West Contra Costa Unified School District

School Closure Staff Recommendation

February 11, 2009

School Consolidation Process Timeline

December 10: Board adopts closure criteria, approves process

December 11: Public presentation of school capacity, demographic projections, budget implications with public input and questions

December 18: Presentation of 2 scenarios for closures for 2009-10 & 2010-11 including public input and questions

January 8 - 22: Consolidation Committees Meet

January 27: Presentation of public data collected and expert review & recommendations.

January 29: Presentation of Staff Closure Recommendation

February 2: Special Board Workshop on School Closures

February 4: Board Public Hearing on Recommended School Closures

February 11: Special Board Meeting to Approve School Closures for 2009-10 and 2010-11

Changes Since December 10

- State Fiscal Condition Deteriorates
- District Freezes Spending
- State Withholds Bond Funds
- New Seismic Data on Adams Middle
- Cities express interest in supporting not closing schools
- Federal Stimulus Package Proposed

National & World Economies are in Downspin

State Fiscal Crisis is much worse

WCCUSD Action:

- Hiring Freeze
- Expenditure Freeze
- Layoffs for 2009-10
- Program / Service Reductions

Multi Year Projections – Adopted Budget
Unrestricted General Fund

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Revenues	$184,859	$191,598	$195,776
Expenses	192,594	197,040	200,530
Deficit Spending	(7,735)	(5,442)	(4,754)
Beginning Fund Balance	21,590	13,855	8,413
Ending Fund Balance	13,855	8,413	3,659
Required Reserve	9,000	8,690	8,901
Stores & Revolving Cash	1,038	370	370
Remaining Balance	$3,817	($647)	($5,612)

Multi Year Projection – Governor's Proposal
Unrestricted General Fund
Before Flex is applied

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Revenues	$177,160	$171,951	$176,455
Expenses	193,802	196,955	199,415
Deficit Spending	(16,642)	(25,004)	(22,960)
Beginning Fund Balance	21,567	4,925	(20,079)
Ending Fund Balance	4,925	(20,079)	(43,039)
Required Reserve	9,457	9,162	9,360
Stores & Revolving Cash	1,265	370	370
Remaining Balance	($5,796)	($29,611)	($52,769)

Bond Program Changes

1. District has received $47 million in state bond fund.
2. Authorized for $59 million additional.
3. In December Pooled Money Investment Board withheld $10.8 for El Cerrito High.
4. Assessed valuation is going down in CCC. District will ask state to increase the limit for bonded indebtedness.
5. Interest income is declining.

Adams Middle School

Dasse 2008 Report findings:

"In Dasse's opinion, the structure could experience significant and likely irreparable damage in a moderate earthquake."

"In a severe earthquake, with intense ground motion at the site, it is conceivable that these deficiencies will pose significant life safety hazards and localized collapse in several locations of the building is possible."

Potential & Committed City Support

- District held joint meeting with all five city councils
- San Pablo may provide operating funds to preclude closure of Lake Elementary
- On February 3, Richmond City Council approved a motion to provide $1.5 million to WCCUSD to keep open two elementary schools and Kennedy High School for 2010-11 that are recommended for closure.

Federal Stimulus Package

- Approved by the House of Representatives
- Senate Approval & President's signature expected in February
- When & how much is still unknown but funds will be for:
  - Additional Title I & Special Education Funds
  - Construction funding – 1 year only
  - State pass through funding

Financial solvency in WCCUSD requires a balanced approach

Property Sale – Debt Elimination

Benefit Cost Containment

Staffing, Program & Service Reductions

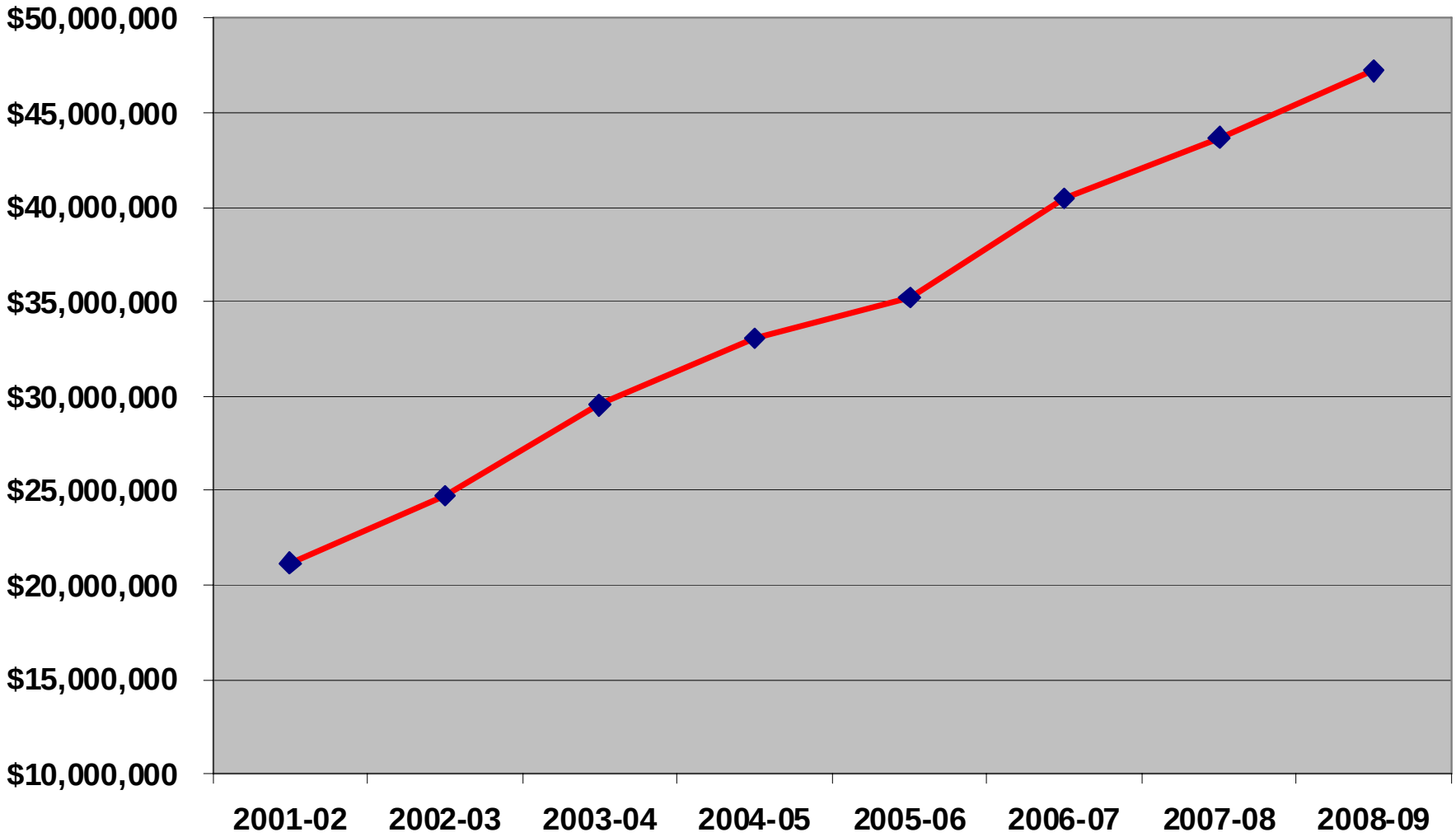
School Closure

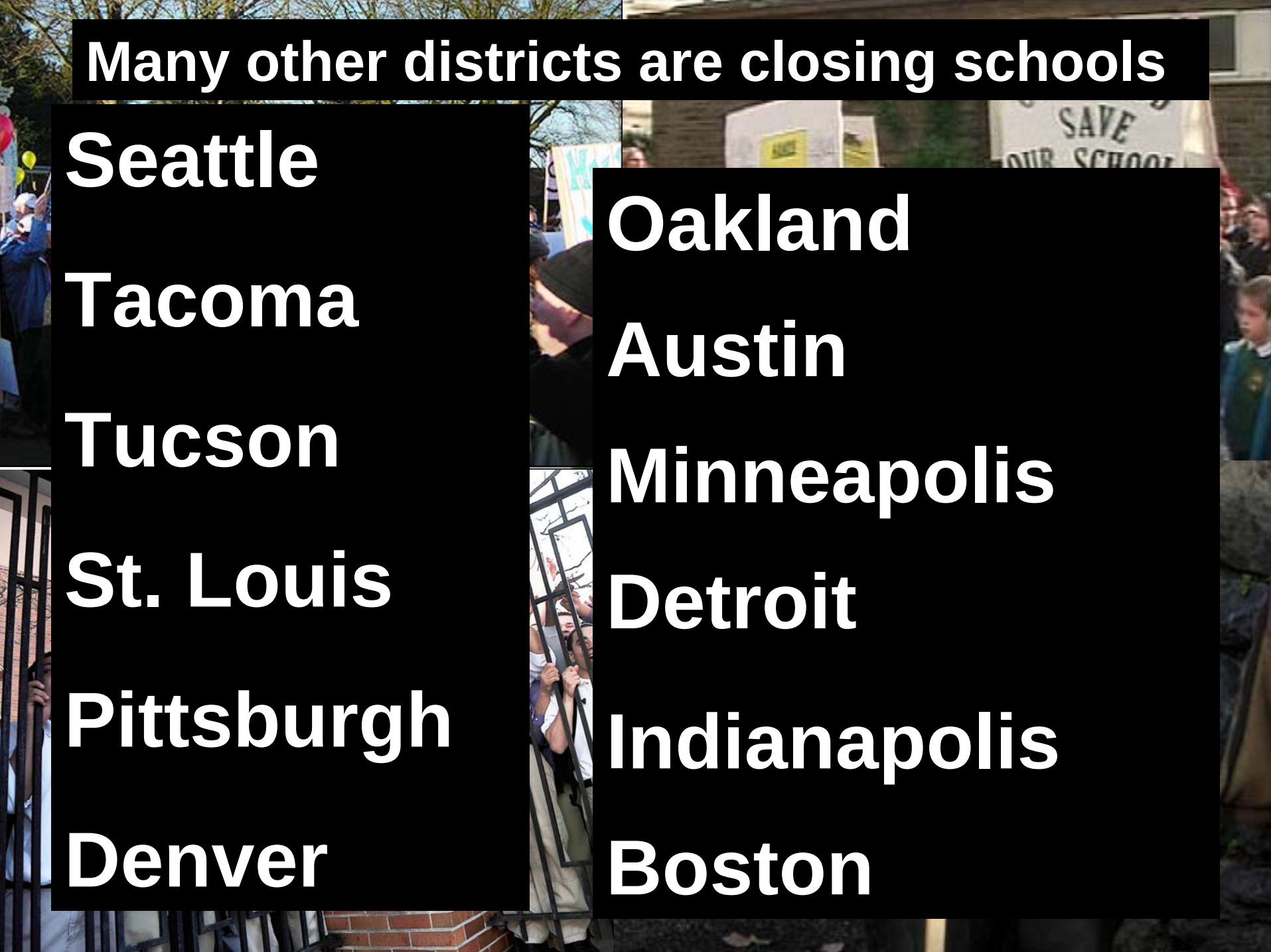
Debt Remaining – Early 1990's

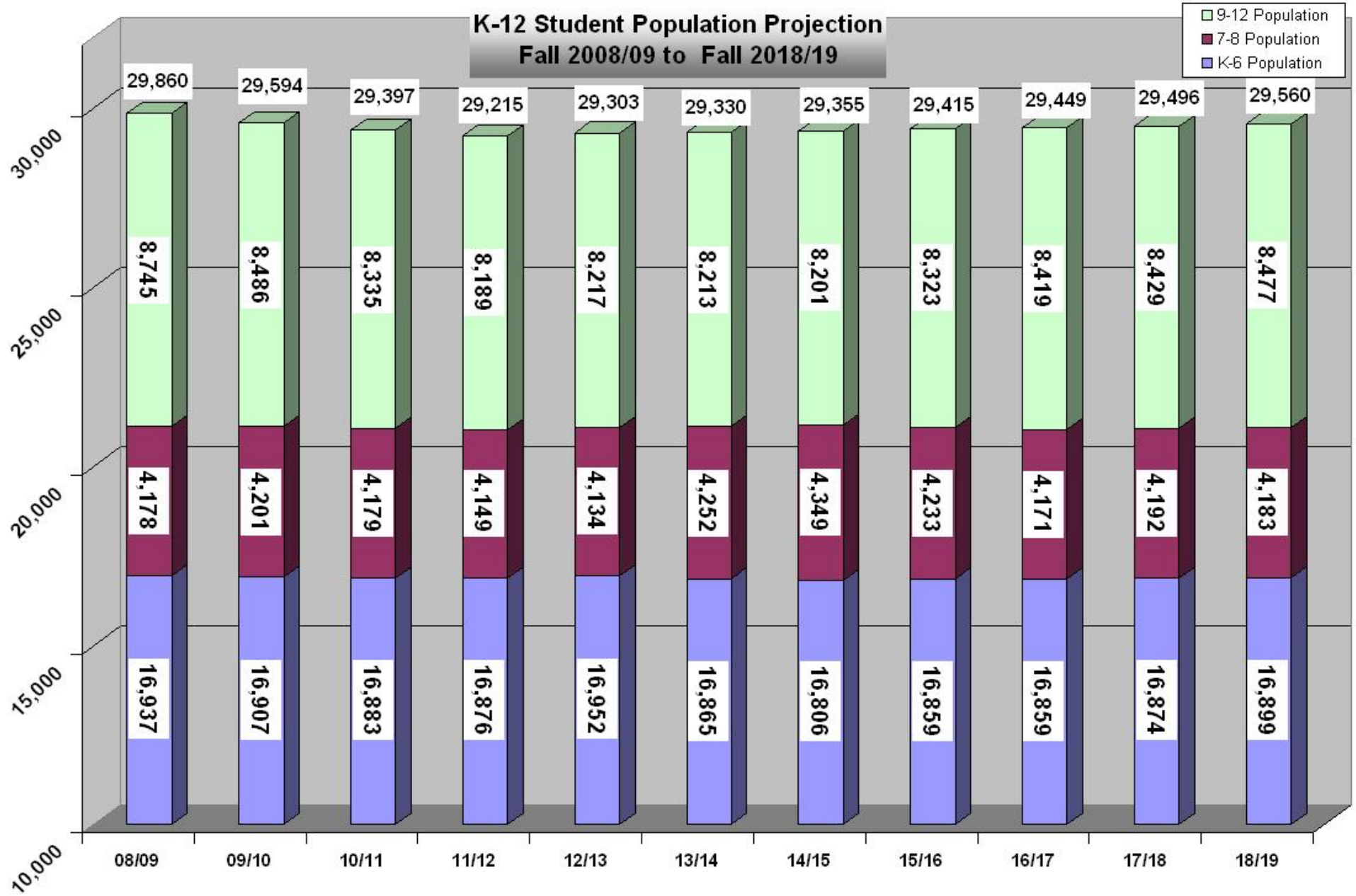
(in millions)

Type	Annual Payment	Balance Due
State Loan	$1.4	$14.2
COPS Loan	$0.8	$14.9
Voluntary Integration	$0.8	$3.7
IBM	$0.6	$4.4
Total	$3.6	$37.2

WCCUSD Benefit Costs 2001-02 to 2008-09




Many other districts are closing schools
Seattle
Tacoma
Tucson
St. Louis
Pittsburgh
Denver
Oakland
Austin
Minneapolis
Detroit
Indianapolis
Boston
SAVE



Demographic projections show stable enrollment

Adopted Budget, June 2008

"The multi year assumptions include **$1.5 million** savings in **2009-10** and an additional **$1.5 million** in savings in **2010-11** based upon **school closure**."

County Approval Requires by 2nd Interim:

1. **List of reductions to the structural deficit**
2. **List of schools to be closed**
3. **Address the rising cost of health benefits**

Essential Assumptions about School Consolidation in WCCUSD

1. Student redistricting will be included in scenarios and if logistically possible will be adopted by the Board at the time of approving the closure plan.
2. The timeline for decision-making cannot be extended.
3. Closed facilities will be placed on the market for sale to pay off the District's debts dating back to the early 1990's – state loan, COPS loan, voluntary integration, IBM.
4. State Budget crisis will push closures toward maximum number.
5. School closure is Categorically Exempt from CEQA. But CEQA studies must be completed when, as a result of enrollment shifts, a school needs to add 10 classrooms or increases capacity by 25% - whichever is less.
6. The District must add student enrollment capacity in order to close other schools – i.e. district must increase school size averages.

Projected Savings from School Consolidation

School Type	Est. Annual Savings
Elementary	$300,000
Middle / High School	$800,000

Annual savings include the costs of:

- Custodial staff
- Clerical Staff
- Principal
- Utilities
- Site Supervisor / School Resource Officer
- Assistant principal

Estimated Closure Savings

- $18.6 Million over next five years
  - Straight line projection
  - Conservative figures
  - No inflationary expense
  - No School Resource Officer savings
- Actual savings will be higher

Closure Committee

- 6 meetings – one at each High School attendance area;
- Appointed members (students, parents, teachers, community, principals et al) participated only **once** as a committee member
- Some people attended more than one meeting – but no one was ‘on the committee’ more than once

Participant Distribution

	Appointed?	
	No	Yes
Administrator	5	48
Classified Employee	9	14
Community Member	39	15
Other	8	14
Parent	333	54
Student	72	14
Teacher	50	23
Not Stated	79	15
Total	595	197

Charts show data for appointed members labeled as“Y” or “Yes” and for community members who attended the meetings but were not appointed as “N” or “No.”

Closure Committee & Other Input

- Compiled data from evaluations
- Comments made at Closure Committee Meetings
- Comments submitted by the public
- Questions & Answers
- All data documents made public and posted on district’s web site.

Available Background Information

- Schreder & Associates Scenarios I & II
- Alternate Scenarios from Community
- Closure Committee Data / Comments
- Public comments from all the meetings
- Written comments from many sources
- MGT America School Closure Report
- WCCUSD Staff Recommendation

Approved Closure Criteria

Facility Condition

Enrollment & Enrollment Projections

Utilization

Available capacity w/in family or adjacent family

Grade Configuration

Special programs

Geographic equity

Improved Conditions for Students

Financial Advantage

Will parents exercise options to move their children when schools close?

- School closure is about loss
  - Loss of sense of neighborhood
  - Loss of convenience
  - Loss of familiarity
  - Loss of consistency
- Other districts that close schools report a temporary loss of enrollment
- No reliable data to estimate enrollment loss
- Hard economic times suggest a smaller loss than in thriving times

Schools Considered for Closure

Elementary

- Castro
- Fairmont
- Stege
- Coronado
- Wilson
- Grant
- Lake
- Highland
- Shannon
- Collins
- El Sobrante
- Valley View
- Olinda

Secondary

- Portola
- Adams
- Crespi
- Kennedy
- Richmond
- Pinole Valley
- Gompers
- North Campus

District Facilities Considered for Closure
Prepare for Sale & Relocate Students & Staff

- Alvarado
- Bissell Avenue Offices
- Furniture Warehouse
- Gompers
- Harmon Knolls
- North Campus / PSC
- Operations Center
- Seaview
- Serra

Note: Charter Schools will be housed within remaining schools.

Schreder & Associates Initial Proposals Dec 2008

Consolidation Comparison

SI

- Castro
- Coronado
- Adams
- El Sobrante
- Olinda
- Shannon
- Lake
- Kennedy

(keep building & relocate other programs to Kennedy building, close & sell other properties)

SII

- Stege
- Coronado
- Portola
- El Sobrante
- Valley View
- Collins
- Highland
- Kennedy

(keep building & relocate other programs to Kennedy building, close & sell other properties)

Estimated operating savings for each plan: $3.4 M for 2010-11

MGT School Closure Recommendations

Recommended School to Close	Current - Projected Enrollment	Number of Students to Migrate	School to Receive Students
El Sobrante ES	217 - 165		
		217 - 165	Murphy ES**
Castro ES	234 - 174		
		40 - 30	Fairmont ES
		194 - 144	Stege ES
Coronado ES	390 - 454		
		326 - 380	Nystrom
		64 - 74	King
Shannon ES	317 - 269		
		317 - 269	Collins ES
Lake ES	468 - 388		
		229 - 190	Highland ES**
		167 - 140	Dover ES
		72 - 60	Bayview

* Castro ES renovated to become MS
** This school may need portables in the short term to accommodate migrating students.

MGT School Closure Recommendations (continued)

Recommended School to Close	Current - Projected Enrollment	Number of Students to Migrate	School to Receive Students
Grant ES	612 - 508		
		105 - 87	Chavez ES**
		193 - 160	Peres ES**
		111 - 92	Ford ES
		120 - 100	King ES
		86 -71	Downer ES
Adams MS	817 - 805		
		100	DeJean MS
		405	Helms MS
		312 - 300	Crespi MS
Portola MS	553 - 577		
		553 - 577	Castro ES*
Kennedy HS	923 - 796		
		262 - 225	De Anza HS
		200 - 175	El Cerrito HS
		261 - 223	Richmond HS
		200 - 173	Pinole Valley HS

* Castro ES renovated to become MS
** This school may need portables in the short term to accommodate migrating students.

WCCUSD Staff

Closure Recommendations

2009-10

- El Sobrante
- Castro
- Lake
- Shannon
- Adams
- Seaview
- Furniture Warehouse

2010-11

- Olinda
- Grant
- Kennedy High
- Gompers
- North Campus
- Serra / Alvarado Adult

Richmond City Council Action

February 3, 2009

- Approved a motion to pay WCCUSD $1.5 million to keep open the two elementary schools (Olinda and Nystrom) and the one secondary school (Kennedy High School) for the 2010-11 school year;
- Agreed to actively seek California Legislative action and other means including a local tax to keep these schools open for 2011-12 and beyond.

Estimated Operating Savings

2009-10

- 4 Elementary Schools
  - $1.2 Million
- 1 Secondary School
  - $800,000
- 2 District Facilities
  - $95,000
- Total
  - $2,095,000

2010-11

- 2 Elementary Schools
  - $600,000
- 1 Secondary School
  - $800,000
- 2 Continuation High Schools
  - $200,000
- Total
  - $1.6 Million

Two Year Total: $3,695,000

2009-10

- El Sobrante
  - Low Enrollment – not projected to grow
  - Considered for Closure 2005 – not closed because Murphy was under construction
  - Agreement among nearly all stakeholders for closure
- Castro
  - Low Enrollment
  - Approved as site for Portola Middle

2009-10 (cont)

- Lake
  - Small resident population
  - Close proximity to Bayview
- Shannon
  - Small enrollment
  - Schools lacks multi-purpose room
  - Space available at Tara Hills & Collins

2009-10 (cont)

- Adams Middle
  - Seismic hazard
  - Central location in district
  - Re-distribute students to Crespi, Helms, DeJean & Portola
  - K-8 Option available in area at Mira Vista beginning in 2010-11

2009-10 (cont)

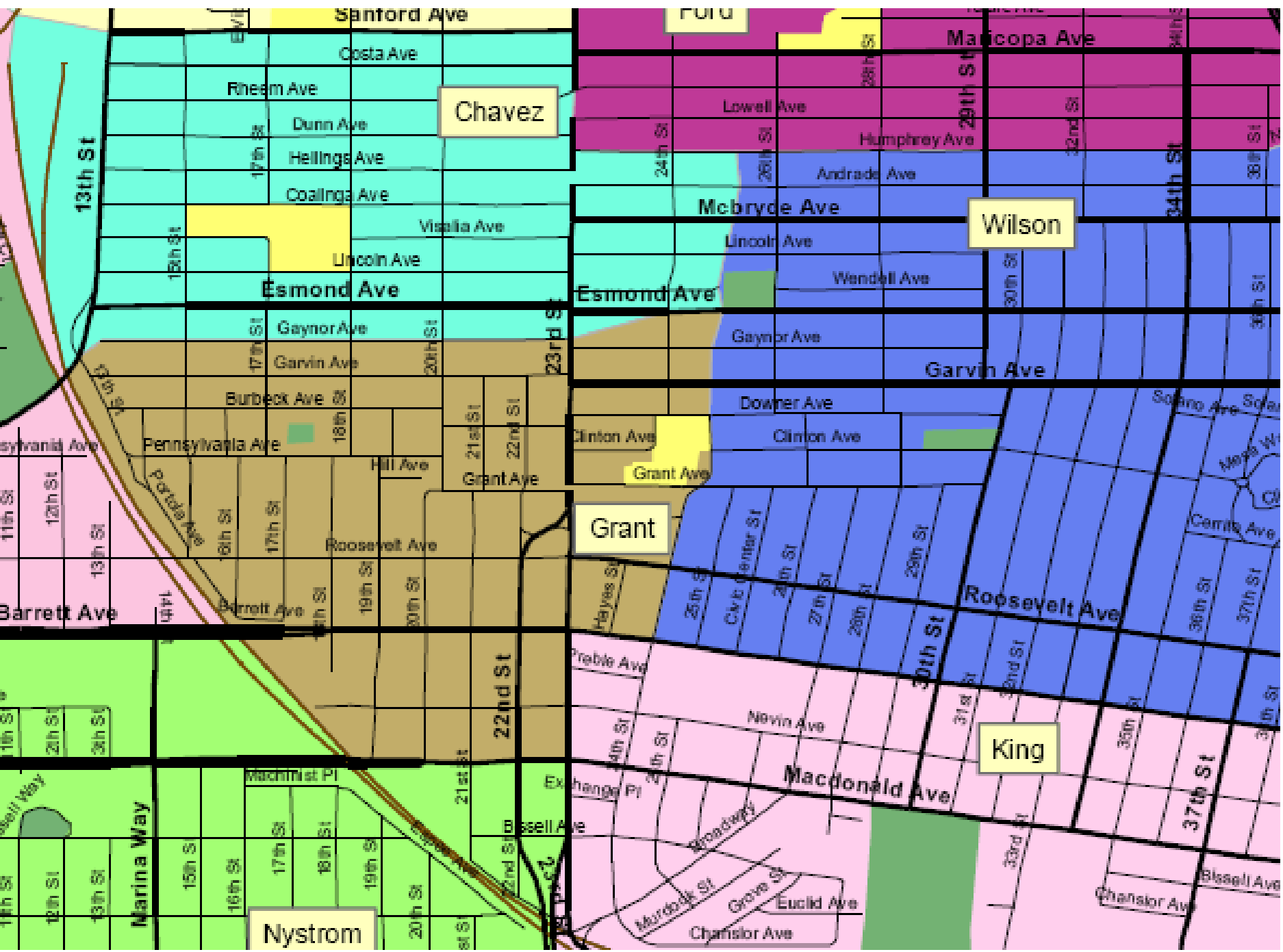
- Seaview Staff Development Center
  - Reassignment of staff to regular classrooms
  - Redistribution of staff to other facilities
  - Prepare for Sale when market if favorable
- Furniture Warehouse
  - Prepare for Sale when market is favorable

2010-11

- Olinda Elementary
  - Considered for closure in 2005
  - Many students live outside the attendance area
  - Students can be distributed to nearby schools

2010-11(cont)

- Grant
  - Large enrollment elementary school that can be distributed across five or six nearby schools
  - Population of that school is projected to decline over the next five years


Sanford Ave
Costa Ave
Rheem Ave
Dunn Ave
Hellings Ave
Coalinga Ave
Visalia Ave
Lincoln Ave
Esmond Ave
Gaynor Ave
Garvin Ave
Burbeck Ave
Pennsylvania Ave
Hill Ave
Grant Ave
Roosevelt Ave
Barrett Ave
Machinist Pl
Bissell Ave
Nystrom
Chavez
13th St
Marina Way
22nd St
23rd St
Ford
Maricopa Ave
Lowell Ave
Humphrey Ave
Andrade Ave
Mcbryde Ave
Wilson
Lincoln Ave
Wendell Ave
Esmond Ave
Gaynor Ave
Garvin Ave
Downer Ave
Clinton Ave
Clinton Ave
Grant Ave
Grant
Roosevelt Ave
Preble Ave
Nevin Ave
King
Macdonald Ave
Broadway
Murdock St
Grove St
Euclid Ave
Chanslor Ave
Chanslor Ave
Bissell Ave
29th St
34th St
30th St
37th St

2010-11 (cont)

- Kennedy High School
  - Allows for consolidation several other programs on to site
    - Leadership Charter
    - Gompers / North Campus
    - Adult Education – Serra / Alvarado
  - Allows for property sales when conditions are right

2010-11(cont)

- Gompers
- North Campus
- Pupil Services
- Serra
- Alvarado

Kennedy has sufficient space for all these programs.

K-8

- Mira Vista to K-7 in 2010-11 and K-8 in 2011-12
  - Has acreage for more classrooms
  - District may need additional seats for 7th & 8th graders in that area when Adams Closes
  - Can meet criteria for Cost Neutral K-8

Criteria for Cost Neutral K-8

While there may be one-time costs for changes to the campus such as adding relocatable classrooms, there are no on-going or additional operating costs. To qualify for adding 6th, 7th and 8th grade classrooms, there must be sufficient acreage for the additional classrooms without substantially displacing playground or other space for the current K-5 or K-6 students.

Gym space or specialty classrooms (science, music) would not be added.

Seats available are limited to allow parents to choose to keep or transfer 6th, 7th and then 8th graders in or into an elementary school environment;

The K-8 program will be built around an elementary school schedule with 7th and 8th graders taught at standards in the core academic subjects in a self-contained model;

Cost Neutral – Cost Neutral K-8 cont

In order to make space available for added 7th and 8th graders in that attendance area, transfers may be revoked and ancillary programs (child care) occupying school owned facilities may be required to move;

Equipment for science labs, technology, textbooks, materials would be brought in to the K-8 school from other schools where available due to decreased enrollment or school closure; there would be no additional expense for equipment and materials;

Students who wish to take instrumental music, foreign language, tech labs, career wheels, etc. would have to take them at other schools or in after school programs;

Multi-subject teachers would be assigned to 7th and 8th grade classrooms rather than attempting to hire single subject teachers. In this respect, K-8 schools would help the district have sufficient single subject teachers for the remaining middle schools.

Grade Level Changes

- Schools from K-5 to K-6 for 2009-10
  - Chavez
  - Wilson
  - Coronado
  - King
  - Lincoln
  - Dover
  - Stege
  - Nystrom

Kennedy Education Center in 2010-11 Includes:

- Leadership Charter School
- Gompers
- North Campus Continuation
- Adult Education Programs / Offices
- Pre-School Offices
- RAP Center

Challenges Ahead

- Community Budget Meetings
  - February 24 – El Cerrito High Cafeteria
  - February 26 – Pinole Middle Library
- March 4
  - Certificated Layoffs
  - Administrative Reductions
  - Program Reductions
- March 18
  - Classified Layoffs
- Employee Benefits Cost Containment