

Superintendent's Community Advisory Committee on Investing in Educational Excellence

Meeting #12

January 5, 2006, 7:30-9:30 a.m.
John Stanford Center – Auditorium

Note: Recordings of the full meeting are available through the School Board Office

Review of Framework/Structure for Final Report

Co-chairs John Warner and Trish Dziko said they hoped this would be the final framework walk-through. The committee recommended the following:

- More forceful language, particularly in the introduction.
- Add a more global outlook.
- Communicate this is a dire situation and it needs to be fixed.
- List core challenges up front.
- Bring back the section about what the District needs.
- Separate out the role of the State because it is so important.
- Add the dream of the committee.
- Create a sense of urgency around a certain number of priority recommendations.
- The District needs to show they will progress in core recommendations so the Committee can encourage non-District players.
- The Committee is committed to evaluation process.
- The teacher contract must be viable over the long-run.
- Signal we're going after market share.
- State that the Committee believes the District should not use reserves and should instead commit to strategic reductions to reduce/eliminate any reliance on reserves.

Review New Draft Sections of Final Report

The Committee reviewed the new draft sections of the final report. The full discussion can be heard on the recordings available in the School Board office; however a few of comments included:

Special Ed/Bilingual:

- Special Ed recommendations should be run by a Special Ed attorney because there are so many legal requirements for Special Ed.
- Special Ed and Bilingual recommendations appear to be cost cutting measures, but an outside group needs to do a thorough evaluation of costs/services.
- Special Ed should have more general recommendations.
- Special Ed kids need the best and we want to be efficient – fewer dollars doesn't mean less service.
- Special Ed and Bilingual – what's an efficient service model and what does it cost?

Facilities:

- Prioritize criteria.
- OR...Don't prioritize criteria, all need to be considered.
- Tell the story of better opportunities due to consolidation.
- Call it what it is: closing schools.
- Look at REGIONS first.
- Look at how best to serve students.

- If a school is successful, don't close it.
- If a community needs a successful school, determine how to meet that need.
- A quality school in every neighborhood.
- Put a renewal moratorium on capital projects until facilities decisions are made.

Market Share:

- There is a middle school crisis.
- Class size explodes at middle school
- Data will be added to help everyone better understand the issues.

Parent Involvement:

- Needs to be integrated into entire system.
- Analyze model of Title II parent involvement, can more dollars go into it?
- How can we use community facilities for enrollment centers?

Field Testing Preparation

The Committee will get back to Sara Morris.

Adjournment

The next full committee meeting is on Thursday, January 12 at 7:30 a.m. in the Auditorium.