

Board of Education  
January 25, 2010  
Community Engagement Meetings  
7–8:15 p.m.

Meeting notes from Martinez Elementary School

Board of Education member(s) at this meeting: Bruce Broderius, Brett Reese

District leadership staff at this meeting: Wayne Eads, Mary Jones, Victoria Hubbard

Audience: 50 people (a mix of parents, community members, teachers, support staff and principals)

Topic of presentation and conversation:

- District 6 budget outlook for 2010-11 and impact of state reductions for K-12 education
- School consolidation study and proposal
- Proposal to change the district's graduation requirements

## Budget

**Major themes of participant discussion/comments** *(please note that some comments may contradict or oppose others—participants had a wide variety of opinions):*

- The funds for athletics and extra-curriculars should be considered with the budget cuts.
- I do think that students do need to have other things to do besides instruction. This helps them stay off the streets. But the money for athletics and extra-curriculars should not impact instruction. I could go either way.
- It is very important that we have transportation. Parents could get together and pay \$25 per month to support transportation. We all pay differently for lunch so the same could happen for the bus. Everyone should pay something.
- Why do we need more technology if we need to save money? It seems to be contradictory. We have so much technology that we have lost relationships between students and teachers.
- People are going to be moving out - teachers and families. The question is always: what is going to be cut? Learning is most important and contract negotiations were affected by the cuts.
- Concern about teachers' ability to handle more than 15 students per class. How many is too many? Are teacher qualified to handle this? How will this

be reviewed and adjusted per teacher ability? Where is the fairness of the student numbers?

- Why is there so much food wasted in the cafeterias? Can we donate it?

**Questions:**

- How many teachers would be affected with cutting the budget?
- Is it for sure that there will be less money for schools?

## **School consolidation**

**Major themes of discussion/comments** *(please note that some comments may contradict or oppose others—participants had a wide variety of opinions):*

- Concerned about the safety of students at Franklin, as I've heard there are incidents of drinking, smoking and marijuana use there.
- I do not like Franklin and I do not want my children to go there. If my children have to go to Franklin, I would not let them go and not have them attend school at all.
- I do not like combining the schools. There will be more students in the classrooms, more talking and distractions, and making it hard to learn.

**Questions:**

- What choice do parents have? Will Open Enrollment be opened again?

## **Graduation requirements**

**Major themes of participant discussion/comments** *(please note that some comments may contradict or oppose others—participants had a wide variety of opinions):*

- Do not like it. It seems to have less focus on content and too much in arts and sports. Students do not know history of this country or math. Keep the social studies requirement.
- It seems too easy to get credit under the proposal. Using community service to get credit is maybe an escape from taking the hard classes.
- I like community service. It expands students' life skills and encourages them to stay in school and support their community. Do the community services hours after school and not during school hours.
- I am concerned how many students are not really learning. So many pass a grade-level even though they cannot read or do math. In Mexico, if you did not pass you stayed at that grade-level until you did. It helps as it embarrasses the child to do better. A lot of children do not know what they are to know. 5<sup>th</sup> graders have homework every day but 7<sup>th</sup> grader only has one page to do once in awhile. Need to be stricter, like it is in Mexico. Take away the calculators and make them do math - borrow fingers and count beans. Students say 'why should I learn math when I have a calculator and a computer?' I asked for my child to stay in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to learn what she did

not learn. They said that is not the process, they will get frustrated, it is the system.

- The change for graduation and high school credits needs to also be addressed for middle school.
- It is time to include Bible study in history and literature. We should offer a bible study elective class. We should open every school day with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer. We should pray at sports games. Students and teachers should have the freedom to talk about God and carry their Bibles.

**Questions:**

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