

LASD Strategy Engine Project

Options for Effectively Managing
Enrollment Growth

Project Objectives

The project goals were to:

- 1) Create an opportunity for a diverse group of people from the community to provide input online regarding possible strategies for addressing student enrollment growth, expanding access to people who are typically unable to attend in-person community meetings.
- 2) Generate data and insights the LASD board could incorporate into their decision making process

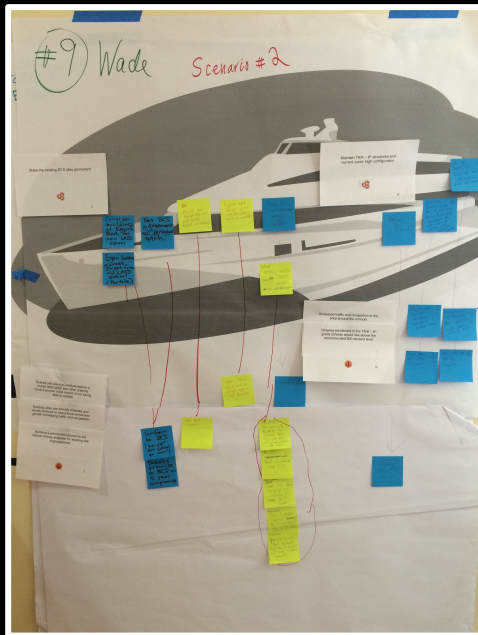
Process

Phase 1

April 22 Meeting

Analysis

Strategy Guide



Item Number	Item Name	Item Type	Item Description
1	permanent	propeller v8	L: make the existing BCS sites
2	N: Maintain TK/K - 6th	propeller v8	N: Maintain TK/K - 1 structures and curr High configuration
3	L: Building 2 permanent structures	anchor v8	L: Building 2 permanent structures will reduce available for existing improvements
4	L: Shared site solutions institutionalizes	anchor v8	L: Shared site solutions institutionalizes a m LASD and other dist proven track record being able to sustain
5	L: Existing sites are already crowded	anchor v8	L: Existing sites are crowded and would to experience enrollment growth increasing traffic congestion
6	N: Increased traffic and congestion	anchor v8	N: Increased traffic congestion in the area of the schools
7	N: Growing enrollment in the TK/K - 6th	anchor v8	N: Growing enrollment TK/K - 6th grade school rise above the record 600-student level
8	L: existing sites for BCS are very crowded	Orange Sticky	
9	L: traffic congestion problems will increase & safety of walkers & bikers is not considered	anchor	
10	Parents and staff will have to travel to both sites and that increases traffic in the community	anchor	
11	Students do not have access to all that the school has to offer	anchor	

LASD
Managing Enrollment Growth within the Los Altos School District (LASD)

Introduction

With the passage of Measure N the district now has the ability to issue bonds for up to \$150 million to address growth and other facility needs as defined by a facilities master plan.

One of LASD's top priorities for measure N is to accommodate growing enrollment. Schools – both LASD and Bullis Charter School (BCS) – have reached a “tipping point”. Student enrollment has grown each year since 1985 and is at its highest in 40 years. Over the past decade, it has increased by more than 25% and we now have over 5400 students. Individual schools are near their capacity. Enrollment is now equal to that in the 1970s, when the district had 12 campuses, not 9. Although growth has occurred throughout the District, a disproportionate amount (a quarter of all growth over the last decade) has occurred in the area north of El Camino.

There is compelling evidence that enrollment within schools will continue to grow for the foreseeable future. Desirability of the district's schools is likely to continue to drive increases in the student population, even in the face of falling birthrates.

LASD is committed to creating a community-driven plan to accommodate growing student enrollment at all 10 local schools. The diverse, inclusive Enrollment Growth Task Force has recommended additional classroom and school space to address overcrowding. Through additional community input and committee meetings, three possible strategies for managing enrollment growth are being considered as possible options.

The purpose of Phase 1 was to gain community input in order to complete the Strategy Guide for Strategy Engine. Citizens added clarity and new ideas to proposed strategies and used the 4th “Build your Own Strategy” Boat to arrange actions in new configurations they felt would be more effective and supported by their fellow citizens.

Process

Phase 2

Sign-up and Scheduling

Strategy Engine Forums

Analysis & Reporting

School District

Parents & Community | Staff & Employment | Contact Us

Master Plan Information

of Measure N the district now has the ability to issue bonds for up to \$150 million to address enrollment growth and other facility needs as defined by a facilities master plan. The diverse, inclusive Enrollment Growth Task Force has recommended additional school space to address overcrowding. A district architect conducted site visits to provide feedback on educational and facilities needs. With parent, teacher and community input, the Master Plan will identify educational and facilities needs.

collection of resources related to the implementation of Measure N, enrollment and facilities planning.

[Sign Up for Online Forum](#)

Interested in joining a forum where you can share your thoughts and ideas regarding how to accommodate growing student enrollment? We are looking for members of the community to participate in online strategy sessions where you can provide your input on the various options, discuss the pros and cons of each, and help us determine the best path forward.

Strategy 1 - New Land, New School Building

NO OPINION | I THINK WE SHOULD

- A** Purchase land within LASD boundaries that is of sufficient size to build a new school.
- B** Lease land outside of LASD boundaries to build a school for BCS.
- C** Relocate BCS to the new school built on newly acquired land.
- D** Adjust attendance area boundaries in order to rebalance student populations.
- E** Relocate an existing LASD school to the new school built on newly acquired land.

I THINK WE SHOULD NOT

ACTION E

Relocate an existing LASD school to the new school built on newly acquired land.

Drawback

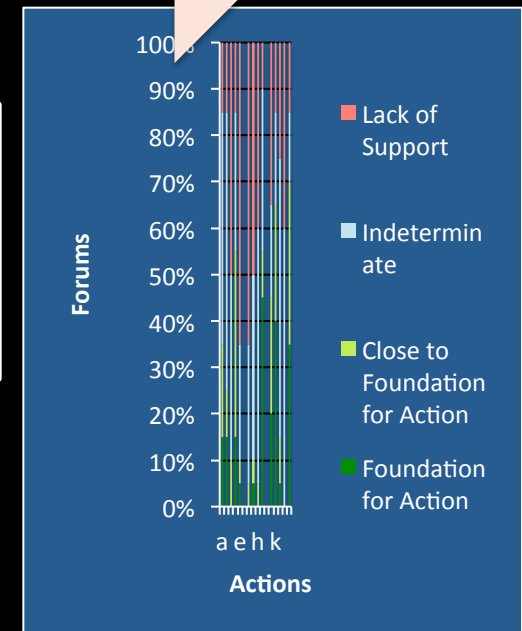
Moving an existing neighborhood school would likely disrupt a neighborhood school community and may require redrawing school attendance area boundaries.

I Can Live With This | I'm Conflicted | I Can't Live With This

Drawback

BCS is expecting enrollment to grow to 900 students. No LASD site exists today that could accommodate that many students without reconfiguration / expansion.

I Can Live With This | I'm Conflicted | I Can't Live With This



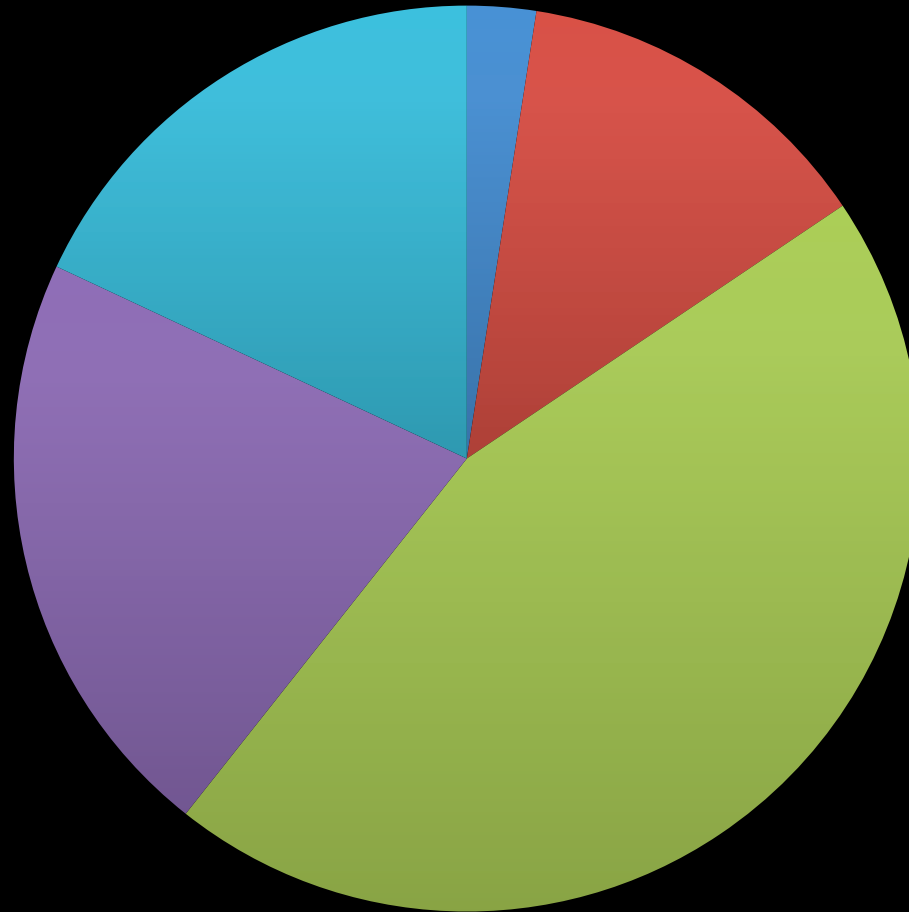
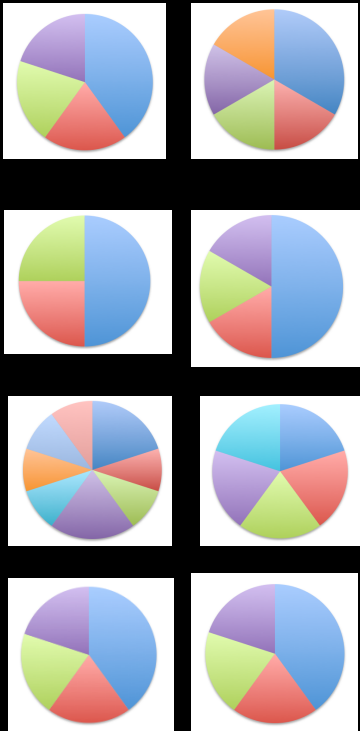
20 forums between June 11 – June 22
 Between 6:30am, throughout weekdays
 & 9am on Saturdays

Participation

- 202 people signed up indicating desire to participate
- All but 7 due to either scheduling issues or lack of access to computers, were invited to attend a specific forum.
- Requests to reschedule from participants were almost always accommodated.
- 116 people completed a forum.

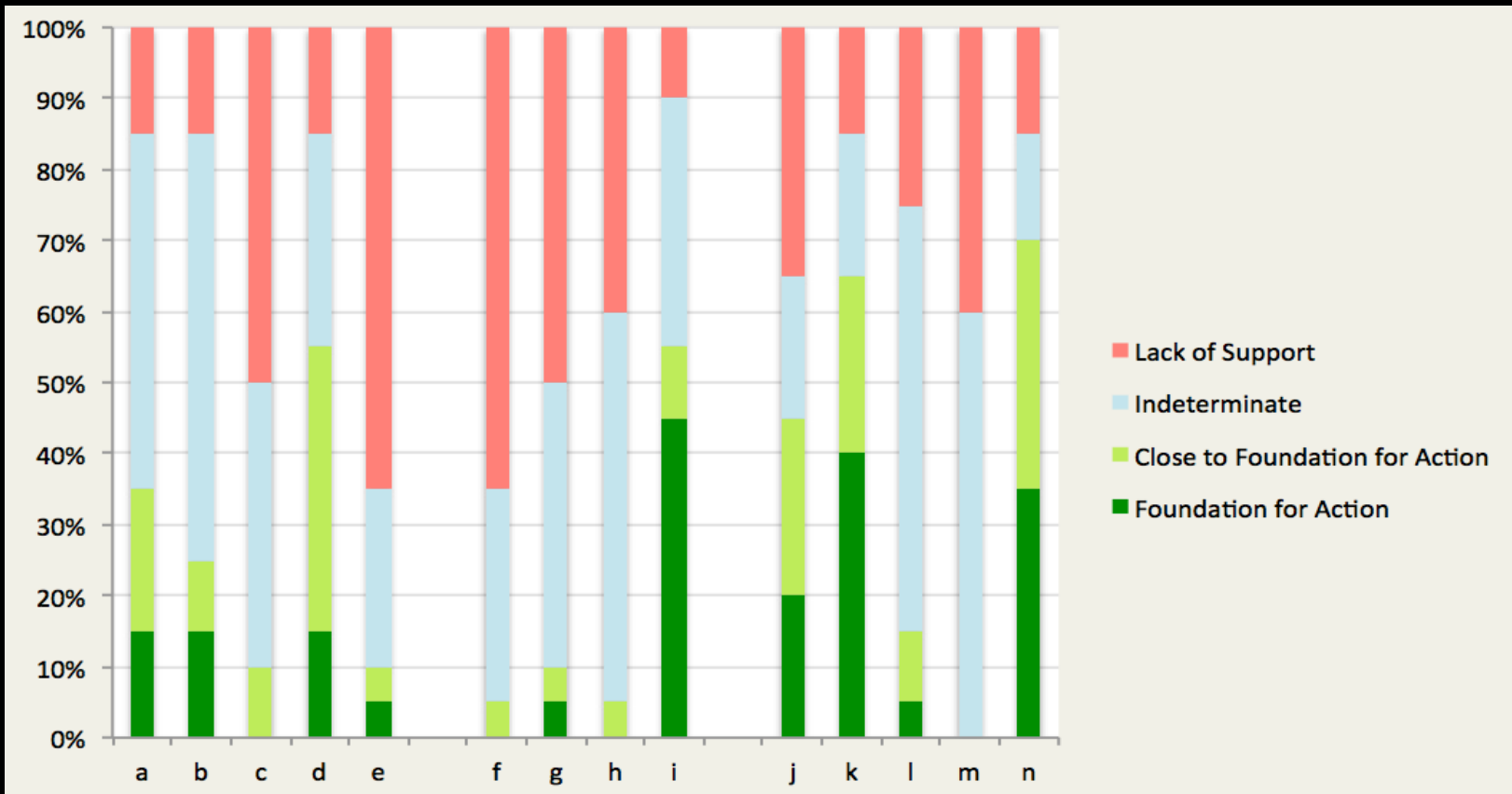
Participants

Each Forum was also diverse



- Private Schools
- High-Schools
- LASD Schools
- BCS
- Children in College or No Children in School

Results Summary



Lack of Support

- c Relocate an existing LASD school to the new school built on newly acquired land.
- e Lease land outside of LASD boundaries to build a school for BCS.
- f Make the existing BCS sites permanent.
- g Add capacity to each elementary school building and maintain the current TK/K - 6th configuration.
- h Continue to search for suitable land but because the purchase of land is no longer the first step in a solution, the district has time to wait for more suitable, more affordable land.
- l Designate Egan as a 2-school site and build a second school.
- m Designate Blach as a 2-school site and build a second school.

Support = Opportunity for Action

- a Purchase land within LASD boundaries that is of sufficient size to build a new school.
- b Relocate BCS to the new school built on newly acquired land.
- d Adjust attendance area boundaries in order to rebalance student populations
- i Collaborate with a city or municipality within the school district to build a new school on public land that is large enough to house a school and located in a desirable area.
- j Move BCS from its current locations to a new school that is built on existing land already owned by LASD.
- k Relocate District Offices currently at Covington & convert Covington from a 1 to a 2-school site.
- n Reconfigure existing junior high schools to a middle school model.

Opportunities for Action

- We looked at chat and “personal takes” to learn more about the concerns or conditions of support that participants may have had, preventing them from an even higher degree of support for these actions.

a Purchase land within LASD boundaries that is of sufficient size to build a new school.

- People expressed skepticism that affordable land in a good location was even available.
- They lacked specific examples and enough data to provide stronger support for this action.
- There was a concern that new land is too expensive and would mean no funds left for site improvements elsewhere.
- Lack of strong support represented by percentages must be balanced by forum conversations which shows the potential for stronger support.
- Lots of conditions for support expressed.

b Relocate BCS to the new school built on newly acquired land.

- Some participants wondered what BCS wants and were unsure if the LASD board engaged with BCS to understand this.
- People do not want to take actions that result in more litigation.
- They also want to understand how this action affects growing enrollment in the rest of the district.
- Some people just lacked data to answer effectively.

d Adjust attendance area boundaries in order to rebalance student populations

- People expressed concern that the level of disruption would have to be worth it – meaning as long as this action was part of a solution that actually solved the problem or improved communities, they could imagine supporting it.
- People also felt that the way the action was applied would impact their level of support.

i Collaborate with a city or municipality within the school district to build a new school on public land that is large enough to house a school and located in a desirable area.

- People expressed concern that this action would take too long and because people are unaware of any firm deals from a city, it may not even end up working out.
- Lack of specific examples or timelines made this harder for people to evaluate

j Move BCS from its current locations to a new school that is built on existing land already owned by LASD.

- Participants expressed a range of concerns regarding equity and whether J really solved the problem and what other actions would need to be taken together with J to meet the districts needs.

k Relocate District Offices currently at Covington & convert Covington from a 1 to a 2-school site.

- Participants who were not fully committed to actions that made use of existing land frequently expressed a desire for more data.
- Some expressed conditions of support including those relating to traffic mitigation and use of strategies deal with it.

n Reconfigure existing junior high schools to a middle school model.

- People expressed concern that 6th graders may not be emotionally ready to handle middle school. It was not typically a “deal breaker” concern, but it did prevent some people from supporting the action unconditionally. There had to be a benefit for doing it and in many cases, avoiding action with larger drawbacks was sufficient reason.

Facilitator Summaries

- People wanted more hard data and facts
- Not all participants understand how BCS fits into the LASD system
 - Absorbing some enrollment growth
 - K-8 education model
 - What steps LASD has taken to understand what BCS wants
- Participants with students at BCS are not a single voice
- Many forums came up with more than one combination of actions that they could imagine addressing the problem.
 - Shows strong desire to solve the issue and understanding that there are many supportable ways to proceed.
 - Acknowledgement that the system and possible solutions are complex
- Strong motivators are:
 - desire to avoid more litigation
 - desire to avoid unnecessary disruption but ability to support necessary disruption
 - desire to avoid temporary solutions
 - hope the board can make a long term solution happen despite the fact that it may be impossible to please everyone AND have a long term solution
 - Desire to maintain small neighborhood elementary schools
 - Desire to be fiscally responsible
- Many participants just want the board to take action so the community can heal and the focus can again be placed on children