

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
High School Attendance Area Meeting  
Consolidation / Closure Committee  
January 8, 2009 – Hercules High School Cafeteria

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Superintendent Bruce Harter welcomed the committee and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were Kathy Bartley, Ayisha Benham, Katie Brady, Dionne Dunn, Heidi Estrella, Elaine Gee, Maryanne Glasson, Alexis Halliday, Anita Hayward, Andi Horton, Ronna Ishida, Valerie Kimmel-Oliva, David Lewis, Liz Lonsdale, Viktor Manrique, Ann Marie Marinakis, Nanette Murphy, Shawn Niles, Charleen Raines, Janelle Salvador, Janice Thompson, Page Tompkins and Whitney Vuong.
- B. WCCUSD Financial Situation and School Closure -- Superintendent Harter gave an overview of the WCCUSD financial situation and school closure.
- C. Review Discussion of Closure Scenarios -- Superintendent Harter introduced Erica Gregory as the facilitator for the committee meetings. Ms. Gregory introduced her partner, Clark Kellogg, and instructed the committee members on how to proceed. The individual groups were to have conversations around school closures, and the outcome would be to present ideas and or changes to the two scenarios. The groups were given 45 minutes for discussion. The audience was also invited to break into groups and to have conversations around school closures. They were invited to fill out feedback forms at the conclusion of the meeting.
- D. Public Comment -- Nia Rasidchi called on the speakers for public comment. There were eight speakers and they were given two minutes each.

Dottie Heckman suggested that the district sell surplus properties such as Adult Ed and the facilities that house staff development and said that small schools are better for our students.

Letty Van said she does not support Scenario 1 and commented that closing Castro would be throwing dollars down the drain.

Greg Whaling said he is against closing Kennedy. He said to “look under a rock” and find other ways.

Christina Slamon said that K-8 schools are not the answer and spoke about choosing the best scenario for all the students.

Charles Rachlis said he is not for either scenario. He spoke about joining together, forming solidarity, changing priorities and finding the money.

Marcus Mitchell said he did not advocate closing schools. He spoke about looking outside the box and asking big business to help.

Tracy Tedler spoke about getting the businesses involved.

Michael Levy spoke about doing what is right to solve our problems and not letting the state take over.

Mark Woo spoke about minimizing the impact on our students.

- E. The individual groups were given 30 minutes to complete their evaluation forms. At the end of that time, they were asked to turn in their forms. The audience was encouraged to turn in their forms also. All suggestions will be counted and considered.
- F. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by Superintendent Harter.

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
High School Attendance Area Meeting  
Consolidation / Closure Committee  
January 12, 2009 – Pinole Valley High School Cafeteria

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Superintendent Bruce Harter welcomed the committee members and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were Shelly Andre, DeShannon Bamford, Lori Berry, Javier Brantley, Carol Butcher, Tammy Campbell, Mercedes Castro, Eric Danysh, Sheri Davis, Andrew DeHoll, Sean Duckworth, Susan Dunlap, Jim Edward, Ana Gonsales, Terrie Hageman, Heidi Lee [Javier Brantley], Mia Montemayor [Mahak Hassan], John Helfrich, Grethe Holtan, Mary Horton, Mohid Jafri, Sue Kahn, Steve Kleinfeld, Jeanette Lambert, Sylvia McClafin, Raul Morales, Laura Ramos, Frank Bianchi, Aman Sandhu, Jerry Scheidt, John Schilt, Anne Shin, Matt Taylor, Seet Thang, Gregg Tognolini, Edgar Vega, Denise Weis, Carolyn Wendell.
- B. WCCUSD Financial Situation and School Closure -- Superintendent Harter gave an overview of the WCCUSD financial situation and school closure.
- C. Review Discussion of Closure Scenarios -- Superintendent Harter introduced Erica Gregory as the facilitator for the committee meetings and instructed the committee members on how to proceed. The individual groups were to have conversations around school closures, and the outcome would be to present ideas and or changes to the 2 scenarios. The groups were given 45 minutes for discussion. The audience was also invited to break into groups and to have conversations around school closures. They were invited to fill out suggestion forms at the conclusion of the meeting.
- D. Public Comment -- Nia Rasidchi called on the speakers for public comment. Each speaker was given two minutes.

Angelo Reyes, Student – Shannon Elementary, said he does not want Shannon Elementary to close because he is getting a great education from his 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers.

Angel, Student – Collins Elementary, said that Collins Elementary should not be closed because they have a great field, great programs and though they are a small school they have a big voice.

Mike Wasilchin, Business Agent – Public Employees Union Local One, said that Local One members want a fair and impartial process that gives students, parents, unions and the community a say in the outcome.

Rachel Baranco, Parent – Collins Elementary School, said Collins Elementary School provides a local park and attraction for the community and is an inexpensive, convenient locale for field trips.

Alison Crooks, Parent – Collins Elementary School, spoke about the extensive Special Education programs and services available at Collins Elementary School including thirty SH classes, specially equipped classrooms, bathrooms, and motor skills rooms that serve many district students.

Kris Moore, Parent – Collins Elementary School, spoke about the wide-ranging services available to special needs students such as proximity to the Pinole Fire Department, which also benefit other students in the district.

Corrine Toms, Parent – Collins Elementary School said that many of the students now attending Collins Elementary School and Shannon Elementary School were displaced when Seaview Elementary School was closed and that a third move would be unnecessarily disruptive to the education of these students.

Nicole Wilbur, Parent – Collins Elementary School, spoke about the importance of Collins Elementary School to the community as evidenced by the large number of organizations that use the site such as Pinole/Hercules Little League, Youth Soccer League and Boy Scouts.

Teresa Romberger, Parent – Shannon Elementary School, said that it is unfair to move former Seaview Elementary School students for the second time.

Rachel spoke about overcrowding, safety, and availability of books for closed/combined schools.

Mark Woo, Parent – Kensington Elementary School, offered an alternate proposal to those of the district and asked that it be considered as an option.

Ann Palmer, Parent – Olinda Elementary School, proposed closing Crespi Middle School claiming it is only at 76% capacity thereby saving the district enough money to keep two elementary schools open.

- E. The individual groups were given 30 minutes to complete their feedback forms. At the end of that time, they were asked to turn in their forms. The audience was encouraged to turn in their forms also. All suggestions will be counted and considered.

#### Committee Reports:

Group 1 said it was important to consider other factors such as 1) salary structure of top management positions; 2) high residency areas with low population; 3) allowing students to choose schools to close; and 4) employees benefit structure.

Group 2 expressed concern over the impact of these scenarios such as the lack of ability for communities to provide transportation to farther schools and the continued disruption for displaced Seaview Elementary School students.

Group 3 said that school closures should be the last option and expressed concern over how quickly the process is happening despite the lack of necessary information such as property appraisals, seismic data on current property, and safety and accessibility at impacted schools.

Group 4 also expressed the need for additional information and consideration before closing schools. Among the suggestions were to review city/county easements on property to determine feasibility of sale/lease, improving of maintenance partnerships with cities, consideration of special education, disciplinary and safety concerns, and cost neutrality of K – 8 plans.

Group 5 added suggestions such as the selling off of non-school/vacant properties, moving 6<sup>th</sup> grade back to elementary sites, and closing Adult Schools. They also emphasized that the priority should be on safety and said that closing Kennedy High School poses the highest safety concern.

Group 6 recommended asking the State to forgive our long-standing debt and encouraging local business such as Chevron to encumber the debt. Finally they suggested closing Crespi Middle School and El Sobrante Elementary School and converting Valley View Elementary School to a K – 8 as well as aggressively selling off vacant properties.

F. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by Superintendent Harter.

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
High School Attendance Area Meeting  
Consolidation / Closure Committee  
January 13, 2009 -- Crespi Middle School Cafeteria

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Dr. Bruce Harter welcomed the committee and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were Nadine Ahola, Rick Alexander, Sherry Bell, Rhonda Burton, Matthew Chao, Cherly Cotton, Sara Danielson, Rene Franklin, Cynthia Garcia, Ken Gardner, Lorenz Gonzales, Juanita Gordon, Sylvia Greenwood, Mia Gunter, Dorothy Heckman, Estefania Hernandez, Judith Hollenberger, Elane Issacs, Pamela Jupp, Rodica LaBlue, Jessica Lee, Joni Lehman, Dennis Lods, Eleanor Loynd, Michael McClendon, Carlena Moss, Donna Parkinson, Vianey Perez, Jeannie Pfister, Tammy Pham, Stephen Riave, Wendy Riley, Nancie Rouse, Scottie Smith, Cheryl Sudduth, Cynthia Swainbank, Rebecca Tipp
- B. WCCUSD Financial Situation and School Closure -- Dr. Harter gave an overview of the WCCUSD financial situation and school closure.
- C. Review Discussion of Closure Scenarios -- Dr. Harter introduced Erica Gregory as the facilitator for the committee meetings and she instructed the committee members on how to proceed. The individual groups were to have conversations around school closures, and the outcome would be to present ideas and or changes to the 2 scenarios. The groups were given 45 minutes for discussion. The audience was also invited to break into groups and to have conversations around school closures. They were invited to fill out feedback forms at the conclusion of the meeting.
- D. Public Comment -- Nia Rasidchi called on the speakers for public comment. Each speaker was given two minutes.

Denise Hernandez, Student – Highland Elementary, said she has learned so much at Highland Elementary and doesn't want it to close because it is a close community and has a high enrollment.

Jack Jones, Student – Olinda Elementary, said he learns a lot from all the great teachers at Olinda Elementary School and does not want his school to close.

Jonathon Souza, Student – Valley View Elementary, said he does not want his school to close because it is a safe place with great teachers and a great Principal.

Tom Cuffe, Teacher – Highland Elementary School, acknowledged that public education is underfunded and said that the current problems are undermining the offering of a quality education.

Kimberly Jones said that the school closures are pitting schools against each other and that students attending a high scoring school should not be forced to attend a low scoring school.

Kris Moore, Parent – Collins Elementary School, said that it is unfair that today's students have to pay the debt from years ago and agreed that school closures are pitting schools, communities and teachers against one another.

Alison Crooks, Parent – Collins Elementary School, spoke about the importance of Collins Elementary School's Special Education programs and accommodations to all district students.

Gigi Guizado de Nathan said it is unfair to make parents choose between having neighborhood schools or the choice of where to send their students and asks that the district consider allowing each committee to determine the best choice for that community.

Linda Price said that it is short sighted to only consider two scenarios and not consider the alternate proposals that have been presented by other parents.

Dottie Heckman suggested selling properties that are not used for schools as well as Serra and Alvarado. She also suggested moving Portola Middle School to the Castro Elementary site, making it a K – 8 and consolidating Crespi Middle School and DeAnza High School.

Jeremy McCauley spoke in favor of closing El Sobrante Elementary School and Crespi Middle School while making Sheldon Elementary School and/or Murphy Elementary School a K – 8 school.

Ann Palmer, Parent – Olinda Elementary School said that the district has an apparent lack of concern for quality of education and that the district should be open to alternate scenarios that have been presented by the public.

Cindy Franks, Parent – Valley View Elementary School, said she does not agree with closing Valley View Elementary School, one of the district highest performing schools, when the original concept was to close the lowest performance schools.

Brant Fetter suggests making Coronado Elementary School a K – 6 school and shifting personnel.

Pat Dornan, Teacher – Crespi Middle School spoke about the difficulty for students who are moved and emphasized the need to provide a smooth transition and welcome atmosphere at the new school.

Marinela Marshall-Diaz, Parent - Valley View Elementary School, said that Valley View Elementary School has been able to rebuild their academic excellence into a high performing school and should not be closed.

Jim Cowen, parent, said that the state of the district's middle schools is the reason that many families leave the district. He suggests closing two middle schools and changing elementary schools to K – 8 schools.

Carolyn Sherry, parent, questioned why Valley View Elementary School was placed on the closure list when they have no declining enrollment, 80% residency attendance and over 150 students that choose to go to Valley View.

Karen Calarco suggested closing Crespi Middle School as it fits all closure criteria and the students can be accommodated at De Anza High School and/or El Cerrito High School. She provided examples of why Valley View Elementary School should be considered a model for the district.

Linda Lanning said that all survey participants cross out every school on the list to send the Board a message of no school closures.

Jill Wolkenfeld encouraged the public not to vote on either scenario and to look for alternate options.

Tanya George acknowledged the extensive special needs services that are currently available to her students and expressed fears these services will not be available if her school closes.

- E. The individual groups were given 30 minutes to complete their evaluation forms. At the end of that time, they were asked to turn in their forms. The audience was encouraged to turn in their forms also. All suggestions will be counted and considered.

Committee Reports:

Group 1 spoke about the need to explore the viability of making schools K – 8 and only doing so if there is funding to offer Elective courses. They also suggested consolidate MS and HS into 7 – 12. Finally, they put across the need to ensure equal distribution among displaced students by looking at factors such as ethnicity, socio-economic status, etc.

Group 2 reported the suggestions of this group that included selling non-school properties, reducing top administration, closing Necessary Small Schools and doing a cost benefit analysis of outside contracts.

Group 3 asked why Valley View Elementary School was being considered for closure when they are among the highest performing and suggested looking into leasing property or partnering with a non-profit instead of selling.

Group 4 said they oppose school closures and suggested the District work to cut frivolous spending such as maintenance issues, consultants, and teacher training.

Group 5 said that not enough information has been provided and that factors such as impact on students, hardship on parents and transportation options were not considered.

Group 6 said that before making any decisions, the District needs to be sure to provide teachers and administrators the support for dealing with the social, cultural, economic and academic implications that displacements will cause.

Group 7's general consensus was no school closures. They encouraged the District and Board to be active and, "Go where the money is."

- F. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by Superintendent Harter.



West Contra Costa Unified School District  
High School Attendance Area Meeting  
Consolidation / Closure Committee  
January 14, 2009 – Helms Middle School Cafeteria  
In English and Spanish

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Superintendent Bruce Harter welcomed the committee members and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were Nellie Smith, Marylee Stadler, Hector Franco, Sara Dieli, Marco Gonzales, Johnny Brown, Susan Dunlap, Olanrewaju Ajayi, Martha Barajas, Rachel Bartlett-Preston, Sonja Bell, Susan Berrington, Cheryl Bookerwelsh, Gretchen Borg, Roxanne Brown-Garcia, alma Carney, Merrilee Cavenecia, Monica Cervantes, Tyrone Weems, Jose DeLeon, Pablo Durango, Haidee Foust, Sandi Genser Maack, Robert Gerson, Marco Gonzales, Jeannie Hansen, Terri Ishmael, Mary Jones, Adrienne Kimball, Maria Maldnado, Doris Mason, Markell McCain, Lorna McClelland, Grace Morizawa, Paul Morris, Mary Oshima, Abel Pineda, Cecilia Valdez, Janie Douglas, Patricia Ponce, Linda Salinas, Harpreet Sandhu, Janet Scott, Roseanne Smith, Julian Szot, Cara Turchie, Valerie Van Der Meer, Dolores Williams
- B. WCCUSD Financial Situation and School Closure -- Superintendent Harter gave an overview of the WCCUSD financial situation and school closure.
- C. Review Discussion of Closure Scenarios -- Superintendent Harter introduced Erica Gregory as the facilitator for the committee meetings. Ms. Gregory instructed the committee members on how to proceed. The individual groups were to have conversations around school closures, and the outcome would be to present ideas and or changes to the two scenarios. The groups were given 45 minutes for discussion. The audience was also invited to break into groups and to have conversations around school closures and to fill out feedback forms at the conclusion of the meeting.
- D. Public Comment -- Nia Rasidchi called on the speakers for public comment. There were sixteen speakers and they were given two minutes each.

Preciosa Roberts asked to not close Adams.

Jacqueline Alejandre said that Lake is a kind and respectful community with scores improving, asking to keep Lake School open.

Margaret Browne said to fight for schools, keep them open and pressure politicians to give what we need.

Marianella Marshall Diaz said 1/3 of De Anza feeder schools have not been rebuilt and said not to close high performing schools.

Greg Whaling said to change the boundaries and don't close Kennedy -- the only school that serves the Iron Triangle.

Charles Rachlis said we need to get national attention and to meet at the Library on February 4 and march to Lovonya DeJean at 5:00 PM.

Daniel Martinez said he is against closing schools.

Marcus Mitchell said to ask the cities and corporations for help and commented that their employees are our families and they have stock in our schools.

Steve Kleinfeld said we should not close schools and suggested emailing the politicians and getting the nine closed properties sold.

Rachel Barranco said to look for other alternatives that will have a negative effect on the least amount of students.

Ann Palmer said to vote for different scenarios that would save money, suggesting removing Olinda and Valley View from the scenarios and making De Anza a middle and high school like Hercules and closing Crespi and merging students with De Anza.

Rigo Gonzalez said that Valley View has had high academics and has maintained high enrollment for the last ten years, so do not close it.

Jennifer Zoffell said that we should develop new scenarios and ask for help from the cities and big business. She encouraged all committee members to cross Kennedy off the list.

Mike Peritz spoke about moving students to new schools and said some will have to be on the bus for 1½ hours each way.

Christine Slamon said she is against K-8, but suggested adding a 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Coronado where the API is high. She asked not to compare our district to ones that pay for transportation.

Zayda Arevalo spoke favorably of Highland which she said has 600 children from preschool on, high grades and high test scores. She said do not close any schools.

Jill Wolkenfeld asked the committee to be careful of the evaluation document and said do not vote for scenario 1 or 2.

Alejandro Navarro said to be united and do not close any schools.

- E. The individual groups were given 30 minutes to complete their evaluation forms. At the end of that time, they were asked to turn in their forms. The audience was encouraged to turn in their forms also. All suggestions will be counted and considered.

Committee Reports:

Group 1 reported in favor of retrofitting Adams, adding Adult Education, Gompers and Leadership to Kennedy High and keeping it open and offering early retirement packages to employees.

Group 2 reported being in agreement that K-8 classes would be difficult. They asked for community involvement; donations from each parent, to look at a 4 day school week and cutting administrator salaries.

Group 3 suggested charging a one time fee to companies. They reported being opposed to all school closures. They proposed having each family making a one time contribution of \$100 – \$150 dollars; having fundraising at each school and asking the utility companies to step up to the plate.

Group 4 said no school closures, asked for major contributors and using Measure T funds. Additional suggestions were having school year round, partnering with big business, and wanted to keep students close to their own schools.

Group 5 said to not rebuild Portola, keep students in K-8 classes and keep Kennedy High open. They asked to consider the turf and transportation problems and asking the cities to help keep schools open.

Group 6 proposed freezing the process, keep all school K-6, make Kennedy High a middle/high school and change the vacation schedule to not lose ADA because of cultures. They agreed not to close any schools and further suggested going to a four-day school week, bringing back students who have left and no 2<sup>nd</sup> grade testing.

F. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM by Superintendent Harter.

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
High School Attendance Area Meeting  
Consolidation / Closure Committee  
January 15, 2009 – John F. Kennedy High School Cafeteria

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Superintendent Bruce Harter welcomed the committee and introductions were made.
- B. WCCUSD Financial Situation and School Closure -- Superintendent Harter gave an overview of the WCCUSD financial situation and school closure.
- C. Review Discussion of Closure Scenarios -- Superintendent Harter introduced Erica Gregory as the facilitator for the committee meetings and she instructed the committee members on how to proceed. The individual groups were to have conversations around school closures, and the outcome would be to present ideas and or changes to the 2 scenarios. The groups were given 45 minutes for discussion. The audience was also invited to break into groups and to have conversations around school closures. They were invited to fill out suggestion forms at the conclusion of the meeting.
- D. Public Comment – Sheri Gamba called on the speakers for public comment. Each speaker was given two minutes.

Tylesha Lax, Student – Coronado Elementary School does not want Shannon Elementary to close because he is getting a great education from his 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers.

Shavinder Gulati, Grandmother – Coronado Elementary School, worries about how she will get her grandkids to school if they are moved to another school that she cannot walk to.

Rachel Baranco, Parent – Collins Elementary School feels that school closures should be a last resort and encourages the public to write to the local legislators.

Steve Kleinfeld, Parent – Collins Elementary School expressed that closing schools and displacing students will break community relationships and urges the district to allow more time to come up with better ideas.

Darcy Long, Parent – Teacher – Coronado Elementary School reiterated the growth in Coronado Elementary School's API from 381 to 802 in ten years and asks that the district leave the successful schools alone.

Naomi Williams opined that she fought hard for the passage of Measure D on the promise that things would stay the same.

Norah Moore viewed Coronado Elementary School's placement on both scenarios as unfair given the decade long commitment by teachers, students and the community to high academic achievement.

Cecilia Sotelo conveyed the community's distress over the closure of Coronado Elementary School claiming that the students feel safe and happy there.

Donald Rapp, Grandfather -- Coronado Elementary School, sentiment is that no school should be closed, as it is the little ones who suffer.

Margaret Browne affirmed that there should be no bailout on the backs of our students.

Roosevelt McKinley, Classified Employee – West Contra Costa Unified acknowledged that all must come together as a community to find the best solution for resolving the budget crisis.

Charles Radlich encourages mass action by all community members to protest school closures.

Julio Arauz, Student – John F. Kennedy High School advised that John F. Kennedy High School has the highest API increase [155] in the entire district and this proves progress.

Naomi Santos feels that although no school deserves to be closed, Coronado Elementary School should not be closed due to its continued progress and commitment from teachers and the community.

Jennifer Zossel suggests that the District take advantage of alternate options that have been presented and recommends crossing Coronado Elementary School and John F. Kennedy High School off the closure lists.

Jennette Gay feels that Valley View Elementary School does not fit the criteria of schools to be closed, as there has been no decline in enrollment in the last ten years and has the highest API scores among all Richmond schools.

Akena Hales, Student – Coronado Elementary School asks that Coronado Elementary School not be closed because the kids would be sad and getting to Nystrom Elementary School will be difficult.

William Haynes, Student – John F. Kennedy High School, expressed the importance of the history of John F. Kennedy High School to the community.

Isabel Rodriguez, Student – Coronado Elementary School wants Coronado Elementary School to stay open so her kids and grandkids will be able to attend there.

Andrea Lara feels that the fellowship that the kids get at Coronado Elementary School is undeniable.

Mike Wasilchin, Business Agent – Public Employees Union, Local One feels that it is unfair that El Sobrante Elementary School, Coronado Elementary School and John F. Kennedy High School are on both lists.

Vanda Jones advocated for Stege Elementary School and not closing it as it is a historical school in the district.

Ann Palmer suggested a number of alternatives to closing Olinda Elementary School including combining Crespi Middle School with DeAnza High School and closing non-school and adult education sites.

- E. The individual groups were given 30 minutes to complete their evaluation forms. At the end of that time, they were asked to turn in their forms. The audience was encouraged to turn in their forms also. All suggestions will be counted and considered.

Committee Reports:

Group 1 suggested placing Gompers Continuation High School and Leadership Public School on the John F. Kennedy campus instead of closing it indicating the city of Richmond needs a high school.

Group 2 questioned what happened to the bond money that was promised to John F. Kennedy High School and suggested rezoning the area because many of the students living in close proximity to John F. Kennedy High School are actually assigned to El Cerrito High School.

Group 3 said they are being put in a box by having to choose from only two scenarios and expressed that closing schools is not a viable option.

Group 4 suggested reviewing the acreage at the sites to determine optimum capacity, making LoVonya DeJean Middle School a 7 – 12 site and sending 6<sup>th</sup> grade students back the elementary site.

Group 5 said that small elementary schools are more successful and that both scenarios are unacceptable. They suggested considering other proposed alternatives, converting under-enrolled elementary schools to charter schools or asking the city for financial assistance.

Group 6 spoke about giving consideration to safety and transportation issues. They suggested closing El Sobrante Elementary School and converting Crespi Middle School into a K – 8.

Group 7 raised safety concerns over closing John F. Kennedy High School and suggested closing middle schools that have seismic issues and giving the community more time to collaborate before making a decision.

- F. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM by Superintendent Harter.

West Contra Costa Unified School District  
High School Attendance Area Meeting  
Consolidation / Closure Committee  
January 20, 2009 – Portola Middle School Gymnasium

- A. Welcome and Introduction -- Superintendent Bruce Harter welcomed the committee members and introductions were made. Committee members in attendance were: Linda Adams, Jeanine Bishop, Bryan Brandow, Bill Breeding, Lori Dair, Valerie Garrett, Robert John, Bobby Killough, Lisa Levi, Eric Miller, Ronna Minor, Galen Murphy, Tara Nourian, Carol Renee, David Rossi, Saidah Said, Judith Sanders, Nannette Sherman, Kathie Shores, Elizabeth Smith, Michael Smith, Wanda Stewart, Robert Studdiford, Brenda Surgers, Denise VanHook, Scott Whitney, Todd Wolfe, Mark Woo and Stephen Zavestoski.
- B. WCCUSD Financial Situation and School Closure -- Superintendent Harter gave an overview of the WCCUSD financial situation and school closure.
- C. Review Discussion of Closure Scenarios -- Superintendent Harter introduced Sonya Lopes as the facilitator for the committee meetings. Ms. Lopes instructed the committee members on how to proceed. The individual groups were to have conversations around school closures, and the outcome would be to present ideas and/or changes to the two scenarios. The groups were given 45 minutes for discussion. The audience was also invited to break into groups and to have conversations around school closures. They were invited to fill out feedback forms at the conclusion of the meeting.
- D. Public Comment – Jessica Romeo called on the speakers for public comment. There were nineteen speakers and they were given two minutes each.

Joshua Ko, Portola student, spoke about the need to rebuild Portola and concern over losing students to private schools.

Gabriella Welten, Castro student, spoke about keeping Castro Elementary School open and in support of K-8.

Akyah Square, Stege Elementary School student, spoke against closing Stege and the future of the students impacted by a close.

Jeff Sochet, parent, spoke against closing Portola and the environmental and social impact of closing the school.

Lucy Smith spoke in favor of keeping Portola and Fairmont open.

Chris Novak, Richmond resident, spoke against closing Fairmont.

Nanearl Touson, Richmond resident, said although no schools should close, she was more in favor of Scenario I.

Ione Bell, parent of a Portola student, spoke in favor of rebuilding Portola.

Miné Ternar Kal spoke about keeping the fully integrated program at Castro intact and rebuilding Portola but not at Castro.

Hennie Farrow, parent of a Castro student, spoke about keeping Castro open and making it a K-8 school.

Joni Hiramoto, Portola Parent, spoke in favor of rebuilding Portola at Castro and saving the full inclusion program.

Joanna Pace, spoke in favor of rebuilding Portola at Castro.

Bob Adams, Portola teacher, spoke in favor of Scenario I, rebuilding Castro at Portola.

Sharon Farrell spoke in favor of Scenario II and the opportunity for K-8 schools and keeping the full inclusion program at Castro.

Anita Miller said she favored Scenario I, rebuilding Portola at Castro and keeping Fairmont open.

Charles Rachlis, parent, said he was against both scenarios and spoke about getting mobilized to take direct action.

Joshua Ko said he supported rebuilding Portola Middle School at Castro, and opposed building a K-8 at Castro.

David Whitenack, parent of a Portola student, said he was against closing any school, but that given a choice between the two he favored Scenario I because it displaced fewer students.

Morgan Watson, Portola teacher, said she supported rebuilding Portola at Castro.

- E. The individual groups were given 30 minutes to complete their evaluation forms. At the end of that time, they were asked to turn in their forms. The audience was encouraged to turn in their forms also. All suggestions will be counted and considered.

#### Committee Reports:

Group 1 reported that this group came up with two alternative scenarios: consolidating the two adult schools and consolidating the alternative schools.

Group 2 reported they were frustrated with the lack of information and how the scenarios were created. They suggested keeping Kennedy students at the school, making Coronado a K-6 school. They were divided in favor of K-8 vs. middle schools.



Group 3 reported they recommended Scenario I because it disrupts fewer students and they were against K-8 as described in the district guidelines. They supported consolidating the alternative and adult schools.

Group 4 reported that educational impact was the most important criteria that should be considered first, and favored a middle school in El Cerrito. There was concern that if Adams was the choice, there would be more students lost to private schools.

Group 5 reported they favored Scenario I with Mira Vista, Wilson, Stege and Crespi converting to K-8.

Group 6 reported they favored a middle school and K-8 in El Cerrito and spoke in support of the full inclusion program.

Group 7 reported that there was some value in K-8 in some schools. They said there was a problem with the complexity of the criteria and the difficulty in creating a hierarchy; that there were too many intangible factors, and there were equity problems with this process as schools with greater resources could promote their school.

F. The meeting was adjourned approximately 9:10 PM by Superintendent Harter.