

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
School Closure Committee
Scenario I Evaluation Comments
January 8 to January 20**

Hercules Meeting – January 8, 2009

Appointed Members

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- Since Coronado has a High API I would be concerned about closure unless the concept making it successful remains intact somewhere else.
- I do not have enough data to determine. Given the criteria, I need to access the data posted on the website to make an informed recommendation.
- I think that is difficult to decide based on the presented data. I feel you could centralize administrative services district wide.
- Not sure about Adams/Portola due to the seismic issues.
- Concerned about Sp. Ed programs especially at El Sobrante.
- If Kennedy is closed, there is a high possibility of gang fights when the Kennedy students are placed in the other Richmond H.S. or Richmond High.
- This is the wrong approach.
- Kennedy does not deserve to be on both scenario lists.
- It appears these school shave alternate schools that are geographically close, to prevent transportation. Valley View has enough land to expand and accommodate the increased member of students & faculty.
- Both Castro Elementary and Portola Middle are essential for Special Education children.
- I know El Sobrante is very small & dilapidated – close it! and following this criteria along w/ population & geographics. Close the smaller population & run down buildings. Not sure which of the schools above are small & rundown.
- Portola must be rebuilt @ Castro or WCCUSD loses \$60 million.
- Do not move H.S. students! Cost more in police protection. Expect too much from teachers to deal with problems.

Explanations on K-8

- Can't recommend. However: growth should be more heavily weighted more than straight scores on API.
- I am not familiar with all of these school sites. What about some 6-12 options? I think options should be explored for collaboration between schools, city and industry, to enter into shared use agreements.
- Prefer k-8 increase instead of closing Kennedy. I do not want to see the closure of high schools. Sell the admin. Bldgs and move the administrators to the school maybe the admin. Will not remain so aloof from students, parents, & faculty.
- Better capacity and strong local support for converting to K-8. This list is also broader geographic distribution so all in the district have k-8 choice.
- I say no to k-8.

- Schools that have really significant special education programs absolutely need to be kept in totality.
- K-8 would benefit our Special Education children with the consistency they need. Providing that their initial class can be moved intact. Our children do not do well with change.
- I don't like K-8 try to keep schools K-5, 6-8, 9-12
- None unless east neutral and even then, it is not a good idea.
- I feel that MS kids need the electives & need to be separated from ES & HS. It is the time they find themselves, learn how to protect themselves, & stand up for themselves.
- Neither is 'better' if the choice is wrong i.e. the criteria fail to account for other options (see comments)

Other Comments on School Closures

- If Coronado is so high in API reconsider closing it or reconsider where to send them too.
- Please reconsider Coronado.
- We need to have as much data on the 10 Consolidation Criteria in writing during these discussions to make better judgements.
- I believe this may be easier in the future, for those who do not know these schools, to include a copy of the map showing enrollment boundaries. (at least one copy for each table to shave paper!)
I believe that the district should look into also closing some admin sites and relocating these to other areas; such as Seaview, Serra, etc. in addition to these school closures.
- I feel that funds should be saved elsewhere. Look at the areas that can be cut. Sell other district owned properties that are not schools. Consolidate staff at Seaview and Serra.
- The district has successful consolidated-grades campuses at Hercules and Stewart – These should be models for creating more K-8 & 7-12 campuses, which have academic benefits. Cost-effectiveness, and reduce drop and rate. It allows students to suffer fewer transitions.
The Woo proposal closes fewer total schools but saves more money.
- Make more middle/high school combination like Hercules have more community involvement.
- Considering the geographical set up of the schools and families' economic situation, school closures do not seem to be the best solution. The President of Kennedy mentioned how some families in Coronado (?) cannot afford cars' to transport their children. Bus systems would be just as troubling to employ if students live in different cities.
- I feel this meeting lacks information upon each school that has been considered for consolidation. You provide a list, however reasons that specify why or why not these schools of both scenario 1 and scenario 2 are not present. In order to receive a clearer look and understanding, I need specifications. However, school closures are not in my interest. I believe another alternative is available, which is

6-12 campuses such as Hercules Middle/High school. Take in consideration the students perspectives. Please see white paper under Whitney Vuong.

- Closing school, boarding them up & fencing the land, contribute to property value reduction there by reducing money for schools. Squatters, criminals, drugs & decay will follow.
- Too many schools in our district have unbalanced boundaries. Changing boundaries might close school for you. Person who spoke had a point @ balanced boundaries – try to keep all H.S. open & put non. School personel in empty H.S. wings. Do not sell property yet – marked is so low.
- My concern is for the Board to move ahead on the school closures. This has been put off for a couple of years because it is hard to do politically, but it must be done now for the future of the whole district.
- The current vs. max. enrollment chart, map w/ reconstructed schools/non-reconst. Schools would be good to have avail. I printed some things, but there was too much duplication on the web to print everything.
Other scenarios should be handed out before the group begins, not after.
- The district is in a much stronger position to lobby for Nat'l Health than we seem to realize here.

The State of CA has not met its obligations to fund schools/this district.

Therefore, it is time to push back, & make it known what we expect from the Fed. & State government.

Public Comments

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- If you select #2 don't waste \$3.7 million already spent on Portola to Castro project. Castro site is "shovel ready" to sell in federal money pledged to states for projects ready to go.
- If KHS closes, where would they go? Enrollment is unfair criteria, when the borders are drawn to sent nearby families to other schools.
- Crespi had significant drop in enrollment. 2006 K-8 study points to lack of enrollment at Crespi due to academics & Safety. Making Crespi K-8 will not solve district funding problem. Combining Crespi & De Anza will save more than closing 2 elementary schools. Also De Anza is eing rebuilt now, plans can be modified to incorporate separate campuses. Also consider combining De Jean & Kennedy.
- I am not in favor of either proposed scenarios.
- Given that we are a district PI3, academic achievement deserves strong consideration.
- Olinda has good test schores and an excellent parent participation. Put Olinda off Scenario 1 and replace with a low performing school.
- Coronado – API 805
Kennedy – Not safe for students to go to RHS.
- Consolidate Gompers & no campuses continuation at central site.
- Geographic equity to De Anza feeders.

- Don't close high-performing schools & don't close Kennedy; violent issues involved w/ Richmond.
- Coronado should not feed into Nystrom. Nystrom should feed into Coronado.
- Collins is located down town, walking distance to the library & other study trips. There are children there 4th generation pinole.
- Other alternatives need to be explored more fully before closing schools. Our taxes are being wasted.

Explanations on K-8

- Able to house more.
- Also, the loss of QEIA \$ is more (\$900,000) than the savings (\$800,000), without considering the academy \$ that cannot be recouped if students go to another school with the same program.
- Olinda & VV are both high performing schools, with safe campuses environment & strong parent involvement. To prevent further enrollment loss, the Board must demonstrate willingness to listen & honor parents' choice for performing "magnet" schools.
- Scenario II requires too many kids to relocate, please vote for Scenario I.
- Olinda has had a long time interest in K-8 Our student population falls off after grade 4 as parents leave for alternatives to middle schools (out of district) Lost ADA!
- Valley View Elementary has excellent academics and transfer rates are huge. Valley View is the public school many choose over their own local school. I transferred my son to VV. Keep the schools that are doing well that have earned the trust of the majority. Build on what is working. Valley View is working and would take in more students with open arms.
- Why not make all elemen. K-6 or K-5 part of reason for small schools and Lopsided programs @ middle school level.
- Social class segregation. Not healthy to regard social development. Of adolescents, costly to convert elementary school facilities for middle school curriculum. Taxing on teaching/curriculum to accommodate in K-8. Even in K-8 the older grades students are kept separate from the lower grade (younger) students.
- These schools have high performing K to 6's adding 7 & 8 would be a natural flow, a natural addition to a great school.
- K-8s are more expensive for operating costs. K-8s have not been studied thoroughly & won't be if they are involved in this rush to close schools.
- New facilities & large enough to house all the students.
- Mira Vista is a large enough campus & making it K-8 will help with the closure of Adams.

Other Comments on School Closures

- Taxpayers are paying for 4 WCCUSD Bonds. If the Board votes for #2, taxpayer \$ will be wasted - \$3.7 million already spent on Scenario #1 will be wasted. The time and effort put into the project will have been wasted. The Environmental

Report for Castro which has been paid for and the Board voted to accept will be wasted. The federal government is ready to pay for “shovel ready” projects such as the Castro Site.

- Please continue to explore alternatives to closing schools.
- I am concerned the process of public comment after 1-hour discussion robs the committee of knowledge, information and alternatives the public can provide. The committee knows their area, but may be uninformed of outside communities.
- I would like to know if the Board has actively engaged the powers that (state trustee or others) to discuss what would get WCCUSD more time to go through this process in a more thoughtful manner. Can we fundraise to cover some of the deficit? Should we try to pass another bond measure (see alternate scenario 1)? Can we do local taxes to find small neighborhood schools – and what timeline we have to make that happen? Can we establish fees for “magnet schools”?
- Continue to look at District staff facilities for closure. Save operational costs and move staff rather than students. Use under utilized space in renovated school to house these facilities and programs.
- When you make your decision, please keep in mind what should be the priority at any school: - a high quality education.
Please do not close high performing schools and keep open low performing schools, expecting a miraculous transformation for the better. Close down the bad ones. Especially Crespi!
- I hope that this and if the district will have to absorb some more students over if it doesn't have to close schools. It's not good for Richmond kids to be crammed into overcrowded schools or portables and other areas not feel any pain at all.
- 1. Create more independent study & district controlled “virtual” (charter) school-using internet.
- There are capital campaigns where is the operating campaign? Please seek money from businesses and the communities before closing schools.
- Tackle “low hanging trusts”. Have a PR firm to set forth negative publicity about IBM refusing to forgive \$4 million on outdated and depreciated equipment.
- Other proposals should be made available @ these meetings.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
School Closure Committee
Scenario I Evaluation Comments
January 8 to January 20

Pinole Meeting – January 12, 2009

Appointed Members

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- Close Crespi. Kennedy closing down is a safety issue.
- Kennedy: Safety is major consideration. Collins: SP ED classes at Collins are well taught.
- I can chose any school because I thinking in the safe and the transportation for the kids.
- Closing of schools on both scenarios.
- Close Crespi & El Sobrante and make Valley View a K-8 school.
- Closing Kennedy would exacerbate existing tensions between North & South Richmond. Shannon is a well-functioning school with a large population of students who walk to school.
- Choosing this scenario will displace almost 2,000 less students.
- As explained, Kennedy closure could cause turf wars.
- Make 7-12 & K-6 Schools.
- Coronado is highperforming. Crespi: close this low performing and is disrepair. Valley View high performing great community large property.
- Neither scenario, but do agree that El Sobrante should close b/c of low student population.
- Take all 6th grades out of middle place them back to elementary. Send all Kennedy to El Cerrito takes care of North & South Issue.
- All Elem back to K-6th open more room middle
- Close Adams & Portola
- Portola has few students misplaced than Adams.
- Most in need of maintenance & repair.

Explanations on K-8

- Fairmont should be considered. Make El Cerrito 7-12.
- Crespi should be considered for K-8.
- I like the idea of making De Anza 7-12 students would be served better than in K-8 (the way proposed).
- Valley View is a lg property & strong parent commitment; Ellerhorst – lg property & strong parent commitment.
- The above school has high API (consistently) probably because of high parent participation.
- Make the Elementary schools K-7 and high schools 8-12.
- Close Alvarado, Seaview, other non-school sites and sell.

- Only if it is cost neutral & teachers can be found.
- Valley View has large 13.5 acres yard that can accommodate K-8
- Large tighter communities, newer facilities, central to areas.

Other Comments on School Closures

- I do not feel any schools really should be closed as all these areas should have neighborhood schools.
- How one can ask Washington D.C. for help, because if they can pay for war they can pay for help for the US kids education.
- I am intrigued with the idea of approaching Chevron for help for the schools. If the board is going to close schools, let them make the decision based on the best data they can find. It is extremely hard to make dispassionate recommendations while at the same time teaching at one of the potentially affected schools.
I appreciate your attempt at an open process.
- It is apparent from this meet that the community needs much more information to make informed decisions.
- Having outside consultants stand around and walk and get paid for it is not really cost neutral. Not sounding the alarm about economic problems until after elections stinks.
- We as a community need to work together during this process. This is not new information – should have started these discussion last year past the February Budget Meetings. Then the City governments could have been more involved.
- If you're closing a school, can members of that community create a charter school, so they can demand a facility.
- DO NOT CLOSE PINOLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL.
- With reduction in enrollment & school closures management needs to be reduced also. Close Alvarado & sell.
- I think the community needs more time to evaluate the Scenarios. High diversity school creates behavior problems. May have negative impact to out kids education! Why can we get bail out \$ for our kids? Can we go to other resources before we actually close schools?
Bad performance schools has a large impact on property value!
- Include costs of charter schools that the district is sponsoring \$ cost efficiency!
- Scenario 1 impacts over 1700 students less, resolves seismic dangers in 2 locations.

Public Comments

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- Stege is too low on API. Closing Coronado really bankrupts SW Richmond because of its API score.
- “appeal to Washington for a bailout” keep all the schools open raise taxes.
- Prior consolidation unfair to students.
- Olinda enrollment has been steadily climbing. Many families transfer their children there because of the high API and high parent involvement.

- Too dangerous to close Kennedy. Portola has seismic issues Crespi is under-enrolled.
- Close Crespi.
- Better sinorgy.
- I favor 7-12 campus! Close Crespi! Make Sheldon K-8 & consolidate El Sobrante to Murphy. This makes all renovated school fiable. Keep Olinda & Valley View. Make Kennedy a small High school & consolidate all other small programs to this campus.
- These scenarios were not well informed discussions.
- Neither Shannon or Collins should be closed. Consolidating 7-12.
- Coronado is a highly successful school.
- If I had to choose I would pick scenario #1.
- I think De Anza should close.
- There is no scenario I or II look at all of the facts and options.
- Close Portola & Castro make Stege K-8, Wilson & King K-6 move 7-8th graders from that area to the New El Cerrito High and add 7-8th graders as modeled by Hercules.
- I would like to see Valley View and Olinda merge on Valley View campus. (Both have high API scores)
- Neither one. Closing schools is unacceptable this early in the game. Vacant school properties should be assessed & sold before any more schools are closed.
- My years at Valley View were probably the best of my academic life.
- I do not think that this many schools should require closure at one time.
- Close Alvarado Adult merge onto Kennedy campus with leadership & Kennedy HS.
- Size-enrollment; school location; academic achievement and academic equity; geography; transportation; land value; etc.
- It seem like those are the schools that have the most negative means to staying open.
- Make De Anza 6-12.
- Keep all schools open!
- Please don't close any school. As a parent I say that we can sell things or have fundraises to make money. (Favor no sieren ninguna escuela como pade yo digo que podemos vender cosas hacer rifas para sacar fondos.)
- Parents might pull students from district affecting ADA. Issues of gang activity combining Kennedy & Richmond students. Special Ed issues would create expenses in moving student to other sites.
- Fairmont is a small school adjacent to BART and I son more valuable property. Olinda is a higher performing school on more open property with a better program. Valley View is on a large property with space to grow and keep better access for emergency evacuations and a excellent program that the community supports.
- Fairmont is small and has a higher value property. Adjacent schools have capacity for Fairmont students Valley View and Olinda are higher performing schools.

- Don't combine gang territories!
- Leave Collins open.
- Neither scenario. Sell non-school properties first. Get state to forgive district debt. Move other programs – adult ed. or continuation studies to one of the nearby high schools.
- Charter school.
- Don't close Collins or Shannon. As Hercules is expected to grow those schools will be needed.
- I've always felt the district should make all elementary schools K-8 do away with middle school system.
- Of these 2, I think more extensive consideration is necessary. There are many internal school qualities which were not considered. Close any school that is not seismically safe. Consolidate those students. Sell those properties and make other adjustment that affect students as a last resort.
- Olinda & Valley View or high performing schools & other that choice to parents throughout the district. Kennedy has many safety concern for students.
- Close Riverside – Close Sheldon – move staff support from Seaview/Alvarado to Sheldon.

Explanations on K-8

- Please do not move into communities base on API scores.
- Process flawed beyond redemption. No information provided on other elements of financial plan. Prove to us that schools need to be closed. You have not done that.
- This would move towards a model of K_8 schools in the district to (1) ensure you keep students in west county to at least 8th grade & (2) potentially resolve the number of school closures.
- None – I want electives for Middle School students. Keep our Middle Schools. We cant get enough teachers for K-8 in math & science. We cannot afford K-8.
- I don't support K-8. I don't believe they will be cost neutral. I don't think they will provide the level of education that a true middle school would.
- I do not favor K-8. I don't feel K-8s are fiscally, fundamentally, or emotionally viable option.
- Safety: how does a naïve kindergarden child communicate with a 7th/8th grade sexually active person? Kinders will be vulnerable to sex & drugs.
- None. Unsafe for younger students.
- None. Kindest 1st graders would be vulnerable to adolescent behaviors; sexuality, dugs & bullying.
- Make a high achieving elem school a K-8. Like Valley View or Olinda. A natural flow to a great school.
- Has new facility, not at max capacity for cost effectiveness. Murphy will be at cost effective number if merged with El Sobrante.
- Better sinorgy.
- If Adams is closed this might make sense.
- Help w/ Adams, but cost neutral is not middle school.

- Kindergarteners should not mix with 8th graders on the Crespi campus. Make Sheldon a K-8 to encourage the enrollment to go up! Make Portola a K-8 to absorb Castro.
- Collins has too many good things happening there. Not only school, but in little leagues.
- Got P.D.
- What is the data around De Anza K-8.
- Close De Anza – do not put the money into it.
- Selling off empty properties and looking at administrative management positions that can be eliminated first.
- Don't close Shannon! STOP MOVING US!!
- Don't close Shannon school because then you will move us again.
- Close Crespi. Yes, Pinole Middle and Helms.
- I am not familiar with the situations.
- It is only a poor school because there is no support. It is ignored and shouldn't be. Those children need their school too. You want more to go there then make it better. That is the district's job to begin with.
- Those students could really benefit from remaining in the smaller, nurturing environment. These are very poor students who will not be able to pay for transportation to other schools BUT a better principal is required. One who can encourage experienced qualified teacher to work there.
- Valley View has a LARGE campus that can accommodate the children.
- High performance can continue into those upper grades. Academic performance must be taken into consideration!
- Castro could absorb some of students from Portola, which is seismically unstable. Mira Vista could absorb remaining Portola students.
- Merge Crespi into De Anza & also feel the district needs & look at private sector and look at work furloughs & partial payment of medical.
- Collins K-8 close Crespi have them attend Pinole Middle. There would be 2 K-8 in Pinole for ½ of the city. Other ½ Pinole Middle.
- What if after consolidation schools are then over crowded and in a few years we will then need to look at expanding & have new school?
- Coronado is an excellent performing school and could meet district enrollment # of 450 as a K-6 and even more as a K-8.
- Make De Anza 7-12 (merge Crespi onto DeAnza).
- Need to save money for other schools with better attendance.
- A lot of these schools are so small and make more sense to be infused with elementary school.
- Valley View has space to grow larger & be divided age group.
- Please do not close our schools.
- You can lower some people's salary to give some to the schools. (Pueden bajar el sueldo de unos para darle a otras un poco.)
- What expenses would be incurred in converting schools to a K-8 configuration? Given the expense – is it worth it?

- I believe we need to spend our time and energy on revamping middle schools instead of closing them. Our children need Jr. high bands, dances, flag football etc.
- N/A, I don't think K-8 is a good configuration for younger students.
- Low enrolment should get more students with more grades if security is there.
- I think Valley View could also serve as K-8 campus and move Crespi students there. Every HS attendance area should have a K-8 option. We should have done this two years ago when we looked at.
- De Anza 1. Larger than PVHS 2. New
- Location, size; test scores.
- Any that could accommodate K-8.
- VV has all space 13.5 acres & the parent involvement to make K-8 a success.
- I prefer a 7-12 scenario. I attended a 7-12 gr. School there were many offerings for 7th & 8th graders at a high school, where at a K-8 school electives are limited.
- Close Crespi – add K-8 to Murphy, Olinda, Valley View – or close De Anza HS. & use site as a K-8 site for Olinda, Valley View Murphy and Sheldon. Move El Sobrante to Stewart.

Other Comments on School Closures

- Reduce government, senate, and representative employee salaries. (Reducen sueldos de los empleados de gobierno senado y representantes tambien.)
- Given that the district debt is loosely due to benefits costs, consider the higher salary, lower benefits proposal suggested by one of the table groups. They would foster support for individuals to become more selective with their planning for retirement and investments toward future livelihoods.
This process of “involving” community members and soliciting input is quite brief and rushed relative to the years of increasing and cumulative debt that the district has so blatantly acquired.
- You need to explore all options for lost savings before hurting the kids by closing schools. Some would include: selling all school properties that are not schools, larger class sizes so you'll need fewer teachers. The studies I've seen do not support higher test scores or better education with smaller enrollments, re-negotiate union benefits/contracts to eliminate life time benefits for families of retirees (while retiree is living), re-negotiating all other labor contracts, ask organized labor for financial support, ask all teachers to pitch in a % of their retirement portfolio to help pay off the debt their benefits packages created.
- At least one good school as far as API score which does benefit the community. Closing Coronado bankrupts SW Richmond.
- We need to see a chart with the shortfall in the budget, and the funds available from each element (i.e. property sale, benefits cost reduction, staffing modification and more).
- Please don't close never high school. Is very important open.
- I believe that the Bond has some critical decisions to make in other areas beyond school closures, including the safety of students @ Portola and the NCLB mandates. It is important that the school take sufficient time to study all potential scenarios before making decision on school closures. Absent this, I'm afraid the

Board may make decision that will not be in the best interest of students & the district.

- Please do not close Coronado, high API and a great program. Add 6th grade to this school and it meets the elementary school size. How many schools pay for transportation to their larger schools? How is it fair to compare us to them when they spend million for transportation and we don't. Keep our middle schools, NO K-8!
- I like one of the groups suggestions regarding displaced student should be allowed to go to a 792 school.
- Too little time!!
- The parents that are high flight risk to this district, and therefore represent loss in funding, have indicated their concern over academic performance and safe campus as top priorities. Therefore, it is important to the district's financial viability to offer and respect parents' choice of magnet schools like Olinda and keep it open.

Closing Crespi or consolidating to a 7-12 grade configuration should also save precious middle school resource like single-subject credentialed teachers; allowing for focus on making remaining middle schools better. Not to mention it save much more money than closing either Olinda or Valley View, and has a larger plot of land to sell for paying down debt.

- I feel district has done a poor job of seeking stronger narrowing sources.
- Reform the process – public comment should come first! Public comment should come before "Talk Time".

Please explain why exactly a school is on a list? Why is JFK on both lists? Explain, specifically, what will happen to students & staff at a closed school. E.g. – where exactly will JFK kids go? Where/how will the lines be drawn? What becomes of staff. (I would like to know the answer for all closed schools). Thank you!

- If we close Valley View & Olinda too many will leave the district & these schools need to be encouraged to Drawn people to the district!
- Collins is very special for Pinole we have to keep it.
- Be more creative. Be smart. We cannot afford to close these elementary schools. Upper grade students would have more of a life experience out of any closures or consolidations. Don't make our communities uproot young children whose parents may not have the stability or life experience to deal w/ this as parent of older children.
- Have the district students write to Obama and ask for govt help!
- We are being moved from school to school. First!! Seaview. Now!! Shannon. What school is NEXT!!
- If you must close schools – El Sobrante is the only school whose numbers make any viable sense. Only Kennedy H.S. if you are intent on race riots.
- De Anza has low enrollment and is only partially redone. Close the school and sell the property.
- Look at all the facts. There are other options just do the work find them. And be honest with us with the facts. Before the next step, take the first step.

- Keep Collins OPEN for their Special Education facilities as well as their day care – Miss Patty's. that is an excellent after school program.
- Don't close Pinole Valley High School, it has too much to offer to the community.
- Do not close any schools. (Especially Pinole Valley High)
- DO NOT CLOSE PINOLE VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL (see the "Yohann Pepa" written comment)
- Don't close schools, sell other unused properties first, cut some upper management/ stuff what is WCCUSD? To educate children, not be cheap.
- School closures only a band-aid. This is the 3rd time in 5 years we are going through this. If we do not preserve our schools that are demonstrating academic excellence we will continue to lose ADA. Every discussion of school closure "scares" perspective parents.
- Don't rush to judgement some time must be allowed to come up with alternatives to closing schools.
- I have concerns when consolidating schools, classes will be over limit this causing teachers to be paid higher daily rates. Close Adams & Portola & move to De Anza & El Cerrito High.
- I don't want them to close Shannon because it will affect my children. All of my children have gone to that school. The school is a great place to be. It will affect my children if they close it.
- I don't want Shannon school to close because it would affect many children and parents. I've been there since kindergarten and I really like the school.
- Does selling property help offset school closures, or is that money only slated for repayment of debt? It would be great if we could use that money to get us through a few tough years.
Can we raise class size for K-3 – how much would that save us?
- Collins is very closely tied to community services and closing it may restrict resale value if the city fights the sale or redevelopment of the property.
Litigation potential from Special Ed parents if students are moved from Collins.
Can we face this risk?
Are we willing to throw away the 8/million+ just spent to redo Collins roof?
- Collins has a new \$1 million plus roof.
Please consider the cost of moving 5 Spec. Ed. classes from Collins.
If Collins also has been used the last 4 out of six years as a summer School site for Spec. Ed. where
When will (the district) inform families where their students will attend.
- The main cry that I've heard this evening is that of closing schools and selling the properties. Why haven't we been try
- Sell un-used property to make up money owed.
- I think there should be one K-8 in each HS attendance area. PVMS could be traditional middle school option for Pinole & El Sobrante. I think K-8 option will keep more families in district for secondary years.
- El Sobrante & Crespi should definitely be closed. Boycott IBM to forgive the loan & petition state for restructuring of the loan. Renegotiate with Unions.

- Listen to your communities. Really take into consideration what they have to say. Take your time with your decision, as it affects many people. Cut your costs at the top get rid of the reductions. Sell vacant lots. Scrutinize all programs for money loss. Most of all thin k of all the children who will be displaced.
- Get the benefits under control first. Sell excess property. Close low attendance schools like Castro, El Sobrante, Crespi.

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
School Closure Committee
Scenario I Evaluation Comments
January 8 to January 20**

Crespi Meeting – January 13, 2009

Appointed Members

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- No school closures.
- El Sobrante a very small and old school.
- None of the scenarios, need to do more research!!
- Create new scenarios that doesn't put schools against each other.
- Other – keep Crespi open as 7-8 – good programs at Crespi.
- Stop frivolous spending, cut administrative positions, have appraisals/repairs inspected, and base closure decisions on that. Ask government for help!
- I favor scenario in case the City of Richmond is able to provide funds for keep Rich Schools open.
- Kennedy should stay open. Concerns re: transportation across turf lines.
- No school closures
- Add Castro to K-8 list for Portola students.
- Travel issues from Highland made us choose Highland to be closed instead of Lake.

Explanations on K-8

- None. It is time to make ourselves heard in Sacramento & Washington.
- No K-8. K-8 atmosphere will not work because we can't combine little children and teens together. Unless necessities are provided to both.
- New buildings, maintains well foundation of education spirit.
- Pinole Middle, newly rebuilt, open/spaceous campus.
- None, do more research that would actually help.
- You should retain more students hence more ADA if these schools were K-8.
- The parent supports is strong in those attendance areas. Olinda, Valley View.
- If the campus is made user friendly for K-8 location, size.
- Valley View has space & is high performance.
- Valley View has high API scores, large campus for expansion.
- Formation of K-8 needs to be carefully orchestrated. Don't just throw kids in. Everyone needs to be prepared for a cultural shift! I like Mark Woo's alternate proposal.
- Valley View; average API.
- Make Castro K-8 & move all students & staff from Portola to the Castro campus.
- Sell district properties (Seaview, etc). Cut administration and/or cap salaries. Combine Crespi & De Anza and Castro & Portola. (I attended a 7-12 school)
- Parents want K-8 special needs kids can't deal w/ school closure. Castro K-8

- I don't consider any K-8 schools. Culturally it is not wise to combine this wide age gap.
- Valley View has the space/capacity and community interest in creating a K-8 campus on Valley Views site.
- I think considering high performing elementary schools to increase to the K-8 instead of placing middle school students at high school campus.
- Near to the community and very big.
- I think that since Stege is a high performance school, it will help boost student scores and public community help.
- None – the district description of K-8 does not provide sufficient educational opportunities for students. No electives, multi disciplinary teachers, and not enough high level courses would be available. Also, middle school is a transition to high school and the K-8 experience isn't transitional. K-8's are more difficult and expensive to run and we do not have enough willing and experienced principals.

Other Comments on School Closures

- Do not short change children due to their socioeconomic conditions. Do not base decisions for closures simply on test scores or property value;
Please consider transition issues – cultural, social, behavior. It is not a good idea to move students into situations that place them @ academic prime and/or physical harm. There are also social issues w/mixing elementary & adolescents (teens) in the same school environment.
Program initiative to have schools work together to improve entire educational area rather than just individual schools.
Stay focused on the goal (despite public rhetoric)
Establish a blueprint to move district forward!
- No school closures. Note: 400 home under review in their area. That will generate about 200 new students.
- K-8 is a way to keep each little community encapsulated.
- Do research on the school district and work w/ the community.
- Need to do more research on a scenario that will work best for the students.
- Keep Kennedy students on campus, add Alvarado? Leadership academy.
Scenarios do not keep parents concerns priority. Academic excellence? Safety.
- Make changes equitable for all involved – do cost analysis – for decision making close Portola & Adams & send to ECHS.
- I would do anything that's possible to try to get through the current economic crisis without closing elementary schools. Take a closer look at selling properties that are not current elementary schools.
- Keep Kennedy opened as a small H.S. use room at Kennedy for charter school, offices, Adult Ed. Etc. (whatever would be feasible).
I don't understand why Olinda would feed into Ellerhorst instead of Murphy. Murphy is closer and Olinda parents don't want to go to Ellerhorst (from what they are saying at meetings).

- If schools are closed students need to be placed into their new schools considering their socioeconomic background, academic performance, ethnicity, vicinity. Best proposal includes no closures & instead pressure state/fed to get rid of debt that they sold off to private banks. Bailout US!
- Offer incentive to almost retired teachers to cut wage costs. Lease properties --> no income. Consolidate staff buildings to low capacity schools.
- Cut frivolous, excessive spending! Cut back on heating, AC, teacher training, conferences, consultants, excess in administration, curriculum council (or ask teachers to elect to attend without pay). NCLB legislation forces us to waste funds!! Is there anything we can do about this? Ask government to bail us out! Ask famous alums (Credane Clearwater..) to donate money. (this could also work for rich alums we could call/write letters & beg!)
- Every avenue should be explored before schools are cut up & dispersed. The 2 7-12 schools I suggested would mean basically moving schools to a new location. I also hope that this process was not a sham – that the district hasn't already made up its mind and this is a placebo.
- When making decision please consider cultural, socioeconomic aspects. Also the distance between schools, which is more practical for students & parents.
- Find solutions that make sense between closing schools.
- Please look into the situation on K-8 school that will not offer any music or performing gets class that may affect any highschool courses.
- There is not enough donation to make a decision i.e. NCLB transfer, transportation information. Boundary information.
- Olinda – for geographic and socio economic equity redistrict Olinda to Valley View, Murphy & Sheldon. Coronado – it's a shame to close – move it's entire team and try to retain the successful culture. El Sobrante – for geographic and cultural reasons keep the school together at Crespi – if you redistrict spread them out amongst Murphy, Sheldon, Stewart, and Tara Hills. No on 7, 8 at high schools – you cant mix there age groups safely. Criteria for cost neutral K-8's are not acceptable to me as a parent – high school prep, electives, very important to me. We need Crespi as a real middle school. K-8 is fine as long as the campus is mitigated – play ground; access for young children; separation of K-6 and 7,8 students.

Public Comments

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- Seismic problems @ Portola and it is underenrolled.
- Would close all middle schools this si where the incompetence starts advocate of K-8 stage very underperforming.
- High performing schools are the only redeeming quality of this poor district!
- No closures!
- I don't think any schools should be closed!
- I don't think any school should be closed!
- It's not our fault!

- Olinda is the best & high performance school in the district. Do not close it!
- Selling a big school (acre-width speaking) makes lot of \$ for district.
- None – get us some money to keep this school open.
- No school closures.
- No school closures.
- Don't close any schools.
- There are no beneficiaries for these deaths!!!
- No! I don't want any schools to close.
- Go Eagles! Best scenario don't close any schools.
- Take Olinda and Valley View out – make Crespi/De Anza 7-12
- Cut bureaucracy! Not kids.
- Do not close the schools.
- No school closure.
- Only 181 of 456 residents in the Stege school boundary go to Stege. Coronado is K-5 and is a high performing school even though it's a high RFI.
- High performing school.
- Olinda & Valley View K-7. Olinda & Valley View K-7.
- Close Crespi.
- Olinda & Valley View are high performing academic schools; Crespi is not.
- Please don't close both Olinda & Valley View which are both high performing API, highly diverse, committed teachers.
- No closure.
- Don't close school. Highland is a good school.
- New plan not acceptable.
- We don't want any schools to close.
- Kennedy: too dangerous to merge w/ Richmond. Close Crespi – bad rep. Close Portola – seismic issues.
- Academic performance is the most important factor for parents and students, not renovation.
- API is the main concern.
- No closures. Stay open. API high performing / parent involvement community. Make other cuts.
- Close Crespi!
- Close Crespi! Nasty school.
- Year 1: Portola, El Sobrante, Shannon, Lake. Year 2: Crespi, Stege, Wilson.
- Close Crespi & El Sobrante Elementary for low API. Keep Valley View w/ high API.
- Do not close high performing schools.
- I like Mark Woo's scenario. It closes less schools.
- Don't close high performance school or you'll lose more kids from district.
- My school should be open.
- None
- No schools should be closed.

- They all have good memories and the future for the kids not for the money.
- High performing schools attract students/ADA, low performing schools send Crespi to K-8's at Murphy, Sheldon, Valley View or De Anza 7-12.
- Juan Crespi is a low performing school, low API and bad reputation.
- Consider Olinda K-8
- I don't know enough about others in Scenario 1 but these are the ones I'd definitely close.
- Solve Castro-Portola dispute, prevent gang wars from Kennedy students.
- Prefer the Mark Woo plan.
- None of these scenarios.
- None of these scenarios.
- I refuse to participate in naming schools to close!
- Don't close high performing schools' Kennedy has too much of safety risk to kids.
- Neither. Mark Woo's proposal.
- Do not think it's fair to close either Valley View or Olinda & leave Crespi open (it's a poor performing school, full of violence & unsafe) make Valley View or Olinda K-7 & De Anza 8-12.
- Close Crespi & make Valley View or/and Olinda a K-8.
- Close Crespi and make Valley View or Crespi K-8!
- Close low performing schools. Keep high performing Valley View & Olinda open!
- We need Highland open please.
- Close Crespi and make Valley View and/or Olinda a K-8!

Explanations on K-8

- Olinda: it is a high performing school and helps the district overall with attendance and state money.
- We need to retain students and by closing Crespi we will have a better chance of doing so.
- Please look at the alternative scenarios & provide them as options at community meetings.
- Olinda should not close.
- Valley View would keep a lot of parents from looking for a good middle school. No good middle school in district. Child goes to Valley View now sending him to Crespi is like having go from Penthouse to outhouse. It stinks here at Juan Crespi.
- Elementary students from high-performing schools leave the district by middle school because there are no acceptable choices!!! My family will be among them!
- Scenario I and scenario II are BAD IDEAS
- Terrible idea.
- Olinda families and I assume Valley View also will not be sending our good kids to Crespi.
- Olinda: good elementary & good school for potential growing population. People move to this area for Olinda.

- Close Crespi. Expand/refigure newly remodeled yet under utilized K-6.
- Highland school due to number of students without school at this time (over 600)
- No school close.
- Do not close schools.
- Crespi is horrible as a 7/8... no one will want to send his/her child, a young K or 1st grader to that campus.
- Olinda, Valley View: let schools make their own decisions. Spch therapist for WCCUSD. Mark Woo scenario.
- None
- Let the community decide for each school.
- We need to leave all schools open. Let's get the money from Sac. If we close schools we will end up building more jails! We will continue to create generations of poverty in low income areas.
- Olinda, Valley View
- Parent of Highland student.
- I don't believe elementary students should be with jr. students.
- Valley View, Olinda or Coronado. Space available.
- No school close!
- No school closed.
- Please don't close Highland.
- Please. School for children need. Ok.
- Valley View. Bigger property & walking distance to De Anza.
- Valley View: big area. Good academic history.
- Valley View, we have the space, the location.
- None. Middle school students all deserve instrumental music, electives, science & single subject teachers.
- Olinda & Valley View: making both high performing elementary school as K-8 will keep the students in the district having 3 kids, I'm already looking into private school or moving into another district for my 3rd grader. The district will lose ADA funding for 3 kids if Olinda is not a K-8 school.
- None. We don't want little kids to be affected by the mind of teens.
- All campus can accommodate additional students keep high performance schools open.
- No idea.
- Need more information and details.
- I don't want any schools to close. Why don't they bail out our students?
- Valley View & Olinda – a great addition to high performing schools.
- Keep good-performing schools in the district = keep students.
- Valley View: put all good students and source together.
- Olinda, Valley View, Murphy, Sheldon. More choices for parents.
- Olinda, Valley View: need for 6-8 students to remain in school district.
- Olinda proposed K-8 2 yrs ago! It can work!
- Coronado has more to offer: quality education, good learning environment, a future.

- Coronado: build our numbers. Don't move us.
- Close consolidate & other underenrolled schools.
- I don't believe in K-8 schools.
- They suck!
- Wilson: because the kids from Adams are not even older to be with a high school there "kids" and for that they should be with Wilson.
- High API school are not an option for closure. I will remove my child from the district if needed. K-8 elementary school needed!!
- None of the above.
- I want to save scenario II.
- Children should not pay for the mistakes of bad administrators.
- I don't know how to drive. The children should not pay for the errors of the bad administrators.
- Money for schools, where is the program? No kids left out.
- Under enrolled elementary schools.
- Under enrolled schools.
- Because our children every each one need education. I do not want to see our childrens with guns on streets.
- No school should be closed. Sell other properties.
- Because all schools are the future of our kids.
- Also please see alternate solutions.
- Keep Crespi!
- Do not favor K-8 schools favor 7-12 schools.
- Crespi drives students out of the district. Students would be better served at higher performing schools.
- Keep kids in high-performing schools, do not force them to choose between CRESPI or leaving the district for 7-8.
- Close Crespi – move to De Anza or K-8 schools in area.
- Olinda has high parent involvement and is a top performing school. It will give parents an option in keeping their kids in the district.
- Strong parent involvement, top performing school-high API. Olinda should be considered as K-8.
- I don't think K-8 is a viable option financially, academically or emotionally.
- Sheldon: new facility, under-utilized.
- Sheldon is a new school that is under utilized. This also provide options to current Crespi students who does not want Pinole Valley or Hercules Middle school.
- Add academic performance to criteria add safety to criteria. (Close Crespi)
- Murphy, Valley View could be K-8 grade. It is newly remodeled & has lots of room.
- The middle school option currently being offered for this district are not acceptable we will transfer out of this district for middle school if a major change doesn't occur. We are in favor of K-8 at Valley View.
- Olinda is a very good school it has high performance an high scores.

- Highland: because I don't want our childrens in streets. I want education PLEASE!
- Olinda is a very good school. It has high performance and score and the building is very clean and is in good condition.
- Education for kids. Education PLEASE.
- Crespi middle school is not good for API for years and not convenient to comutte.
- Olinda: ample of space keep high API. I do not want to send my kid to Crespi because it's too far away & no bus access for my child. Crespi's API is low.
- Big lot, easy to access due to 2 entrances to school, high performance.
- I don't know King, Mira Vista or Wilson well enough to know. Crespi is a poor choice for K-8 – too heavily skewed to middle schoolers, aging building & expensive to retort it. Plus its administrators don't support it.
- Given the prior planning process, VV could accommodate this shift. The campus can adapt, teachers, parents, and administrators are incredibly resourceful. This site would need to financially supported by the district so it thrives.
- I have a 2nd grader and a preschooler who will be in kinder next year. I would like to send them to Olinda Elementary. If it closes and I'm sent to my home school we will move to another district or send them privately. I'm sure other parents are thinking about the same, so if you don't want to lose ADA, keep the high performing schools open. Make more K-8 schools, because if will keep more families in the district. People feel they have to move when their children reach the age to go to middle school, K-8 are more attractive.
- I will not send my child to Crespi. My daughter attended Crespi in 2002-2003 & she was not prepared for highschool.
- Close Crespi. Olinda: enough space & desire by parents & teachers to support this change.
- I have a child @ Valley View a very high API. I will not allow her to go to Crespi. I will remove her from the district if this is the only option in district for her. Also have a child starting Valley View in Sept. same applies for her. Will discuss my concern with other parents. And give options for them to leave district as well.
- I am a parent with two children attending Valley View. If forced to go to Crespi I would transfer to different district or pay for private schooling.
- I will take my children out of district if Crespi becomes K-8. Not an option!
- I do not have enough info. All I know that my sons, who are in Valley View, will not be sent to Crespi for middle school. Close down Crespi. It's low performing.
- Valley view has a room for K-8 and good performing school!
- Sheldon & Murphy should be considered for K-8 given they were renovated and have the capacity to take more students.
- Highland: my child go to this school.
- Crespi: not an option for young children! Valley View, Olinda: closing high performing school is not an option. I'm a parent at Valley View I will not allow my children to attend Crespi I will pull my children from the district if needed.
- Murphy, Sheldon, Olinda. De Anza see if 7-12 possible.

Other Comments on School Closures

- I have been in this district since “1952”. I sent all my children 4, grand children 4, and now in Sept. hopefully 3 great grandchildren. Please don’t close Olinda.
- With more development we need our school. Olinda
- Valley View and Olinda families do not consider Crespi as an alternate for Middle School education. We need to focus on keeping schools that have high daily ADA, high API and high demand for transfer families.
- My two boys were attending private school and pulled them out because they got in to Olinda school. I chose Olinda because of its academics, quality teachers and great parent participation. I travel all the way from Hercules to Olinda school and don’t mind the commute because I know my boys are getting a quality education at Olinda.
- This whole situation makes me want to get out of the district as fast as possible! This is not helping to keep your involved/high performing families in the district! Closing our better schools is sending us away!!
- If possible don’t close any schools! Money can be provided by: city of Richmond, Sacramento, County.
- Closing schools is worst thing to do.
- Look for funds to keep all schools open.
- Check and see where the money goes. Something is not right.
- Closing high API school, like Olinda, does not make sence. This school brings families to school district.
- I have 3 kids thru highland one-graduated college in 2008. one in college this year & one in 5th grade and in GAT Program at Highland. Closing that school will be a sad because of the amount of education teachers gives to kids.
- We just cannot afford to gamble w/ our childrens futures!!!
- I’m a spch therapist at Olinda & Richmond H.S. I see several well-prepared students come out of this elementary school. We need to keep our elementary shoools – What are tomorrows citizens being prepared for.
- My children go to Highland we have Special Ed, learning center and we high test scores.
- Administrators should bear the financial burden long before we ask the students to bear it.
- Please do not consider parent proposal over the consultants. It will lead to the tyranny of amateurs!
- Don’t close any schools find another way.
- Please consider Mark Woo’s proposal. Please help parents keep their kids in WCCUSD. Also, pls consolidate high performing schools. Do not send students from high performing schools to lower performing schools.
- No school closures.
- My child is the student in Olinda. We bought the house in this neighborhood because of the high performance of Olinda. If Olinda is going to be closed and my

child is transferred to a lower scoring school, there will be no reason for us to stay.

- Crespi has been falling apart since I attended the campus, and the graffiti was also there at that time!
- Why would you close high performing schools. The bathroom at Crespi have been Nasty for 20 years.
- Sell Seaview and Alvarado.
- Sell Seaview and Alvarado and possibly Serra. Do not close high performing schools and/or move high perf. to low performing API 3 district needs to seriously consider API.
- I am already looking into other options. All of the parents I know are looking into other options at the middle school level. If my children's school Valley View is closed, I will look at transferring out of the district immediately. Jim Cowens comments were right on. Thank you!
- Close lowest performing schools.
- Don't close non schools.
- Don't send kids out of schools, 15K for emergency AIDS. To the government. Don't give up schools. My kids need your help.
- If this isn't equitable I will be contacting
- Reassess other cost such as salary & compensation. Ensure they are in live w/ other comparable school districts. Why are WCCUSD pension/health cost for its staff disproportionately higher? Retirement of high API score schools protects property values, reducing students & revenue flights from district.
- I think if you close elementary schools you potentially close the possibility for new residents to emerge. I will not send my child to a under scoring school after coming from a great community school like Olinda.
- Keep high API open! Thank you.
- Couldn't hear, did not get to speak because sign up not broadcasted. Too many allowed to speak from 2 schools. No one allowed to speak from El Sobrante Elementary and only 1 person from Juan Crespi (unfair).
- Chosen criteria and 2 proposed scenarios don't equal!
- None of the scenarios follow the Board adopted criteria. The numbers and data do not support these options. I was very surprised to see the board adopted criteria and scoring guide used at this meeting.
- Close Juan Crespi. Consider Olinda a K-8. I will not put my daughter in a low performing school or where safety is an issue. I will put her in another district if her only option is a low performing school.
- I am a parent of an elementary school student who will be going into middle school soon. I will take my daughter out of the district if there are no better options. I will not place my daughter in a low performing school or one with a bad reputation such as Juan Crespi. If Olinda is considered into a K-8, I will keep my daughter in the district.
- Please consider high-performing API schools as a priority. Families leave our district for higher performing, safe schools.
- Keep academic performing schools open!

- We have lived 5 blocks from Crespi for 15 years. If Crespi goes to a K-8, we are out of this district! We are currently at Valley View there as transfer due to the high API scores offered there. El Sob elementary & Crespi are not options for our family!
- Keep open Highland School.
- Put money on schools not on war.
- You've got a tough job on your hands, & I don't envy your (collectively, the Board) position. Do the best you can & please consider input from the community as well. God Bless!
- My perspective as a parent-if you close the few high performing schools in the District, I will do whatever it takes to leave the District to ensure a quality, safe, excellent education for my children! Closing high-performing schools will result in loss of ADA funding as parents seek other options in other District or private schools. Why "shut down" what is working?!
- According to the study, there are 15% students in the district are attending to private school. That's the shame for the district because we have good performance elementary schools and none of good middle schools and high schools. So, we really need to rebuild and reconstruct our public schools' system to meet U.S. future. Education makes difference.
- Please consider Olinda/Valley View K-8 schools for their high API score, accessible bus transportation, rich after-school programs & good teachers. Many parents have already moved out of this area or send their kids to private schools or somewhere else. If you close down Olinda/Valley View, it will drive more families away. This will result in drop of property value & losing more students & fund in our district. High education quality is the only hope for our future generations.
- Olinda and Valley View keep open due to high performing school and made the district proud! Add K-8 Sheldon & Murphy.
- I'll email you!
- Closure should be the last resort. I believe we could put creative energy into finding funds for this crisis. The fact that this was our starting point is unacceptable, its adversary. One additional point around criteria. High performing schools need to be protected and supported by the school district. This Is not a plug & play scenario. The district will lose more in the long run if high performing schools are decimated. We will leave the district.
- Make it more equitable. Close 1 school per high-school family.
- Given the state of the district at this time – I will keep my student at Valley View through sixth grade – I will not send them to Crespi, but would keep them at Valley View if it were K-8. it is a high API school which is why we transferred from John Swett. Another thought is to phase out all middle schools & have K-7 & 8-12 sites. It would be a 2 year plan & no student would be displaced – they would just spend an extra year at ele & go to high school earlier. Being so close to Fitzgerald shops would bring a high price for Crespi's site.
- As an Olinda parent, I cannot believe I am forced to fight to keep one of the most excellent schools in the district open. High API scores, involved parents, excellent

teaching staff – please do not close schools that have fought hard to contribute to a high-quality education for their students. We must keep open the excellent, high-performing public schools – not shut them down. Thank you.

- My name is Teri Talbot and I live 3 min from Valley View. I love the school & the staff. Could not ask for better!
- High performing schools w/ High performing schools. And do not close schools where the children will be unsafe walking to another school.
- There is not a question in my mind that both Olinda & Valley View would help students from other schools move in to their campuses. Just look at the audience here tonight! The PTA is fabulous in both schools. One speaker emphasized the importance of making students from closing schools feel welcome in their new environment. Valley View & Olinda would both be good to new, transferring students!
- Keep Valley View and Olinda open. Sheldon & Murphy K-8 make financial viable. Add 7-8 grade to De Anza and enough room for Crespi students as well.
- Keep Valley View and Olinda as they are high performing schools. Pls consider Makr Woo's scenario and also consider Valley View for K-8. Close Crespi and El Sobrante.
- Why is it that children must suffer for the irresponsible actions of government? By making us choose which schools should be closed is putting communities against each other.

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
School Closure Committee
Scenario I Evaluation Comments
January 8 to January 20**

Helms Meeting – January 14, 2009

Appointed Members

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- None of the both options given to us are adequate.
- Although I do not agree with the idea of closing schools. However if you close the lowest achieving schools there are enough in each area to do the job.
- You cannot close Kennedy! There is nowhere for the students to go, RHS can only take 100, ECHS – 300 where do the other 500 go?
- Unacceptable.
- Earthquake issues.
- I believe the decision will ultimately rest with the District and that there decisions have already been made. There are other ideas however we have waited until the 11th hour and are out of time to explore them.
- Keep Kennedy open & utilize open space for other programs.
- Kennedy students need to stay at Kennedy for safety.
- Both need to be revisited. Extend decision making timeline in order to make a wise and prudent decision.
- Keep Kennedy at Kennedy.
- I believe school closures are inevitable. Scenario 1 would affect fewer students. I strongly believe a 4 day school week – longer day – is a feasible idea.
- None
- Do not close any schools!
- Neither. Do not close our schools!
- Keep all schools open.
- Scenarios must maintain or raise revenue for district. Must also close & sell non-school facilities first.

Explanations on K-8

- Having K-8 schools in this district is not wise. Many of the middle school students could negatively influence the younger students. There would be some positive benefits, but not enough.
- No K-8
- Save the award-winning full inclusion program K-8 option is good for Special Ed. Less transition = less \$
- Add Peres as K-8!
- It would be less costly to retrofit Adams than to build a new school for Portola. Lake is in deplorable condition & should be closed. Highland is a successful school & should not be closed.

- School closure is not an option – there are creative & innovative ways I am sure to avert the scenarios above. Business & commercial building one-time fees, federal grants (bail out money application?)
- Use economic criteria not politics.
- We are losing 7-12 gr. students, especially in the El Cerrito, Kensington area – make K-8 – parents want & maybe we could increase enrollment in secondary grades.
- Castro absorbs Portola as K-8
- None of these – no K-8
- Bayview: parents have been speaking for this.
- K-8 not as effective unless 6-8 are single subject
- None
- None
- Find other way and possibilities.
- All schools should be kept open. Closing schools would bring tension into our school because of rival gangs will increase class size, unemployment, & more violence. Keep schools open! Look for alternatives.

Other Comments on School Closures

- Closing Lake and Highland would leave San Pablo (K-6) students all in the largest elementary school in the district – this is an equity issue. Consider the diversity of the staff – some schools have worked hard to develop & mature diverse staff that reflect the student population. Look outside the box – consider reconfiguring the school year & week to increase ADA. Sell property without students.
- Change the School Calender and let the employees absorb the cost w/mandatory vacations year round. To loose a % of a job is better than having no position at all.
- There is a lot of opposition toward school closures. In the long run, it will be more expensive to close schools with the negative consequences created through the closure of schools.
- Let's look for equity. If closure must happen make sure few student are impacted and their safety. To save money freeze teaching hires until you see the number of retirees and teachers who leave. Also look in the future to properly use money. We waste a lot of money in this district.
- No school should be closed. Test scores should be considered if schools must be closed. Extend the deadline, look @ other options. K-8 should not be self contained b/c Science/Math will suffer. Increase parent involvement to increase attendance and get more \$.
- More time has to be given. This request should be pressed so the city has a better chance to find valid ideas.
- We need to be aware of the repercussions of closing down schools. What steps will this district take to make sure that our students are safe and their academics do not suffer in this process. We will need more services for the students. We must reinvest in our students, lets make the businesses & politicians invest in our youth.

- We do not want our schools closed.
- Ask for contributions from big corporations i.e. Chevron, SP Casino, Developers. Ask each parent for a donation \$75 or higher.
- I cannot in good conscience note for any school closures until an evaluation is made on the facility of additional fundraising outreach to corporations, businesses, and parents.
- Retro-fit Adams, less expensive than a rebuild Portola, larger site. Alternate K-2/3-5/6-8 configuration. Offer staff early retirement. Keep Kennedy ppl @ Kennedy. Add Gompers H.S., leadership, district offices are both adult school populations on Kennedy site.
- Look to business to help defray costs. Freeze this process! Measure T. San Palo casino for additional Kaiser to defray benefits cost of funds. Open enrollment – let parents vote w/ their feet. Year-round school schedule/shorten school week. Reduce truancies to increase funds. Cost sharing of benefits by teachers to offset costs increasing benefits. Sell admin bldgs 1st.
- Do not mix North Campus kids with Gompers by placing North/Gompers together.
- I don't favor K-8 schools. If it is unnecessary to close Portola, make Fairmont or Castro a K-8. If Adams is closed, Mira Vista should be K-8. do not close Adams in order to build a new Portola.
- I gave a copy of a summary, make a mathematical model to minimize costs. Total costs = administrative costs + infrastructure costs to update schools + pertinent factors (distance from students to school (minimize), etc...) This is a mathematical model.
- In favor of 4 day work weeks or an opportunity for parents to have input as to which schools are chosen as possibilities for school closures. This would ensure equity in terms of choice as well as eliminating schools based upon performance and their academic capabilities.
- Keeping Kennedy open would be a smart political move – prevent turf “wars”. Don't rebuild Portola & make K-8's I that area – 48 mil could be used to upgrade or retrofit other schools that are being kept open. Suspend states testing for a yr or two – many reduce costs to district – all the way there administering, scoring, etc.
- There are other options available (ie city assistance) that need more time. Please freeze the process of closures to seriously explore there other ideas and see if they provide a long term solution or at least buy time until the economy improves. (look promising with Obama as president)
- Close all small elementary schools now. Send grade 6 students back to elementary schools that lost grade 6 during the last boundary change.
- Transportation. Turf issues.
- Please look at extending the time line – do not make this decision in a rush.

Public Comments

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- No closures.
- No closures

- Adversity has stimulated new ideas & generousities that make obsolete the county's demands of august. The world has changes & a better future is coming.
- No school closure.
- Do not close high performing schools.
- All schools are necessary.
- All schools are necessary.
- I do not accept any school closures.
- No schools should be closed.
- None of these possibilities because all we are going to do is divide the students and create more problems.
- More time is needed to come up with such a big decision.
- Close JFK.
- I really don't want to close down any schools.
- Portola, El Sobrante: under enrolled
- No closing to any to the WCCUSD schools.
- Not in favor until other last resort of alternatives.
- Keep all the schools open.
- Keep Norht Campus open. TLC and K.
- Kennedy: too dangerous for students. Coronado: high API. Portola: seismic issues. Crespi: bad rep.
- No school closure.

Explanations on K-8

- No K-8
- Because of the amount of young students.
- This wont work.
- Valley View: because it is a better school and it has a high API.
- Olinda is a really good school and it would be good if it was a K-8 because the teachers there are very interested in the education of their students.
- Olinda because the teachers are very dedicated and responsible for the education they provide.
- Keep them separate.
- 7-12 Kennedy = Portola, Adams. Close Crespi, Close Portola.
- Students who finish 6th grade go to other school outside the district.
- I think any of these schools are okay for a K-8 possibility.
- Adams has more than 800 students. Closing Adams would displace the most of students. Keep Adams former schools & students. Add Portola former school and Portola Students.
- No K-8 not productive.
- None no K-8 credential issues, student age differences.
- No work. Will not work.
- Kensington: that's what they want.
- Valley View, Olinda: A natural flow to high achieving schools.
- No K-8! Older children shouldn't be together. Stay in age groups. Maybe K-6.

- No closure.
- Not Crespi.
- Any.

Other Comments on School Closures

- Sell land to open space conservationists. Use businesses to sponsor classes not same old Chevron – be creative banks = economics, bio rad = science, cardealers = autoshop, etc.
- Make maintaining quality education a priority. It is what keeps families & funding in WCCUSD. It may even offer better alternative & attract families from worse school districts like Oakland.
- Prefer to allow more time to collect funds from corporate/business to have no school closures.
- Prefer to give more time to collect funds and have NO SCHOOL CLOSURES.
- Look to other resources first before closure. Also 3 weeks off at Winter Break (elementary “ski-week”) really look at 4 day grants, fund-raising, etc small & large. Political action. Sell properties first STALL.
- School based enterprise for quality education & income streams. Read “creating scenario 3”.
- I vote for no school closure. We parents can help out for a fund raising. Give our children a future to be proud of. God bless us all!
- If any schools are closed we will vote all school board members out of office.
- I hope everybody will take the most intelligent decision. No close any schools.
- Get more community, city & business support and ask those parents that can give to give.
- Freeze the decision of closure schools now! More time more options.
- The education is our childrens future. Don’t close the schools PLEASE!
- Other forms of financial help exist. We lose a ton of money in war, politics, etc.
- Freeze the process. Look at Measure D. Ask big corporation for their Fare Share.
- Tonights meeting ¾ of the public left with their children. This process is not working!
- No closures look for alternative first. Transportation is a huge concern already, please don’t make it any harder. Build up not reduce.
- Do not close any schools!
- Why close schools? Keep schools open!
- Keep high achieving schools open.
- No consolidation. Collaborative solluions.

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
School Closure Committee
Scenario I Evaluation Comments
January 8 to January 20**

Kennedy Meeting – January 15, 2009

Appointed Members

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- K-8 get rid of Adams and Portola and place them at an Elementary school there 8.
- Only El Sobrante. Don't close High Schools.
- Kennedy, Coronado = keep open.
- Not safe to combine high schools. Keep Kennedy.
- Do not close Kennedy high school. Not safe to combine high schools.
- Stege and Lake low achievement Lake poor family; Stege close to other school.
- No high schools – not a realistic option if safety is considered. The District could not face the damage that would come to the future and reputation of Richmond.
- Portola should not even be on list because it had been decided it was unsafe, Adams qualifies for retrofitting according to reports, it has the appropriate space to take Portola.
- Modified Woo. Don't close Coronado high API & great school culture/community. Don't close Kennedy – safety issues for students.
- Collins has land that the hospitals will buy. Don't close Kennedy!
- Do not close Kennedy or Coronado.
- There should be more Scenarios for keeping schools open not closing them. Find other alternatives like money needed to be raised or companies in the community to donate.
- Use other alternatives.
- Make the list equitable.
- Either one or alternative
- Do not close Kennedy. Bring Leadership & Gompers to Kennedy
- Take Coronado off the list of schools, also remove Olinda. These schools/environments should be preserved & nurtured.
- Kennedy should not be closed because of safety reasons.
- The 3 schools not closed and shouldn't close El Sobrante doesn't make sense fiscally, Collins could be profitable to sell because of the expansion of Kaiser.

Explanations on K-8

- Keep the high schools open. Remember that there is a turf war going on in the city of Richmond.
- The really smaller elementary schools Shannon, El Sobrante, Olinda should not remain opened.
- Ok for K-8.
- Buildings w/ seismic issues. I expect another Scenario to save our schools.

- If schools must go K-8, then we should consolidate – whichever consolidation has the least amount of student movement seems advantageous.
- Highland, seems to have enough space and a good environment around the school. Safety is a big concern in any scenario.
- Consider under enrolled schools K-8 options should be based on if the parents are in favor, logistics-does it work with capacity community from students.
- Coronado as a K-6
- No schools should close, what about the possibility of the city taking on our districts debt?
- Safety. We don't need to close a K-8 school because of safety issues and children commuting to different schools.
- Convert 5 schools to K-8.
- No K-8, K-5 and 6-7-8 combination is a better scenario. Standardize on this across the board through-out the district for low maintenance & management cost.
- Because of exceeding capacity none of the schools in mentioned should be
- I think I those schools cold handle it, especially a phase-in.

Other Comments on School Closures

- For some reason I think your going to do what you want.
- Do not close all schools listed in Scenario 1. two or three schools for this year.
- March on Sacro.. to forgive our debt. (state) we should not have to make these choices.
- Go en mass & demand that debt (state) be erased.
- Put all 6th grade in elementary or K-8s will greatly improve 6th grade achievement.
- I would hope the Board in its exhaustive search would share w/ someone ways we can extend the deadline while we all work on funding. We will do this together get ready for strong mobilization to make SAC & WASH D.C. help!
- More to say & would love to meet above alternatives.
- Health benefits should be capped. Safety and transportation are a big issue for Richmond and San Pablo communities Process should be delayed. The community should have more information available in all forms just like for measure D.
- I feel that no other options have been explored thoroughly enough and that Jack Schrader & Associates do not take in to account the community needs I.E. – schools safety, transportation, and overall needs.
- Don't close schools w/ high API. Don't close any HS because of safety issues for student switching schools. Schools under 340 ADA should be considered first. Middle school teachers to K-8's elem. Parents happier w/ K-8 when going to MS.
- Our group found both Scenario 1 & 2 unacceptable. Both plans close Kennedy High. The students seem very attached to this community. The enrollment is over 900 students. Where will they go? Don't close Kennedy! Coronado has high API & a very involved parent community – it also has almost 400 students. Don't close Coronado! Don't close successful schools where students are thriving.

- Please figure out something else don't close Kennedy. Putting our high schoolers into another high school will create more gang problems. Thank you!
- Sell Seaview and Alvarado and lastly, Serra.

Public Comments

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- I agree with the committees. We should not close schools.
- Valley View has a large campus and could support many more portables. We would welcome K-8 on our campus and keep the academic excellence. High API.
- Prefer no schools close – look at health benefits for huge savings!!
- Neither is acceptable. Demand more time.
- Coronado has wonderful teachers and a bond with students, parents, & staff. They have proven themselves, as a school that can meet performance goals.
- None of the above/unfair.
- None. The reason I cross out both scenario is because my children go to Coronado Elementary.
- Coronado has high API, safety is an issue in JFK closure.
- High API. Where will kids go?
- Keep Coronado because of high API. If Kennedy closes, the dropout rate will sky rocket – so will crime.
- Don't need Kennedy closed & the safety.
- You only have 6 high schools & Kennedy is located in the city of Richmond & it represents 2 schools safety is very important you cross territory you will have death on your hands. As for leadership let them find there own building, and not our high school. You close Kennedy you are killing the dream & future of 1,000 students – how will you sleep – ok I guess, do you want to be blessed if so, keep the schools open & cut the higher staff salary & keep hope alive for the children.
- Its not fair to all the students that are being left behind.
- If Kennedy closes theres basically no point for staying in this district, because they are either packed or closing and there is going to be lots of violence in other schools.
- Should not close high schools. Should not close schools that are making academic LEAPs in progress.
- You cannot improve the quality of education by closing schools.
- Closing Kennedy is not an option.
- Closing Kennedy is not an option.
- Note: give the new president time to work on the problems, don't move too soon
- In reference to what I heard at the meeting these are the best options to close. It would be better not to close any schools at all.
- None. Our community needs them all if we want a safe and successful future.
- We need these schools.
- We need Kenedy and adams and all these schools.

- Why give away \$1 million/yr of QEIA money when were already broke!!?? Coronado has incredible support in their community & fantastic API scores. Don't close them!
- There are too any people living in this area & not enough schools.
- Scenario I or II is not an option. Please look on another scenario. Why always pick on little people? Why not not increasing taxes to rich people to balance the budget? What happen to the lottery money?
- No school closure of any. Instead should emphasize on high education STD – on all WCCUSD schools – they will be one day running all the American corporations.
- This is the closest school to my house and my student has to walk home because I don't drive.
- My 2 daughters are attending this school. One is going to graduate and the other has one year to go and it is closes to my house and they both have to walk home.
- Close El Sobrante.
- Neither. Keep schools with high academic performance and increasing enrollment trend open. Keep performing schools that bring in revenue to our district open.
- Wrong discussion.
- Because we don't got to take nobody education away.
- Don't close Kennedy!
- It wont be fair to close any schools.
- Close three middle & explore K-8 and 7-12 save high API w/ proven programs & staff.
- None. Keep all open.
- Kennedy is the safest school in the district, its not fair to close Kennedy.
- High AP score (Coronado) Kennedy (location transportation gang issues)
- It is not fair to have Kennedy on both scenarios.
- Neither is acceptable.
- None.
- If Kennedy closes many students will drop out, violence, gangs, drugs & etc.
- Closing Kennedy is not an option!
- Safety issues – Kennedy bring leadership onto campus.
- Closing Kennedy is not an option!

Explanations on K-8

- Valley View or Olinda: these schools have great potential to attract students and have high scores.
- We have the space needed for additional student. Many of our families leave the district for 7-8 grades to Orinda & Albany school. You would keep the funds in our district if we were to become K-8.
- Closing a school is closing opportunities for many boy especially at this time.
- This college is near of my house is to difficult for me and my family change a other school for time and work.

- Teachers are great, save the staff! They been working so hard to achieve their good grades, now they got it, do they deserve to be closed?
- Close Alvarado, Seaview, Vista Hills other sites that are no longer used as schools. Put those offices in extra space in existing schools. Make Coronado K-6 enroll all kids on waiting list at Coronado.
- Stege is a historic landmark school so I feel it should not close. However, they are not where they should be with their API scores.
- I really hope that none of the families will not send their children to school 'cause of safety issues.
- I would like you to consider Coronado for K-8 possibilities. I take both of my children to Coronado walking I have no way to transport my children to another school.
- Make Coronado K-6
- I like K_8 but have no preference of where.
- Make Coronado K-6.
- Just rebuilt bigger classrooms.
- These options don't address the real problems. Only closing there schools to save money and save the property, the district is the reason that Kennedy has only 800 students that is because your let children that should be enrolled at Kennedy to enroll in other schools.
- The schools and the district should not only think 2 or 3 times but many times to come up with the best solution. Thank you!
- Riverside, Ford: they are spacious & very nice.
- Riverside, Ford: they are better and bigger schools.
- The teachers here are goo to teach these kids.
- If no schools are closed then there is no need to change any schools to K-8.
- Talking about saving money for what? Will it be sued to what you are taking about? How about safety of the kids when you consolidate high school. No for both scenario. Please think of other option like giving up your Bonus, transportation, year allowance, travel allowance & probably superintendents salary?
- Valley View, Olinda: both schools have large acreage & can accommodate a K-8.
- Close Crespi – move to De Anza 7-12 offer additional choice to parents by making another school in the area a K_8. you will increase ADA monies rather than loose students.
- Under-utilized.
- All El Sobrante schools could go to Crespi.
- Decision for the SSC's. This is an issue that should be community driven – not district.
- Coronado and other high performing elementary schools and 7-12 @ el Cerrito – higher capacity. De Anza – change plan to fit more & Kennedy – more land. K-8 cannot be limited to self contained programs but a modified middle school format. Have less K-8's to keep that format. But limited programs at K-8's will be better than no school for central Richmond.

- Hardships on families in the lower income communities will be greater than those in the hills Coronado & Kennedy have gone thru a renaissance – don't make those families start over.
- Would save \$. Would encourage sense of community leading to JFK.
- None. Keep all open.
- Make Coronado K-6
- Unacceptable. Closing any high school should not be an option.
- Turn Coronado to K-6 to reach 450 enrollment. Sell Vista hills, Alvarado, &/or Seaview! Urge the state to grant more time for scenario evaluation. Aggressively seek debt forgiveness
- Any.
- None of the above.
- None. More time needed to make an informed decision.
- No. More time needed to decide.
- None. K-8s are stripped down education. Not fair to kids.
- King = new facility, gym, science labs. Castro = helps with Portola student.
- Crespi: Large school.
- Creaspi: its not fare.
- None. It's not fair.
- Take the city \$ and postpone it.
- This is a good idea.

Other Comments on School Closures

- We are hiring a consultant to save the state money by short changing our children. Maybe we should hire a lawyer & sue the state. Also we need a budget watch dog to scrutinize our expenses. There is waste in Sacramento, waste in Washington & waste in the Richmond school district.
- Keep all of our children safe. Please look at possible drop out rates by closing Kennedy. High API schools together!
- Work w/ the city of Richmond to keep Richmond schools open (Valley View, Kennedy, etc). School closures address 1/10 of 1 % of the Budget! We need to address the real issue of Teacher & employee benefits. Kaiser permanente stopped offering lifetime health benefits 10 years ago. They knew it was not financially feasible t continue offering it. We need to address the unions and be firm that we cannot afford to continue offering unrealistic benefits. Why do we give lifetime health benefits to teacher's spouses? I feel this is a major drain on our children's education & the health of this district. If we became bankrupt, all contracts would be null and void. Would this be easier? Can the district stand up & be strong and fight the unions so we do not continue to struggle?
- The symbol of this school is the eagle. Why cut the wings off of all of the students that are about to graduate and the ones who are about to start attending this school. This is my comment and I hope you take this into consideration. Not only for this school but for all of the schools that you are considering to close.

- Please consider the closure of schools there is no reason for us to be talking why our school needs to be close I rather be in a meeting from 6-9 how to leave more school open for our childrens.
- Portola is a diverse school that is the only middle school that services the southern part of the district. If you close Portola many families will leave the district for private schools.
- Closing high schools make the lease sense. Busing & Safety concerns make this a bad option. Keep all high schools open.
- Families will leave the district if Portola closes!! Some have already started to process the leave!!
- Safety, transportation, sports (how hard it will be to make another schools varsity team), classroom sizes, schools having Kennedy academic courses.
- Why don't they stop rebuilding prisons and start focusing on the thing that really matters and that's us, the students.
- Safety, transportation, electives, sports, classroom sizes, academic classes.
- This process is an obvious farce – you can take public comment into account AFTER official discussion. Please consider doing the right thing & protecting our childrens' future – even though it is the more difficult thing.
- Closing our schools will affect us the most. We need them in order to have a safe community for our students and everyone else in it. we need more education, not less!! Also, if the schools are un enrolled, why do we have oversized classes? Save our schools and save our futures!
- Aggressively seek alternate funding & loan forgiveness. With so many wealthy donor organizations, why should schools be starved for funding? The entire country is operating in the red – especially the U.S. govt – they aren't being forced to close agencies. Dr. Harter should be doing a better job of soliciting money for the District.
- I think that you should not close Coronado, Kennedy, and Adams because this school ware very great schools and if you close what are going to do the students.
- Cut the salary of superintendent!
- A. close & sell properties not used to instruct children first. House these services (adult ed/teacher training) in under utilized new schools like Fairmont, Sheldon, De Jean. B. Crespi & De Anza as 7-12. 1. both are under-enrolled, De Anza has space 41 acres. 2. cheaper to build one middle-hihg than 2 schools. 3. save \$500,000 more per year than closing Olinda or Valley View. 4. Hercules middle-hihg has greater success then Crespi. 5. De Anza is open to the idea 6. De Anza's principal has put in programs to improve that school – time to let him lead Crespi who has lost 47% of its students population since 2001. 7. reinvest some of additional savings to make Crespi – De Anza middle –high better to retain more students & their families. C. keep high performing elementary schools like Olinda & Valley View both open. They keep & draw students to our district – some even from private schools. They bring much needed funding for our district. D.Keep Kennedy open to keep our children safe. Use facility for services housed in facilities like Seaview, Serra, Alvarado, etc.
- We truly need to think of the safety of our youth and transportation concerns.

- Please don't close Kennedy or the other school we don't got the right to close all skools. Lets keep Kennedy school opens and all the other schools.
- I do not want my child to be in danger and I will have hardships to give my child money for transportation.
- I do not want my child to be in danger and I will have hardship to give my child money for transportation.
- Please have in mind that student's will be in danger due to North, South, Central/Parchester/Montalvin and San Pablo rivalrys due to turf and territory issues.
- Why do you need to close down a high school? Why should we close a school if you close a high school we wont fit the other schools.
- Putting both scenarios on the page gives the perception that parents are limited. Please do not rank the scenarios based on votes, without taking into consideration too many people thought they could think outside the box. Please look at alternatives, no matter how few people submitted them. Also, too few stay around at the end of meetings.
- Sell Seaview, Alvarado, and possibly Serra
- Sell re-purposed property such as Seaview, Alvarado, Vista Hills, etc.
- Please explain in detail how schools were chosen to be on the list.
- Don't close Kennedy because for the students concern, and also much violence.
- Don't close down our schools!
- Please don't close my school Kennedy.

**West Contra Costa Unified School District
School Closure Committee
Scenario I Evaluation Comments
January 8 to January 20**

Portola Meeting – January 20, 2009

Appointed Members

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- I think the district needs to look at the safety issues of closing Kennedy. There are turf or set contentions that would make for severe safety issues.
- Less students will be affected by the closure. We need to actually take a look at the affects of the class sizes our children would be in if they had to relocate to another school due to a closure. I know first hand that MY children learn better in a smaller class room setting. Not only will the class size affect the children it would affect the teachers how different of how affective would they be for our children. PLEASE RECONSIDER! No school closure!
- Coronado: we need more information about facility conditions. Kennedy should stay and continuation programs be relocated to this site as well.
- Collins serves a diverse population and should not be closed.
- Not enough time to justify a selection.
- Neither scenario is well thought out to meet the needs of this district.
- Keep Kennedy students at Kennedy and add alternative schools and other District offices.
- Coronado has a strong, successful culture despite its many challenges, and is a vital part of a growing community that needs such a school. Costs can be saved by consolidating alternative continuation schools. Kennedy also should not be closed – bring in more programs to use the full site, but do not put student success & safety at risk by moving the kids.
- Kennedy: consolidate/keep students there. Crossing off schools does not fix the problem.
- Alternate plan by Woo.
- Redistrict to increase enrollment at Coronado because it is a high-achieving school.
- High scores.
- I don't think you should close middle and high schools. There are to few of them.
- Castro can be moved to rebuild Portola Fairmont.

Explanations on K-8

- Mira Vista: possibly, if Adams is closed.
- I don't believe that K-8 is a viable option.
- None. K-8 negatively impacts High school transition.
- None. K-8s have gutted educational programs.
- Programs safety, distance for kids to schools, facilities to meet needs and cost information is needed for an informed decision to be made.

- Given the criteria for K-8 given by the District, I do not believe that K-8 configuration meets the needs of the middle school students.
- I do not believe that K-8 under the required financial constraints is a good educational solution, but a fair number of parents do so implementing one more to accommodate them makes sense, and Mira Vista has room & is centrally located.
- If you can find an alternative please do it. The Spec. Ed community does not seem to realize that they may want inclusion when their students let middle school and their children may want the enriching experience of a middle school.
- Castro: it offers El Cerrito a middle school opportunity.
- Supplement proposed merging of Portola & Crespi Ms with their local high schools.
- Crespi: Maybe. Their population seems to have a more “elementary” attitude. The kids are seemingly less middle school-ish in their attitudes & behaviors & they might be more adaptable to a K-8. Also, it’s a large underutilized site.
- None. K-8 is not a cost saving decision and degrades the quality of education for everyone.
- The district has already spent millions on Portola at Castro and approved it. We need to move forward.
- Portola to Castro site. Win-win situation.
- None! None. Middle school students should not be schooled at the same locations as elementary students. Also, the deficit of middle school programs would be devastating.
- Maybe Mira Vista to start and see how it goes.
- K-6 instead of K-8.
- I don’t advocate K-8 based on the cost neutral criteria established by the district.

Other Comments on School Closures

- A middle school should be re-built in El Cerrito, it is shown in the data that projected increases in enrollment will occur in El Cerrito. I believe that the district needs to be prepare for this. Also, I believe that every city in the district should have the traditional middle school model. I am not opposed to K-8 per se, but I would I would limit the number from 4-2. I think that Kennedy is a good choice in both scenarios.
- Thank you for conducting all these meetings and involving the public so thoroughly in this difficult process.
- The number one factor that should be considered in determining which schools should be closed is the question: “How will our decisions impact those students that are at the lower end of the achievement group?” the school district should look at equitable solutions to support EL students, low socioeconomic families, and special educations students.
- I used the scoring criteria that was provided on the district website. For reasons of time and complexity I left out available capacity & grade configurations. I compiled the data and applied the criteria and this is the closure scenario that resulted: Shannon = 16.7, Crespi = 12, Stege = 15.2, Grant = 15.9, Lake = 16.9,

Coronado = 15.5, El Sobrante = 14.5, Kennedy = 11.8. Note: this scenario does not address the seismic issues at Portola or Adams.

- We cannot fully understand the situation without having information 1. On the operating expenses at each school; 2. The facility conditions of each school; 3. And the grants or other monies that would be lost if a school closes. (eg. Kennedy is set to lose a lot of \$ earmarked for it).
- Thank you for giving the community an opportunity to participate with this process.
- The districts willingness to listen to community input is much appreciated. Thank you.
- The district cannot just mold together schools into K-8 without a proper educational plan. If the district is to do this the 6-8 students need a diverse elective educational opportunity.
- The Data suggests: De Anza feeder area should close the most schools. Next Richmond, then El Cerrito & Kennedy.
- Reduce program offerings for middle school students at K-8 schools makes them undesirable from an educational perspective.
- Information provided on website insufficient, and rationale for scenarios provided unclear. Closing many of the schools result in reduce funding (Kennedy QEIA funds) or increased costs (special needs student placement) citizen dissatisfaction causes more transfers out of district & reduced ADA funds. There are many more examples. Does this really save any money?
- Two thoughts; could Adams & Portola both be consolidated onto a slightly larger Castro rebuild? Or since the Portola rebuild would be a small school – why not? Swap land w/EC and take Cerrito Vista Park for a middle school site. No impact on the Castro neighborhood and community – let them have their K-8 and EC could have a continuous piece of park land on which to do as they please. Inclusion is not a site – it's a right.
- Gated and talented education student gate program (in dow Castro) as well as neighborhood. Gate program is a renovative energetic progressive program that needs to be kept intact and be a broad base for more ambitious (educationally) program. It is a relief and wonderful opportunity for student that want more fresh ideas & activities for betterment and growth.
- I believe a K-8 in the El Cerrito aea would offer parents an alternative & that they wouldn't necessarily go to private schools. I think it would have been better to have California school districts that have closed schools. Last year several Calif. school districts closed schools – Orange Co, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego etc.
- The District scenarios lacked explanation of what happened to Kennedy HS students, rationale for closure decisions, how it adheres to the criteria, phasing and a budget. On the surface, the District proposal appear to have little thought behind them.
- I have a concern that the cost & trouble of moving Portola students into portables when there was no rush to do so over the past several years even after investigative studies showed a “danger” here... if only now it's imminent to

move, that doesn't make much sense. I have concern ne less of programs & losing EC support during the interim of having Portola rebuilt.

- WCCUSD should develop a school closure approach that impacts as few students as possible. This includes factoring in the increased distances students who already attend their assigned school will have to travel. Schools with high transfer in rates, and poor attendance by those in the school's district should be close. Castro would be an example. Well over half the students in Castros' district go elsewhere, so closing Castro does not impact them.
- The Board needs to move forward with rebuilding Portola at Castro because we have funding, already spent millions, need a bridge between elementary school and high school, and has been approved by the board.
- Castro has the 3rd highest API score in El Cerrito, despite having 61% low-income & high numbers of ELL. Closing a high API school, & re-routing all of the students to lower API schools is educationally irresponsible.

Public Comments

Explanations for Adding & Removing Schools to Scenario I & II

- Keep the full inclusion program at Castro make it K-8. Do not fracture the one program that provides equal opportunity for children w/disabilities. It is an equitable school. Will make a great K-8 for everyone!
- Castro is has a high API (80s). on state honor roll. Great diversity, fantastic teachers.
- Portola cannot be rebuilt where it is. Portola rebuild at Castro is for only 600 students, not 900. Stege is a title 1 school, all student can transfer out if they want. Why send more students there?
- Keep all inclusion program but at Fairmont.
- Stege is a very low scoring school. It is common sense to close & relocate the students to better performing schools. The student will prosper from it.
- Need HS for southside Richmond to avoid increased gang conflicts that are turf-based. Plus Richmond needs to HS for equity.
- Move other programs onto Kennedy's campus. What they've got (program/staff) seems irreplaceable.
- Need to keep at Middle School in EC that all El Cerrito student can attend consolidate Castro inclusion prog. to another elem. Sight. Many are already bassed.
- Kennedy is too vital a component of the local community to close. Instead, consolidate other programs at that location to utilize the space more economically. Similarly, explore consolidating adult and alternative schools to eliminate staffing and other redundancies.
- I do not support K-8
- Consolidate the adult schools to be able to keep these open.
- Adams' proposed seismic retrofit is a dream don't bank on it. also don't waste money on shifting kids to portables - - focus on capital investment.
- Coronado should be made K-6 and taken off closure lists – due to academically successful program in disadvantage area. Don't close successful program.

- Castro: keep inclusionary program but move to Fairmont. Portola: save our middle school El Cerrito needs a middle school.
- High performance school should not be closed. Full inclusion.
- Not enough knowledge of these schools to comment.
- Geography – there should continue to be a middle school in the south section of the district.
- High performing schools should not close Portola should not be rebuilt – a build Adams.
- Mix a few
- High API. Parent participation. Inclusion – full – other schools do not have same program. Visit & see.
- Please consolidate some district functions with Kennedy & keep Kennedy open one high school.
- Portola is the only Middle School near El Cerrito and putting Portola at Adams would be too much driving for Kensington and El Cerrito parents. (They would go to private schools). The district would lose kids.
- Kennedy is a very important school for Richmond!
- Relocate alternative schools to Kennedy.
- Portola is one of the most integrated schools. Its programs also are essential to El Cerrito HS's quality (ie – music) keep your commitment – rebuild it at Castro.
- Make use of the Kennedy campus.
- School boundary gerrymandering should stop!
- It makes no sense to keep Adams MS open – it is not seismic stable and Portola relocation rebuilding is appeared we need a middle school in El Cerrito or its large school population.
- It would create more open space and preserve the family funding park at Castro.
- Rebuild Portola at Castro. If Castro wants to be kept intact, move it to the Portola lower yard or to the library site next to Fairmont.
- I don't feel informed enough to say anything about these school just rebuild Portola we need a middle school in EC!
- Re-build Portola to have a middle school for El Cerrito, Richmond annex.
- Consolidate alternative continuation high schools. If you take away the only middle in El Cerrito it you make the only city in the district w/o a middle school. That is inequity, you will also lose more families, who are currently the ones who are active as volunteers and funders of school programs.
- El Cerrito needs a middle school to serve its community please rebuild Portola @ Castro.
- Portola is a source of strength to build on. Relocating Portola to Castro should be part of any scenario.
- Please relocate Portola to Castro
- Resource Coronado make K-6.
- Please rebuild Portola at Castro site.

- The school board should reconsider the bolder Parachute Program both previous presently & ask for are fund from 3 of our esteemed board member one of who is Ms. Phiffer.
- Olinda has high test scores. High schoolers should not be moved out of their schools.
- I don't know enough to choose intelligently.
- I think you should try to save Castro, yet I think it would be a tragedy for El Cerrito to not have a middle school. I also think you should try to save Kennedy.
- I am in strong favor of keeping a middle school in El Cerrito but do not have enough information to give another suggestion.
- Because...
- Because I know people from El Sobrante, San Pablo, Richmond, Berkeley, and more who go there.
- Portola has already gotten \$5 mill to rebuild.
- I think Kennedy HS has a great community.
- We want Portola to be a viable alternate middle school for Richmond Annex and El Cerrito.
- A middle school needs to be in El Cerrito or the kids might look elsewhere than this district.
- Make Coronado a K-6
- Its not fair that they have to be on both Disrespectful.
- Castro is the only full inclusion school in district with API 805.
- Why close Castro, great full inclusion program, high API score.
- El Cerrito must have a middle school for EC, Richmond & Kensington area students.
- You need to keep a middle school in El Cerrito.
- QEIA funding at Kennedy is \$900K annually! Savings of a school closure is \$800k for a net loss of \$100k to the district.
- Safety issues with consolidating million of dollars have already been spent. El Cerrito need a middle school.
- The Portola re-build is many of years and millions of dollars in the planning, which would be wasted if Portola was closed. I also have safety concerns about combing Kennedy & Richmond HS. I think Kennedy's campus should house the high school and consolidate other alternative programs on to that site.
- Relocate alternative schools to Kennedy.
- Please rebuild PMS.
- Pls do not close any schools. Instead, pls invest in our district schools by hiring great teachers. Think long term not short term.
- Make Coronado K-6!
- Millions of dollars have been spent on this process.
- Millions of dollars have already been spent on this process. El Cerrito needs a middle school.
- Leadership can share w/ Kennedy?

- I would prefer to close no school & consolidate the adult school & continuation schools.
- I want a safe middle school.
- Going to another school district is more convenient for our family then going to Adams.
- Make Coronado K-6
- Not enough information. Why is it a “package”? why not rank schools according to criteria & then close however many are needed to meet the budget needs?
- Crespi can feed into helms & Pinole middle. Change all elem. Schools k-6 at least.
- A middle school needs to be kept in El Cerrito.
- Utilize space for consolidating other programs etc.
- Don’t close Coronado.
- I don’t know enough to suggest changes but make my choice based on provided student counts and distribution of closures.
- They need a chance too.
- Rebuild Portola.
- Make Coronado K-6

Explanations on K-8

- Kensington: it is a school w/ great parent resources & they want a K-8 they will probably create a really good one). This process is not equitable. Castro is 23% African-American & the meeting was placed on the presidential inauguration night of our very first African-American president. Many African-American families said they will watch the event with their families tonight. Also, the fact that the meeting is placed at Portola give advantage to Portola. Castro has many economically disadvantaged families. They are not always able to attend these meetings.
- Castro has a “real” full inclusion program and student, with disabilities need a smaller school and can not deal w/ transition as easily.
- The factors should be (1) a program focus (magnet) like Washington/Spanish immersion, (2) space, (3) community interest.
- K-8 schools should have some additional resources for specialty teachers, esp. STEM subjects. Otherwise, this is not a good risk for future workforce.
- Castro can become a full inclusion K-8 with enough room to house up to 500-600 students. Adams will be the alternate choice for those who want middle school.
- Process does not allow for meaningful decision making it is a popularity contest.
- The location & culture of the school already provides an environment like none other in the district. Other students will prosper.
- None.
- None. Draws folks away from middle schools. We need to do a better job, district-wide, of the transition from elementary to middle school.
- No K-8 at Kensington or Madera. Consider at Coronado, a growing area.

- A K-8 at Castro would effectively mean that Portola could not be rebuilt at the Castro site. El Cerrito needs a middle school option – band, drama, shop classes, and other MS programs, as well as teachers capable of teaching advanced, content-specific classes like math and science.
- Oppose K-8 unless absolutely necessary to have. 1 school should have an option, maybe 2, but absolutely must avoid overflow student being forced into K-8 because there is no room at the nearest middle school. Or no middle school in reasonable distance.
- None. Believe middle school better serves educational needs of the kids.
- None. Too expensive and teachers are not experienced in it. Also no elective like jazz band.
- None. K-8 is not for everyone – teachers don't want it – I believe its inappropriate to have K with 8th graders at same school.
- None. K-8 takes away many positive experiences (both social & educational) for middle schoolers. These students need their own space & separate, appropriate opportunities.
- Assess Adams @ 2/11 for building middle school there. Close enough to El Cerrito, in 1 mile or less. Beautiful site. Rebuild there. Get whoever is needed to accomplish this before 2/11 or to stall the date of 2/11 to add on this alternative closing Castro is not wise. Building that community is difficult though good to encourage everywhere.
- Location & accessibility.
- Castro location best for a middle school to support EC & Richmond Annex students!
- To keep the full inclusion in the spot it has been.
- Not enough info or knowledge to comment.
- No K-8 middle schools offer more interaction socially & cultural mixing.
- Valley View has the space for portables & the parent support for K-8. Olinda has the parents support, by the numbers capacity.
- Harding: they have the space and have the desire. Make a decision so we can all move on and heal and work together.
- None. Economically fiscally irresponsible would create disadvantage to students at K8 Schools – no elective etc.
- None. Middle school students have to be in their own environment, as do elementary kids, to learn better.
- Full inclusion program @ Castro could work if move to other site.
- None. I believe we need strong middle schools for our children. I strongly oppose moving middle school kids to ECHS. I strongly support rebuilding Portola on the Castro site.
- None. I don't believe 7th & 8th grade in a K-8 environment would serve our children as well as a middle school I mean that academically, socially, and as preparation for the logistics of high school.
- None.
- None. Because a teen environment is too much to handle for young children.

- K-8 deprives 7th/8th graders of advanced opportunities.
- None.
- None. K-8 increases school segregation & inequality.
- None. I do not think elementary school students should be mixed with middle school students. May consider a K-6.
- None. I am a firm believer in the middle school model.
- I am in favor of rebuilding Portola at Castro. I am very concerned about the restricted educational programs that would be necessary as a k-8. I am concerned about the impact on the music program as well as other elective opportunities. I'm also concerned about the impact on teaching personal in switching to K-8. I am not in favor of a mini-middle school as El Cerrito! it's hard enough being a high school these days without adding 7th & 8th graders.
- None.
- K-8 will further degrade middle school elective opportunities.
- 1. Castro's inclusion program will be compromised if the population is split between other schools. 2. Stege is in a poor neighborhood where students would have trouble moving to other schools. 3. Kennedy also serves its area and should have district offices move into vacant space. 4. Building a smaller Portola to accommodate students whose schools didn't support K-8.
- Retain more people in public education.
- K-8 will be a disaster for the district. Middle school kids need their own setting. K-8 may woo parents back who send their kids to private school, but if they draw funds away from the middle schools the opportunity needed to prepare kids for high school will be lost.
- No K-8. No K-8 this is not a viable/robust alternative for our college bound middle school students! Does not prepare them for HS.
- None. Parents, students and teachers should have the choice for a K-8. it shouldn't be forced onto a community.
- None. Middle schools serve a specific student age group & provide programs that would not be offered in an elementary site. I was in a K-8 & when I went to high school, I was behind on academic programming & socialization with most of the other students who had attended middle school (6-8 grades).
- I agree w/ rebuilding Portola & Castro, but would like to see the Castro inclusion program extended to 8th grade.
- Not really in favor of K-8 anywhere K-8 doesn't serve middle school kids well.
- I don't generally believe in K-8 as a solution.
- K-8 shortchanges our middle school students.
- None at Portola. Difficult to support K-8 worst any plan for involuntary or on terms it would be beneficial.
- None.
- None K-8's are a bad idea because 8th graders are just beginning to mature into adults, while kindergarteners are just starting in the school system. Therefore, there will be a lot more tension involved in if K-8's are created, which will cost the district more money.

- None of the following
- Depends on size of school. Generally I'm opposed for developmental reasons even though I went to a K-8 school. It was huge and 7/8 graders had a middle school curriculum.
- I am not in favor of K-8's in general, but perhaps 1-2 should exist for those students who would be better suited to that program.
- No K-8.
- Because Castro will be changed FOR PORTOLA.
- No K-8. Not the answer. We need middle schools.
- As in scenario 1.
- Coronado – I think this great school & the influential attention for those kids would be great. I honestly don't like K-8 however.
- Don't favor K-8 so middle school students have its place. Portola drama and music electives in addition to GATE clings are crucial to keeping supportive middle school student in public school.
- Middle schoolers need an environment where they can continue to grow and learn other than elementary school.
- Please rebuild Portola at Castro site!
- I want Portola rebuilt at Castro site!
- I want Portola to be rebuilt at Castro site.
- None – no language or music development in K-8 schools.
- 7-12 ECHS. ECHS is a huge school plenty of space so, you've been targeting elem schools into becoming K-8 but why not considers 7-12 @ ECHS 7 leave the elem schools alone.
- Can you move Stege & Madera kids to Castro and make Madera into a middle school?
- Not sure. I can't make this decision w/out knowing more about the schools. 7th & 8th grades need separate space.
- None.
- Too big a developmental difference with K-8. need to keep elementary & middle school.
- I do not support K-8 program. 7th 8th students need middle school to attend for their special teen needs.
- Location and accessibility.
- K-8 does not offer middle school students the same programs & enrollment as a middle school – re band, not languages, etc. support middle schools!
- Schools should go from K-6, and 7-12
- Keep high performing schools open.
- Mira Vista has 16.3 usable acreage it is currently being under utilized.
- I think schools should go from K-6 and 7-12
- None
- None. Middle school students should go to a middle school and not going backwards.
- None.

- Make Coronado K-6!
- Coronado: would be favorable to that neighborhood.
- None. Music, art, sports, GATE Kids.
- Not Crespi. Too volatile for K-6 students!
- Not enough information.
- None.
- K-8's could be option in communities where a middle school had to close.
- Middle schoolers need a middle school!! Extra programs & electives labs etc cannot exist at a K-e effectively.
- Make K-6, like Madera, etc. close Adams, slightly increase Portola @ Castro
- We don't have middle school in this area El Cerrito and Richmond Annex.
- None.
- I am not in favor of K-8
- None.
- Castro has a unique program that it will be difficult to relocate those students. Mira vista is school in the middle that saves Richmond and El Cerrito.
- uhh whyy?
- You should save PMS!
- Save PMS & Kennedy!!
- I want Portola rebuild at Castro site.
- I want Portola to be rebuild at Castro site.
- I think elementary & middle school students could co-exist & both have a good educational experience.
- Save PMS & Kennedy
- None. I don't believe K-8 is a acceptable solution for this age group!
- Make Coronado K-6
- None.
- None.
- Make Coronado K-6

Other Comments on School Closures

- Castro is a fully inclusive school. It's students with disabilities who need to be integrated into a school program 100% while having their needs met, there is no equivalent program. It is an equitable program. All sub-groups that currently are offered by the district under NCLB are not just meeting the target, but are exceeding them at Castro! Also, Castro has been targeted for closure for a while now, beginning with redistricting 5 yrs ago. Today, we say Madera is overcrowded and use it as an example I changing transfer regulations. But Madera is overcrowded because Castro students were assigned to there area. We are locking the doors of high achieving schools in the hills to students while closing successful, equitable programs like Castro. This will lead to unfair, discriminatory environment.
- Stop bringing/building schools for Richmond in El Cerrito. Build Richmond schools in Richmond. Understand what "full inclusion" means. "full inclusion"

does not exist anywhere else in the district. You are forcing parent to sue school district for NPS, which costs the district a lot of money.

- If you've already made up your mind, why go through this process?
- I think this process is silly.
- This process was not well designed. It seem likely that one of the original scenarios will be adopted (or something similar). Parents will feel patronized & ignored. We need to harness this parent activism & translate it to positive action for the schools.
- Castro full inclusion is a model school. It cannot be reconstituted elsewhere.
- Please review past studies that identify alternatives that were developed in absence of the politicized closure process. Also, it is not true that the full inclusion program can be "just moved", it is a failure to support special needs students with this assumption.
- El Cerrito residents should go to El Cerrito schools. Good luck, I'm sorry you have to make these tough choices.
- Remembering the lasting effect of full inclusion. How teaching children to be respectful of all people to be able to be respectful, responsible Adults look @ the scores.
- Seismic safety concerns are shared among a number of schools. They should not be viewed in this process.
- I volunteer to help with a district-wide effort to focus on the transition from elementary schools into all of our middle schools. I would be willing to help write grants for this.
- UC Berkeley study shows K-8 increases public school enrollment.
- As an El Cerrito tax payer I would like assurance that my children can attend Elem., Mid & HS in El Cerrito (not cut off and assigned to another city in the district). Close more administrative building (storage, maintenance, etc) to Kennedy sight. Sell these properties & close fewer schools. Large schools do not favor student support. Note the lack of higher income district in your school size examples.
- Please work of state and rational school boards associations, local governments, and other entities to lobby vociferously for state – and federal – level changes that will allow districts to meet students' needs by solving funding crisis. Specifically, work to – reform school funding methods (e.g. , prop 13) to increase \$ for schools – reform national health care to free the district (and many other institutions) from overwhelming legacy costs.
- I think that Portola must be rebuilt and that the District needs to sucure funds to rebuild any other schools that need it, including thru another bond construction measure. And I think the taxpayers/voters can be persuaded to support it.
- Money has been wasted by the district in the past when various schools were slated to be rebuilt, but fund were diverted to other programs. Waste at the district level made to be stopped so more of our schools are closed.
- I am very concerned all the K-8 is being dangled as a solution to the overcrowding the loss of a middle school will result in K-8 is not an alternative to middle school. Thank you!

- Have we really done all we can to raise funds or get debts forgiven? 47th in spending per pupil will never produce the results we want!
- I have come support Portola moving to Castro because if Portola didn't move it would be because it had to close. And Portola closing is unfair to El Cerrito. make the right decision. Keep Portola alive.
- Disregard Mark Woo's scenario. It will increase racial segregation and increase economic segregation. Also spending money to make Kensington K8 is making the richest school in district rich and more elitist.
- Favor re-build Portola Middle School at Castro site. This process has been dragged out for years by NIMBY opposition. It is time to move forward in this process.
- I am also a continuation teacher, and do not favor consolidating continuation programs. These students belong on small campuses (150-25 students). Small schools, at already existing sites, may work best if safety is not an issue. Consider that parents and community members want neighborhood schools; this allows for less disruption (travel by bus, etc) and more community involvement. Every community deserves schools that are local and serve its population.
- Take a stand! Yes we can!
- Build more scenarios – use legal means – take a stand with the state – demand a bailout. Thank you.
- What I have seen has not satisfied me that all alternatives to school closures have been explored an exhausted. Cut \$300K in administrator salaries and overhead and save at least 1 elementary school, for example. Also, where is the plan to increase enrollment? With higher enrollment, we can save schools, jobs, & build community.
- Safety, well being and social experiences are so great at 6-8 grade. By keeping middle schoolers w/their own communities we can ensure this will happen!
Scenario 1.
- Have we WCCUSD asked state to retroactively help pay for seismic upgrade we made voluntarily in WCCUSD for prior re-build projects with the large state fund (assembly 2006 bill 300) – forgot name! thanks.
- I feel that you can not move a full inclusion that is not like anything else in the district. You will not know unless you come and visit Castro in action with full inclusion and normal students. You can not make it anywhere else like that it takes the teachers.
- I think the only impartial criteria for closure is the enrollment number as flawed as it is. I would be willing to pay a district wide hardship fee to bridge and delay the consolidation process. Is it too late to propose it? (don't call it a tax)
- Please assure Castro parents that the district will provide a successful full-inclusion program.
- Crespi: would make a lousy K-8. Parent are not going to send their kids there (many El Sobrante schools now opt out of district rather than go to Crespi.) Closing Crespi makes sense – its old, halt full & neighboring rebuilt middle schools have space. De Anza is huge & could accommodate a 7-12 & do it well –

give El Sobrante. New “middle school” at De Anza & parents will stay in the district for high school.

- Can the money for Portola be used to rebuild Adams? Where do the Kennedy HS students get relocated to? I have a concern because there is no information on it. If Portola’s teachers, programs and students are kept as the same community and blended with some of the Adams community I would feel fine with closing Portola if Adams was rebuilt/retrofitted & updated. I have concerns when the people on the committees feel they don’t have adequate information.
- Closing schools is not a cost effective plan for the budget. The transition and additional funds are always underestimated. If the properties are sold they are lost to future growing populations. Already too many students don’t graduate high school - how is this going to help?
- People who would want to move to El Cerrito may change their mind. If they know El Cerrito has no middle school.
- Please visit the schools & see what is happening.
- I would like you to know I am a strong supporter on rebuilding Portola at the Castro site even though this is only one block from my house. I would very much like my two children to attend public schools in their community and believe based on the information being provided that this is their only chance at the middle school level.
- Unfortunate that no Board members were in attendance this evening.
- Portola Middle school is a high performing school in the district – the only middle school in El Cerrito. Closing Castro will have a big impact on the students doing well there, but there are many other high performance schools in the district that they could be relocated to. The full-inclusion program could be put at several other schools. If Portola closes, then the current elementary students in EC will not have a middle school to go to, and as a result the district will lose many students.
- Portola needs to be rebuilt to maintain a MS in El Cerrito. But Castro’s full inclusion program is needed for a large group of kids. Please consider moving the Castro full incl. program, intact to another site – Mira Vista or Fairmont. Do not move Portola kids to Adams – seismic danger and the flatlands not being served (walking to school as one example) are two reasons to not move to Adams!
- We do need to pull our local cities into the discussion. El Cerrito will benefit from rebuilding the middle school & strong land support. Is the district looking at neighborhood demographics? Both Kensington & El Cerrito have had elderly populations, and as their houses are coming into the market, both communities are gaining young families. While we may have a state-wide or our all drop in the school age population, we may not be experiencing this in El Cerrito & Kensington.
- Academically – having multiply subject teachers and loss electives at K-8 would be lower quality education than middle school. Socially – this age the kids want to make new friendships with kids with the same interests, not kids who live near by – They need a big gene pool to find those new friends. They will not grow socially if their relationships follow an elementary school status quo. Logistically

they need to learn to go to general classrooms, juggle the demands of multiple teachers and learn to be safe in the much larger environment of high school.

- If Portola closes and the students are moved to Adams I will leave the district and I know many other parents who feel the same way. Adams is more seismically unstable than Portola, so how can you even consider moving kids there? Portola already has portables on the lower level that can be used while Portola is being rebuilt at Castro. El Cerrito needs a middle school! Please rebuild at Castro. Thanks for listening.
- Scenario 1 is less inequitable and will disrupt fewer schools & communities.
- From a community perspective, it is important for the city of El Cerrito to have a middle school. I don't have middle school aged children, but I would have been much less likely to go to Adams for PTA meetings, where as I was retire for 4 years (2 kids) here at Portola. That involvement has continued to ECHS I am also concerned about Adams being so close to the earthquake fault.
- I don't understand why schools are being closed and prisons being built! If children are educated they will avoid becoming criminals!
- I and Richmond parent with children at Madera & ECHS. I will leave the district if Portola closes. Although I have been very dedicated for more than 10 years and have served on site councils & other boards. If I have to sacrifice my own kids future to stay here, I won't do it!!! And many other parents in the middle class will flee, too.
- Portola middle is our neighborhood school. We live 7/10 of mile from the campus and walk to school. I do not want to drive my child to school. I will seek alternate education for my child, either private or out of district, if Portola closes. I know many families who feel the same way.
- I am concerned at the prospect of the district selling that 15 acres – we will never have such a big parcel again. I believe that if we built a new school there, sent the Portola feeders plus Mira Vista, retained Portola staff and programs (advanced core classes, band, shop, etc) the school could attract/retain the middle school population. It seems to be an easier solution than rebuilding Portola at Castro, and we could keep that land. I believe that parents care more about students demographics, API Scores, and facilities than about the name of the city the schools is built in.
- Make Coronado K-6 to bring up their numbers to meet the minimum for their criteria – and they really want it! Do not close Kennedy – drop out rate will go up – and so will crime.
- Full inclusion is as much about the general ed students as it is the students with IEP's. it is the entire school culture. It is impossible to pick up and "move" full inclusion that works well as it does at Castro. API of 805 shows that our school is succeeding in educating all of our students.
- Please rebuild public middle school in El Cerrito! Please do not temporarily site Portola at ECHS. No "elite" middle school at ECHS. Please preserve special ed program intact if Castro is closed – With all necessary resources! Yes – it would be good to grow it to other schools, but it can only work if it happens in a calm well-managed way. Can't be accomplished with a lead foot.

- If Portola must close next year I would like to see it relocate into Portables on the Castro site.
- I have not heard adequate justification for disturbing the Castro full inclusion program. One speaker mentioned seismic stability problems at Adams, but apparently this involves only the existing structure and not the land on which it is located; thus it could be a site for new construction.
- Please move quickly to rebuild Portola. We've spent enough time on this – more than two years already!!
- I felt that the reason for scenario II's existence should have been explained to us all – namely, the Castro lawsuit. It was not even addressed.
- We live near the school and it would take us out of our way to go to somewhere else, we go to Portola.
- My biggest concern is how school closures impact communities particularly in the case of Middle Schools, how does closing/consolidating Portola impact the community it serves? El Cerrito must continue to have a middle to serve student from Richmond Annex, Pt. Richmond, Kensington & El Cerrito.
- My big concern w/ closing schools is that moving schools out of neighborhoods reduces accessibility of public education for exactly the people who need it most. Also, neighborhood students were centers for community building.
- The district needs to provide a safe middle school for El Cerrito ASAP! Portola rebuild has been approved – please move forward with it.
- Portola's strength in faculty & programs must be nurtured. Please invest in Portola's future.
- Please preserve Portola. Relocate Portola to Castro. This process has gone on too long already.
- Work Jim Rogers letter. Make this decision? Can temporary money help us? A MS in the city of EC help w/ the community of education for the kids. Has the district looked at what works in other districts going through this process?
- Not enough information – Puts one community against another. Both solutions seem like bad solutions.
- Full inclusion is not a site! Let's go district-wide!
- Dr. Harter should consider auditing the Personal resources of some of our Board Members to see if they have acted gained from the different contractors responsible for the inadequate rebuild of our many school buildings.
- Stop dividing community members amongst each other it will cause problems later when the schools are actually being closed.
- I walk to school. If Portola was shut down all the school would be too far away to walk to. So please rebuild Portola.
- It is critical to keep a middle school in El Cerrito – a good one – that can feed El Cerrito High. All the Portola feeder should become K-6 I would put Portola in portables below the school or at ECHS. Adams should be closed due to earthquake.

- I would also like to know more about the alternative/continuation schools. They seem expensive, but if it is keeping kids in school and out of jail, they might be worth it.
- Portola should not be closed. We need a middle school in the Southern part of the district. If you close it & it will further reduce enrollment & income to the district & reduce property values which in turn will reduce taxes. Castro special ed program can be transferred to a different site allowing Portola to rebuild there. I also think that the disproportionate per student state contribution should be normalized throughout the state which would provide the district additional \$.
- I love Portola and it's like my 2nd home.
- Rebuild Portola at Castro site. Portola has excellent academic classes. We need to keep a middle school in El Cerrito to keep up our property value.
- This process feel like a charade – it damages community – does not build community.
- Don't close Portola.
- I feel very strongly that new middle schools are build – not K-8. I come from Kensington Hilltop and was a strong supporter of k-8. I once we made the hard decision to send our daughter to Portola – I CHANGED MY MIND COMPLETELY. Wherever you put it – that will continue. Don't take away the success stories. The District can not afford to do this. Build on the strength here. Rebuild Portola at Castro!
- I believe the district should seriously consider furloughs for all teachers & staff to potentially save \$ to reduce #'s of school to close. Need to consider getting \$ from federal govt & private donors to save school.
- Save Portola! WE NEED A MIDDLE SCHOOL IN EL CERRITO. Thanks for letting the community voice their opinions on school closures.
- Please rebuild Portola at Castro site!
- Each community needs a middle school. We need one in El Cerrito attendance area! Please rebuild one at Castro. We have the money. We need to move on!
- Rebuilding Portola is the best decision so you can keep a Middle school in El Cerrito.
- Please please PLEASE! Don't close this school it meant a lot to me and my friends so please!
- I love going to school at Portola! It has great classes, teachers, and students! Why would you want to close such a wonderful school? REBUILD PORTOLA!
- Dear Bored, please, please, please rebuild Portola. It is a wonderful school. I know people who would hate to see it close and I would to. So, please REBUILD PORTOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL at the Castro site.
- This process is a sham. The Portola community is pushing their agenda, based on their self-interest, and not the interest of the district as a whole.
- El Cerrito must have a middle school. Otherwise parent will be forced to move to Albany of pay for private schools.
- Rebuild Portola.
- Rebuild Portola at Castro.

West Contra Costa Unified School District
School Closure Committee
Portola Meeting – January 20, 2009

- Rebuild Portola ASAP!!
- Rebuild Portola.