item Type: Information

BACKGROUND: With the passage of Measure A on March 8, 2011, we now move forward with the implementation of the Alameda Unified School District Master Plan 2010-2015. Tonight we will be presenting for the Board of Education and the community as a whole an overview of our master plan as approved by the Board of Education on February 23, 2010.

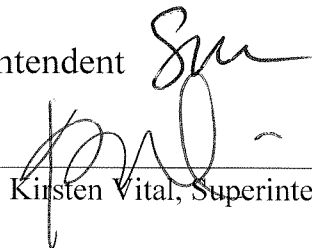
FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Implementation of Measure A \$12 million dollar Parcel Tax

RECOMMENDATION: Accept as presented.

Alameda Unified School District Guiding Principles: 1. All students have the ability to achieve academic and personal success. 2. Teachers will challenge and support all students to reach their highest academic and personal potential. 3. Administrators have the knowledge, leadership skills, and ability to ensure student success. 4. Parental involvement and community engagement are integral to student success. 5. Accountability, transparency, and trust are necessary at all levels of the organization. 6. Allocation of funds will support our vision, mission, and guiding principles

Submitted by: Sean McPhetridge, Assistant Superintendent

Approved for Submission to Board of Education


Kirsten Vital, Superintendent

Implementation of AUSD Master Plan for 2010-2015

April 12, 2011

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Purpose of Tonight's Presentation

- This presentation aims to provide an overview of AUSD's Master Plan.
- Now that Measure A has passed, Plan B can be averted, and we can look forward to enacting the AUSD Master Plan that the Alameda community helped co-construct as a vision for the future of Alameda's public schools.

History of AUSD's Master Plan

- In the spring of 2009, Superintendent Vital proposed a Master Plan process to set goals and guide actions of AUSD for the next five years.
- The Board of Education commissioned the Master Plan process, and staff collected data to present to the public in a series of interactive community workshops over the next year.
- In this manner, AUSD elicited input of students, staff and families to help guide the vision of a 21st century school district.

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The Fiscal Reality of Alameda Schools

- Due to unprecedented state budget cuts that reduced per-pupil funding to 2004-2005 levels, AUSD was forced to seek additional funding through a parcel tax or face drastic cuts to services to AUSD students and their families.
- While an initial effort to pass a parcel tax in 2010 had failed by a small margin, Measure A succeeded in March of 2011, proving that a super-majority of Alameda voters strongly supported and showed commitment to ongoing efforts to preserve and improve upon Alameda's schools.

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Measure A and What It Says

Measure A guarantees funds will be allocated as follows (unless a severe fiscal emergency requires otherwise):

- Small Class Sizes (13-14% of Measure A funds), a commitment to class size ratios of 25:1 in K-3 classrooms
- Neighborhood Elementary Schools (7-8%), a commitment to keeping open high quality local school choices for Alameda residents
- Secondary School Choice Initiative and AP Courses (7-8%), a commitment to providing rigorous and relevant academic pathways to prepare all students for college readiness and career success
- Programs to Close the Achievement Gap (15-16%), a commitment to teacher professional development and student programs as a continued priority (including restoration of a 180 day school year)

Measure A and What It Says *(continued)*

Measure A guarantees funds will be allocated as follows (unless a severe fiscal emergency requires otherwise):

- High School Athletic Programs (4%), a commitment of revenues dedicated to sports programs in high schools (incl. coach stipends, transportation to interscholastic events, equipment costs, et cetera)
- Enrichment Programs (9-10%), a commitment to dedicated funds for K-12 visual and performing arts, elementary school PE and Media Centers, and other support for enrichment programs in form of supplies and equipment
- Attract and Retain Excellent Teachers (25-26%), a commitment of revenues dedicated to help Alameda maintain highly qualified staff in AUSD classrooms

Measure A and What It Says (continued)

Measure A guarantees funds will be allocated as follows (unless a severe fiscal emergency requires otherwise):

- Counseling and Student Support Services (6%), a commitment of dedicated funds for counselors and other support providers, including college and career counseling services
- Alameda Charter Students (3-4%), a commitment of funds guaranteed for existing charter school use to be distributed according to their proportionate enrollment of Alameda resident students
- Technology (5%), a commitment of funds dedicated to maintaining and providing instructional technology that is consistent with AUSD's Board-approved technology plan
- Adult Education (4%), a commitment of funds designated for education services for adult learners

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What the Master Plan Says

- Redesign Central Office
- Raise the Bar
- Create a System of Attractive School Options
- Maintain a Policy of Neighborhood Elementary Schools
- Strengthen Effective Enrichment Programs
- Optimize Enrollment
- Build Nonprofit, Business and Philanthropic Partnerships
- Pass a Parcel Tax

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Pass a Parcel Tax

- As previously discussed, Alameda residents voted to pass Measure A with a super-majority of voters showing their support of and commitment to public education in Alameda.
- Measure A succeeded because of the collective action of Alameda residents, families, business leaders and other community stakeholders.
- Now it is incumbent upon us to ensure AUSD enacts the values established under Measure A, adhering to and showing accountability for the community's goals for the district and establishing an oversight committee as voted upon in the parcel tax.

Build Nonprofit, Business and Philanthropic Partnerships

- Currently AUSD staff are conducting outreach efforts to Alameda Education Foundation and other partners to seek out additional funding in the form of grants and other contributions of resources that will help sustain instructional improvement efforts underway in the district.
- Over the year ahead, AUSD will continue to focus its efforts on leveraging our relationships with local partners to realize the district's plans of working toward becoming a model 21st century district by 2015.
- Already AUSD is working with the City of Alameda and other local agencies to realize cost-saving measures and align resources toward mutual benefit.

Optimize Enrollment

- Because Alameda has shown a commitment to its neighborhood schools, AUSD must consider how best to optimize enrollment by both filling under-enrolled schools and lessening overcrowding of over-enrolled campuses.
- Moreover, because Alameda has strongly voiced its priority of maintaining manageable elementary school class sizes of 25:1 in its K-3 classrooms, AUSD will fulfill that promise and also work toward the potential of even lower class sizes if the California budget makes that possible in years ahead.
- By developing magnet programs and reviewing current enrollment boundaries (e.g., Ruby Bridges and Paden), AUSD can work toward optimizing enrollment at its different neighborhood schools.

Strengthen Effective Enrichment Programs

- During the Master Plan public engagement process, community stakeholders voiced strongly their values regarding maintenance of enrichment programs (e.g., physical education, visual and performing arts, technology and media center services, after school programs and career technical education courses).
- As designated in Measure A, enrichment programs will be maintained through dedicated funds, and AUSD can reinvigorate efforts to integrate visual and performing arts in all its schools, spanning grades K-12.
- In that regard, AUSD middle schools will maintain a 7-period day to preserve elective programs while also planning ongoing efforts to provide adequate instructional minutes in core academic areas of math and science.
- Moreover, ongoing efforts to bring AUSD students further enrichment through technology use and secondary CTE programs will continue.

Maintain a Policy of Neighborhood Elementary Schools

- The 2009 *Listening Campaign* process revealed Alameda residents greatly value neighborhood elementary schools, prioritizing this value in AUSD Master Plan implementation.
- AUSD has committed to supporting innovative programs at its schools to ensure attractive options for students and their families.
- Magnet school planning has been re-initiated to achieve the goal of providing families with choices that can help provide attractive school options that can help maximize facility use through increased enrollment at under-enrolled schools.

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Create a System of Attractive School Options

- As previously mentioned, AUSD has restored its efforts at providing a process whereby school communities can design and develop innovative programs to serve family interests and help AUSD become more efficient in school facility use as a result.
- AEA and AUSD have collaborated closely this year to create an improved process that allows AUSD school communities to be considered as candidates for implementation of magnet programs.
- This month, schools will receive Request for Proposal (RFP) forms that will allow them to submit revised applications to be considered as potential magnet programs. These AUSD Innovative Schools / Magnet Programs will be reviewed by AUSD and then submitted for Board consideration in June so schools can begin implementation efforts required for successful start-up through thoughtful planning.
- Existing proposals from schools that submitted on magnet proposals last year will be given feedback and prioritized to provide them the opportunity to be reviewed and assessed per the new Board Policy approved this year.

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Raise the Bar

- AUSD is committed to realizing its vision of providing a rigorous academic program that will prepare students for college readiness and career preparation.
- As a result, AUSD continues to implement its key instructional improvement initiatives (e.g., Strategic Instruction Model (SIM), Inquiry by Design (IBD), Alameda County Office of Education Math Development Center (ACOE MDC)) that have shown progress in better preparing students for each stage of their K-12 experiences.
- Included in this effort is AUSD's effort to increase student access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses and build meaningful pathways in Career Technical Education (CTE) that will better prepare students for success upon graduation and entrance to post-secondary education and the workplace.

Redesign Central Office

- AUSD has streamlined its District Office operations in the past two years to provide schools with additional funding redirected for instructional improvement efforts.
- Included in those efforts are deliberate steps to improve upon District Office services to schools, resulting in continuing discussions with principals to brainstorm and implement new processes that aim to achieve efficiencies through improvement of functions necessary to AUSD school operations (e.g., Human Resources; Fiscal Services; Educational Services; and Maintenance, Operations and Facilities departments).

Redesign Central Office *(continued)*

- AUSD has worked this year to create feedback loops from school constituents to better inform District Office practice and ongoing efforts at improved service for those school sites.
- As a result, training modules have been provided to principals and office managers in order to address school site needs (e.g., budgeting, purchasing, ASB and revolving fund account, hiring and evaluation, work order and facility use processes).
- These and other processes will be evaluated by school site users in AUSD's evolving scorecard development to help gauge and inform progress of District Office performance.

Next Steps

- On April 26th, AUSD's Fiscal Services department will present the Board of Education with specifics on how Measure A funds and Tier III categorical resources will be aligned and designated to achieve the goals outlined in AUSD's Master Plan and the community's values established in Measure A.
- AUSD thus continues to work toward realizing the community's vision of Alameda schools through implementation of both the Master Plan and Measure A.