



DATE: June 12, 2018

CATEGORY: Items Initiated by Council

DEPT.: City Council

TITLE: **Los Altos School District 10th Site Task Force**

RECOMMENDATION

Provide feedback on an update of the work of the Los Altos School District 10th Site Task Force and any recommendations the Council may wish to bring forward to the Task Force.

BACKGROUND

At our meeting of January 16, 2018, the City Council approved various actions related to the development of a new school and open space in the San Antonio Precise Plan area for the Los Altos School District (LASD). As part of its action, the City Council expressed a preference that the school at this site be open to north of El Camino Real (NEC) students and that the School District present a transparent public process to be used in determining the service area of the school and the City's role prior to executing the funding agreement and master agreement for maintenance of fields.

At its meeting of February 12, 2018, the LASD Board of Trustees approved formation of a Site Advisory Task Force comprised of stakeholders of the LASD and City of Mountain View communities.

At the request of the City Council, LASD included a member of the City Council to serve on the Task Force, and I was appointed to be the City's representative. In addition to myself, the Task Force Members are:

- Current LASD parent from the NEC area: James Reilly
- Current LASD parent from outside the NEC area: Tom McGovern
- Current resident from the NEC area: Anthony Shortland

- Current resident from LASD: Joe Seither
- Mountain View resident from outside NEC area: Lara Daetz
- Current parent representative from Bullis Charter School (BCS): Jill Jene
- Current LASD administrator: Sandra McGonagle
- Member of LASD Office administration's educational staff: Raquel Matteroli

Randy Kenyon and Jeff Baier participate in an advisory capacity, and Silicon Valley Education Foundation CEO Manny Barbara has been facilitating the sessions.

The Task Force has met three times, on May 11, May 12, and May 31, 2018. The first meeting consisted of an overview of School District demographics and work done since 2012 to address potential District enrollment growth, including review of the Superintendent's Enrollment Growth Task Force of 2013, the LASD Strategy Engine Project, the LASD Facilities Advisory Committee report from June, 2014, the Facilities Master Plan Committee Interim Report of March 2015, and the LASD Demographic Findings report of April, 2017. Links to these reports are available below (Attachments 2 through 5).

After review of these materials, the Task Force was asked to review school design possibilities to resolve LASD's student capacity challenges, analyzing and presenting data that will allow the board to consider the options below:

1. Placing a neighborhood school at the new site.
2. Placing BCS at the new site.
3. Placing a magnet/choice school at the new site.
4. Any combination of the above.

A summary of the advantages and impacts of each option is included as Attachment 1. Key factors we considered were financial implications, impact on existing LASD schools/boundary changes, educational and school equity, implementation time, traffic concerns, and my additional interest of the NEC Mountain View neighborhood.

Several takeaways I have gathered so far over the course of this process include:

1. The NEC neighborhood/San Antonio Planning area strongly desires public amenities such as open space, playing fields/track and field and other recreational facilities (i.e., gym, swimming pool).
2. There is a difference in facilities a K-6 elementary school would offer in comparison to a school that includes middle school (Grade 7 and 8).
3. Boundary changes are extremely difficult for a school district to implement.
4. The LASD administration has strong concerns about a neighborhood school mainly due to the demographic mix this new school would have as a result of NEC students being more socioeconomically disadvantaged, i.e., about 50 percent of students would be in need of language support.
5. BCS desires one campus to house its 900 K through 8 students at the present time and plans to grow to 1,200 students.

At the third meeting, I proposed a new option: move Egan Middle School to the new site and consolidate BCS onto the Egan site. BCS currently uses a portion of it. The merits of this proposal include:

- There would be no need to redraw attendance boundaries.
- The 8.6-acre parcel the District hopes to purchase for a 10th campus is the right size for Egan's population of 550 students, and the campus could be built now to house the possible transfer of sixth graders into middle schools. Currently, LASD middle schools are only 7th and 8th grades.
- There would be fewer students with a middle school rather than BCS (550 to 800 versus 900 to 1,200).
- Egan would receive new, state-of-the-art facilities.
- Giving the current Egan campus to the charter school would enable the latter to consolidate operations on one site, with enough space to accommodate its projected growth, whereas the targeted 10th site would be too small for the charter school.

- Middle-school students are old enough to walk or bike across El Camino Real on their own, so Egan's presence would not generate as much traffic around the 10th site.
- Middle schoolers in NEC will have a neighborhood school.

Objections to my proposal were:

- Egan would be displaced from its longtime home in Los Altos.
- The move would cause disruption to the community.
- There would still be no elementary school in the NEC area.
- It would be unfair that Blach Intermediate School remains in its facilities while Egan relocates.
- It would be expensive to construct a new Egan campus and convert the existing facility into a campus suitable for the charter school.

Although this new proposal will be further vetted at the next meeting, we were asked to rank our first and second options.

Placing BCS at the new site had 5 votes for first choice.

Placing Egan Middle School had 3 votes for first choice.

Placing a neighborhood school had all votes for the second choice.

I would appreciate any questions and feedback Councilmembers may have on the process thus far, on the various options for the new school site, and whether the Council should request/provide direction on which option should be pursued.

PUBLIC NOTICING – Agenda posting.

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MAK/LN/3/CAM
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- Attachments:
1. LASD 10th Site Advisory Task Force Impacts
 2. [Superintendent's Enrollment Growth Task Force](#)
 3. [Conteneo Strategy Engine Project](#)
 4. [Facilities Advisory Committee Report](#)
 5. [Facilities Master Plan Committee Interim Report](#)