



MEETING OF: August 9, 2016

TITLE: Request to Pursue Reopening the Former Carson Middle School to Support the Dietz K-8 Program

ITEM #: 9

Information:

Study:

Action: X

PURPOSE:

Request direction from the Governing Board regarding reopening Carson including consultation with the Special Master and Plaintiffs to seek preliminary approval and desegregation funding for the project.

DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

In 2013, when Carson was closed, Dietz K-8 school was formed to provide a small K-8 option for middle school students in the area (see Exhibit A). Since then, Dietz has grown by 150 students; it is expected to grow by another 50 students in the next couple years (see Exhibit A). In 2015, to accommodate this growth, the District added two double-classroom portables (four classrooms) to Dietz. However, this didn't address the size and furnishing of rooms needed for elective spaces, nor did it address the small size of common areas such as the multi-purpose room. Thus, electives such as science and music are held in regular-sized classrooms, multiple lunches are run in very quick succession and events are scheduled in parts, dividing the school community.

To address this growth and to answer the demand in the area, the District began looking at the option of reopening Carson. The cost to reopen Carson, approximately \$7 million, is shown in Exhibit B. (Note this is a preliminary estimate, which would need to be further defined in the process.)

Dietz has a highly diverse student population (50% Hispanic, 27% Anglo, 16% African American) and by some measures could be considered an integrated school (see Exhibit B). As the USP calls on the District to increase access to integrated schools, the expansion of Dietz could result in 200-300 additional students attending an integrated school. The District proposes moving forward with the project using desegregation funds. To do this we will need to consult with the Special Master and Plaintiffs (SMP) in the next couple of months to determine if they will support this approach. One of the issues we will need to address with the SMP is the projected impact of this change on surrounding schools - including impacts to integration, school quality, and enrollment.

If the Board directs staff to move forward with this project, staff will:

1. Consult with the Special Master and Plaintiffs.
2. If desegregation funding is approved, staff will meet with affected communities to develop options and create an improvement plan.
3. Prepare desegregation impact analysis and a project budget to submit to the Special Master and Court for approval.
4. Prepare construction documents and a budget for Board approval.
5. Construct improvements.

Bryant Nodine will present this item and answer questions.

BOARD POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS:

For all Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs), Initiator of Agenda Item provides the name of the agency responsible for recording the Agreement after approval:

For amendments to current IGAs, Initiator provides original IGA recording number:

Legal Advisor Signature (if applicable)

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

_____ District Budget
 _____ State/Federal Funds
 _____ Other

<u>Budget Cost</u>	<u>Budget Code</u>
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Budget Certification (for use by Office of Financial Services only):

Date _____

I certify that funds for this expenditure in the amount of \$ _____ are available and may be:

Authorized from current year budget _____

Authorized with School Board approval _____

Code: _____ Fund: _____

INITIATOR(S):

Bryant Nodine, Director of Planning Services

08/03/16

Name

Title

Date _____

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED/ ON FILE IN BOARD OFFICE:

ATTACHMENTS:

[Click to download](#)

 [Exhibit A - Map of the Area](#)

 [Exhibit B - Area Demographics](#)

 [Exhibit C - Preliminary Cost Estimates](#)

TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD AGENDA ITEM CONTINUATION SHEET