

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Superintendent Kirsten Vital (510) 337-7060

## **School Board and Superintendent Announce Timeline for Decision-Making on School Closures and Consolidations**

### ***Community Outreach Also Seeks Input on Structure of Possible New Parcel Tax Measure***

Alameda, Friday, September 3, 2010 – Today the AUSD Board of Education and Superintendent announced a timeline for upcoming community outreach and decision-making by the Board regarding school closures and consolidations, as well as for a possible new parcel tax measure.

Due to unprecedented state budget cuts, ongoing state economic uncertainties and the narrow defeat of the Measure E parcel tax, AUSD is moving ahead with closures of secondary and elementary schools. At its meeting on September 14, the Board will review several scenarios for closing schools this June in Phase I with more schools the following year in Phase II. Before taking final action on these closures in December, the Board will hold special meetings and public hearings from September through November on the dates below.

In light of feedback from the community this past summer, this fall the Board will also continue to seek input on a possible new parcel tax measure that would offset the budget cuts from the state and protect Alameda from having to close successful schools that our community values.

In recent weeks AUSD's Superintendent and Board President Mooney have held many outreach meetings with business associations, business groups, community stakeholders and individuals in order to receive input on the structure for a possible new parcel tax. The community meetings this fall will build on that ongoing outreach. The meetings are designed to be sure all community members, business groups and all other stakeholders, have an opportunity to share their views on how best we can compromise to create a parcel tax that is structured as fairly as possible.

Superintendent Vital explained: "We hope every Alamedan will use his or her voice this fall to provide input on the possible school closures and consolidations scenarios and the best possible structure for a new parcel tax."

## Alameda Unified School District - Board of Education Timeline for Decision-Making and Community Engagement

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Board Meeting	September 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board to review scenarios for school closure/consolidation</li> </ul>
Parcel Tax Public Hearing (Kofman Auditorium)	September 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Board of Education meeting/business and community stakeholder feedback/parcel tax structure options</li> </ul>
Board Meeting	September 28 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board will review rough draft preliminary tiered budget reductions</li> </ul>
Closures/Consolidation Public Hearing (Lincoln Middle School)	September 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Board of Education meeting/Public Hearing for community feedback/review of scenarios for school closure/consolidation</li> </ul>
Board Meeting	October 12 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board to review facility analyses for school closure/consolidation scenarios</li> </ul>
Parcel Tax Public Hearing (Earhart)	October 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Board of Education meeting/Public Hearing for community feedback/review of March ballot parcel tax options</li> </ul>
Closures/Consolidation Public Hearing (Ruby Bridges)	October 21 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Special Board of Education meeting/Public Hearing for feedback on final analysis for recommendation for implementation of closure/consolidation of schools in Phase I/II approach</li> </ul>
Board Meeting	October 26 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board to review list of "tiered" AUSD budget reductions</li> </ul>
Board Meeting	November 9 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board to review proposed March ballot parcel tax measure (info)</li> </ul>
Board Meeting Parcel Tax decision	November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board to decide on March ballot parcel tax measure (action)</li> <li>Board to receive final recommendations from staff on closure/consolidation scenarios (info)</li> </ul>
Board Meeting Closures/ Consolidation decision	December 14 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board will vote and decide upon final scenario for closure/consolidation of schools for 2011/2012 and 2012/13 school years</li> <li>Board will vote and approve First Interim Budget report with tiered budget reductions</li> </ul>

Additional meetings will be held with the AUSD PTA Council, school site PTA groups, bargaining unit leadership, School Site Councils, and community organizations (AEF, Alameda Family Services, Alameda Multicultural Center, and others).

Laurie McLachlan-Fry, our Director of Educational Options, is the contact to schedule these additional meetings. She can be reached via e-mail at [lmclachlan@alameda.k12.ca.us](mailto:lmclachlan@alameda.k12.ca.us) or by telephone at 510-337-7094.

