

ADOPTED MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING - The special meeting of the Board of Education was held on the date and place mentioned above.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- The meeting was called to order by President McMahon at 6:41 PM, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Jensen, McMahon, Mooney, Spencer, Tam

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC SESSION ITEM

Master Plan Topics: *Review Board of Education direction from September 8th meeting*
Discuss magnet schools

Magnet Schools - Group Questions & Answers:

Q: Will ELL and Special Ed students be included?

A: No students will be kept out.

Q: What is the cost per student per year based on your examples?

A: For LACES, the upfront startup costs were \$400K - \$500K. There has to be time to plan a school well – it takes at least a year. One way to do it is to plan a theory of action; think about what the school looks like. There's a cost of salaries, materials, curriculum design, etc. It depends on the type of magnet focus as to how much these materials could cost. On average, a safe number would be about \$5000 per child.

Q: How many magnet schools are in operation around our area right now?

A: SFUSD has a couple including Lowell. OUSD was looking at an International Baccalaureate program at Maxwell Park School. There are some we can look at, but typically small districts don't have a lot.

Q: What are the ongoing costs?

A: It depends on the type of magnet school. For example, music and technology will incur frequent updates to instruments and computers.

Q: Are we talking about multiple magnets or just one or two?

A: It's a strategy we are looking at – could we gain enrollment with this strategy and think about places where we're underenrolled. There isn't a particular number of theme in mind.

Q: What about out-of-district students?

A: Like current district schools, at a certain point if we don't fill the enrollment with resident students, then we could open available seats to students from outside the district.

- Q: (Attendee provided history regarding successful programs previously within the district) Why don't we currently have those programs?
- A: They were cut due to budget constraints in years past. They were programs that had additional costs that the Board at that time deemed too expensive.
- Q: Is ASTI a magnet school?
- A: It's a de facto magnet. ASTI is an early college high school.
- Q: What about equity?
- A: We're looking at the whole budget and how we're making investments. For example, we have ASTI. We make a huge investment in this specialized program. Their results are that 98% of the kids go on to college, and 70% graduate high school with an AA degree.
- Q: What is the cost of ASTI?
- A: There are about 150 students there, now. Some years there are mostly Alameda students, others more from elsewhere. It doesn't cost the individual student, but it costs the district more money to run a smaller school. We choose to make an investment based on the outcomes we're seeing. ASTI partners with the College of Alameda, and students receive free college classes and help with textbooks. Currently, 40% of the students at ASTI are from outside Alameda, which helps the district gain enrollment.
- Q: What about partnering or getting corporate sponsorship to underwrite some of these strategies?
- A: There are schools that partner with community groups depending on their theme/focus. An example is an orthopedic magnet that partnered with the local hospital.
- Q: How will surveys be distributed?
- A: The survey will be available on the website and paper copies will be available at school sites.
- Q: There must be a break point where magnets cost less?
- A: Models discussed have about 1500-1600 students.
- Q: What is an international baccalaureate program?
- A: It focuses on world citizenship and the idea of internationally-based, college prep, more philosophical perspectives.
- Q: What if students who live in the neighborhood don't get into the magnet school. Will they have to attend school farther away?
- A: Yes. They would look at the boundaries and attend whatever "regular" school is in their zone.

Board Discussion

- Would like presentation on AEA magnet survey results at future Board meeting
- We need to get to a more specific concept then have a whole set of parameters and agreements around how that's going to be implemented and linked to the whole Master Plan process
- We could do pre-marketing and outreach to community to gauge interest in this type of program
- Keep fiscal sustainability at the forefront
- We need additional checkpoints
- Put due date of October 8 on survey
- Are we communicating with families who don't necessarily have children attending our schools?
- Are we soliciting feedback from students?

- Having a different magnet theme at each middle school would provide more options across the island and offer more innovation and flexibility
- Continue to identify strategies that offer the most leverage in building collaboration with community and business organizations
- Be inclusive
- How is this being discussed out at the school sites? This should be on School Loop and e-mail groups
- Maybe its time to align feeder schools with the high schools based on theme and whether or not it flows through 9-12

ADJOURNMENT

President McMahan adjourned the meeting at 8:13 PM.