

August 18 Workshop Feedback

Participants were asked to rank on a scale from 1 to 6 (1 being the highest) Alameda community values most:

Neighborhood Schools	2.44
Small Class Sizes	3.11
Transparency and Accountability	4.04
Enrichment and Specialized Programs	2.92
Flexible spaces for different learning activities	4.63
Priority consideration for Alameda students' educational needs	3.54

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the specific strategies suggested to the following challenges:

1. A persistent achievement gap and pending Program Improvement status with the state
2. Funding instability due to shifting demographics and the future sunset of parcel taxes
3. Enrollment imbalance causing under utilization of facilities and program inequities
4. A need to improve recruitment and retention of high quality teachers, administrators and staff
5. The district office must do more and better with much less

Strategy: Create Magnet Schools

I would like to see us position ourselves as a leadership district to attract Federal money in line with the President's priorities of improving low achieving student performance and focusing on science, technology and math. I would like to find out if Professional Learning Communities would be a useful model for our schools or our district. I appreciated Phil Dauber's suggestions. We should investigate them.

Provide creative models to gain more ADA where there choices to go private by allowing flexible programming at the school site level.

Science/Technology

I love the science ideas – follow the federal model/lead. INNOVATE. Science, technology, music, arts, theatre. Sell all schools to parents so they find the right fit for their child, no just considering neighborhood school.

West and central magnets make sense. I am in favor of a diversity of schools and programs and a diversity of choice for families.

I would like to explore the State and Federal funded programs, language arts focus.

Would like to see pipeline programs that build throughout all levels of education.

I would rather see program choice and learning options created district wide versus site specific charters

Language immersion (English/Mandarin) Science & Technology

I liked Phil's suggestion: re: going after Federal dollars and using innovation. I liked the idea of "educating" potential student's parents about the various elementary schools. Sell them. We really benefitted from the day care available in elementary school. We moved to be in Edison area versus Lum. How is Edison different or is it? Is it real or perception only?

Strategy: Create Magnet Schools (continued)

Language immersion ... too late for my child but this is the single thing that would have given me incentive to drive my child to the west end

Science/math immersion or language/arts immersion

Performing Arts magnet – we are losing students and Alameda needs this

BRAVO model

Attract proficient students from outside of AUSD

Dual immersion, arts, technology, performing arts

Possibly arts, science

I would support this over charter schools. If I wasn't able to just send my child to the neighborhood school I would want to have a choice about sending them to school with a program I thought would be worth driving across the Island for. For magnet/charter – could the district help with the issue of children getting across the Island? Regarding changing the boundaries – Could there be flex zones between schools that change as enrollment changes?

Science/technology

Science/math/art

Arts, science, dual immersion

I have not heard the desire for magnet schools and would rate this strategy as more important creating charter schools.

Science, math, bilingual, art We should have a dual immersion school I my children to be bilingual

Arts, science, GATE, vocational education – but keep them diverse and serving local Alameda families

Strategy: Charter Schools

Dependent –YRE – program choices: driven grass roots community effort

Local charter – parents involved fill gaps for type if schools

Can we give concerned community members organized opportunities to visit working divers charters in Oakland (etc)? The only model most Alamedans know is ACLC/Nea. We know that schools re-structured into charters (several small schools located on an original campus) do not perform well. I am very much in favor of new “mom & pop” charters.

I do not understand the difference between what defines a magnet versus charter

I do not understand trade-offs between charters and magnets. If it makes financial sense we should do charter with immersion programs.

Charter/magnet including arts

Flexibility and increased ADA are positive but what about the poorest students and with those with problems? Collaborative (not totally independent) so that district services would still be utilized

Decisions should be made by organizers – any kind of charter school that works for them

Include neighborhood kids as a priority

Based on philosophy of education i.e. An ITI school – the need to write own curriculum= have the freedom with regard to textbooks funds

Strategy: Charter Schools (continued)

I am not opposed, but I am very wary. I would like to emphasis on district. I oppose ACLC scoring "10" by virtue of suing Encinal AP teachers.

If it is the last resort

I don't think charter schools are good for public education over the long term

I strongly feel charter schools put disadvantaged students and families at a greater disadvantage.

As long as the charters do not skim off the top performing students and isolate average and struggling schools.

Strategy: Restructure District Office

Needs and correlate to school-neighborhood- student needs

If it makes sense to do to save \$

I appreciate the continuing effort to implement best practices and create accountability matrix

I just threw out two years of companion workbooks for two middle school subject totally unused. A great amount of dollars was spent for these materials.

Look to outsource admin function (hiring/ payroll, facilities management) to private firms or look to pool these functions with other districts or county.

I appreciate how efficient and effective the district office is already, but imagine some more streamlining could be done.

Be careful not to change things that work – more discussion with the people who have been working in district

I trust the district to make priorities

Schools have to buy services from District Office and District Office has menu of services to sell

I think the District is as lean as it can get

Computerize all school orientation every year could be online, record keeping, attendance calls, etc

No suggestions I do know that our AUSD offices are much less top-heavy than before

I trust you are doing the doing the best you can

Strategy: Reduce Cost in response to State budget cuts

What would be cost savings of returning to the AM/PM kindergarten model? It seems that AM/PM would be a more efficient use of physical space. As I understand it, full (3/4 day) kindergarten is not a State requirement. This could relieve the overcrowding at some elementary schools.

Increase class sizes. Formalize volunteer assistance for Art and Music.

Exit strategy for better time and reintroduction of lost programs

Away from the classroom – outside partnerships set up foundations before the cuts – music – libraries – Arts – Sports – technology Each "neighborhood" holds important elements – build upon it.

Every parent contributes volunteer hours or \$ to help support program cuts

Would changing secondary education and grade structures save funds or use facilities more efficiently? I do not see how AUSD can avoid additional cuts based on state funding. I wish I knew what to recommend here.

Strategy: Reduce Cost in response to State budget cuts (continued)

Sell/develop land where Island used to be. Reduce costs for special needs student. I heard AUSD had to pay to send a student with behavior issues to private school.

Decisions should be made based on our goals and priorities rather than reactionary

We must work within our means but I cannot suggest specific cuts.

We have to live within the money we have- but we made all the easy cuts, future cuts should be across the board.

Administrative overhead reduction We do not need to do a study to see computerization would help Develop better website

What is left to cut? Please stop cutting.

I like the idea to go after federal money and professional learning communities.

Strategy: Define and Prioritize Essential Programs

Music and Art are essential programs.

What are existing programs?

Dollar gain come in many ways – more attendance – attendance programs – we aren't talking about this.

I am not familiar with various programs. I would say collaborations might help – library/technology is blending

I think variety has to be provided to appeal to different learning styles, interest and abilities

What are essential programs? Music? Arts? Science? PE/Sports?

Programs for bright kids to keep them in public schools and keep them interested in learning including elementary math, science, reading, music. LMS science was BORING.

Identify programs that can be externally funded. Sports are essential but also one of the easiest to attract funding for.

Educate the whole child – if programs are cut – it widens the East-West gap

Regional occupation program, early child education (universal preschool?)

AP courses, music, art, drama, world languages

Let's do professional learning communities.

I would like to see this put to teachers, obviously need 3 Rs, but stronger science and arts, etc

Please include science as essential

Math, science, language arts were cut enough

Science, math, computer science and English

I do not want Art fighting with science

Strategy: Parcel Tax

Provide comparison what is provided now vs. 60s and 70s.

Very difficult with the lawsuit and overall distrust

It's important to help business and land owners without children to understand how valuable our schools are to the community

We are barely past Measure H. How are we going to handle another parcel tax?

Strategy: Parcel Tax (continued)

Celebrate what we have all the time! Sell our schools! Then help us be of afraid of losing it! Why don't we imagine the need to present ourselves – the way private schools do? We are great but the community does not know it! Parents who come to kindergarten night may need to be convinced to attend instead of going to private school.

Start promoting the excellent learning happening in AUSD

Align master plan goals so that community understanding what they are buying with their investment. Beyond that, tax needs to be structured to align best with selling it to the voters (single family residences and community influencers)

Direct cost connected to programs so people know what they are paying for

Needs to be initiated by the community not by AUSD

We need to have more focus on what we are doing well

Public education campaign Good suggestions given tonight

We must make them realize that these kids will be running the city in the future

What questions or suggestions do you have about the listening campaign?

Conduct topic oriented discussion instead of Q&A that goes all over. Include financial summary at every meeting.

We need to get “input” – not just feedback!

Leverage core competencies gather information about community strengths – all may have some skill, ability, resource to contribute.

At tonight's meeting I was not given a chance to give my opinions – after the group Q&A, board members were asked for their opinions – I haven't had that opportunity yet ... I have ideas 😊

Start house parties now! I am happy to host several

In order to guarantee attendance, you must find a way to provide light snacks and entertainment by students – parents almost always come to see children perform – part of the reason why arts programs are so important

Suggestions for funding: go after stimulus funding, city redevelopment funds

Respect for all diverse communities in Alameda schools especially regarding LGBT curriculum

I am satisfied by the master plan process to date in that is a listening campaign for those who care to be involved. More publicity could not hurt.

How are we going to fill the educational Gap! Change boundaries, greater enrollment look at the facility to enrich the children's desire to learn

I appreciate these efforts to hold listening campaign and I am pleased to see/hear responsiveness and community engagement. Also, I am pleased to hear that new avenues and locations and partners are being developed to get input from the lower SES communities and underrepresented communities.

Just need to know more and how I can help