

MENDOZA PLAINTIFFS' COMMENTS AND OBJECTIONS REGARDING TUSD'S GRADE RECONFIGURATION PROPOSALS

October 16, 2015

Mendoza Plaintiffs submit these comments as a supplement to their October 2, 2015 comments, based on the District's September 25, 2015 version of its grade reconfiguration proposals and after the parties' and Special Master's meeting in Tucson, for the Governing Board's consideration as it reviews the District's Grade Reconfiguration Proposals for information purposes.

Given that USP Section II,D,2 requires the District to "propose and evaluate various scenarios, with, at minimum, the Plaintiffs and the Special Master in an effort to increase the integration of its schools," Mendoza Plaintiffs look forward to the District's development of proposals to reconfigure Cavett from a K-5 to a K-6 Elementary School, and add a junior high (that is 7th and 8th grades) to Catalina High School, which the District indicates would have a positive integrative effect, particularly as none of the current grade reconfiguration proposals (with the possible exception of Drachman), nor the proposals taken together, are expected to increase the integration of TUSD's schools. Mendoza Plaintiffs also look forward to the receiving additional information regarding express busses to serve as incentive transportation in relation to these proposals and "mitigation" measures directed at Magee middle school, which they understand the District to currently be further developing.

Borman and Drachman

Mendoza Plaintiffs currently have no objection to the proposal to reconfigure Borman Elementary School from a K-5 to a K-8 school. They similarly have no objection to the proposal to change Drachman K-6 into a K-8 school, so long as Drachman, as a magnet school, continues to work toward meeting its integration goals detailed in its magnet improvement plan.

Fruchthendler, Collier, and Sabino

Mendoza Plaintiffs continue to have significant concerns regarding the impact that the Fruchthendler, Collier, and Sabino proposals would have on Magee Middle School, and therefore object to them. The Fruchthendler and Collier proposals are expected to draw white TUSD students that would otherwise attend Magee Middle School into Fruchthendler and Collier, thereby taking those schools further away from achieving integration. (Fruchthendler's and Collier's white student population currently exceeds the percentage of white students at TUSD's Elementary School level by 42% and 39%, respectively. (See Annual Report, Appendix 11-41.)) Together, the Collier and Fruchthendler proposals could reduce the white population at Magee by over 21%, a population the District expects would entirely transition to Sabino were it to reconfigure as proposed. (See Sabino DIA, Appendix C to September 25, 2015 Grade Reconfiguration Proposals). Moreover, Mendoza Plaintiffs have not yet seen any details of the measures the District is considering that would make them think that the District realistically can target and recruit the non-TUSD white students who would join District schools under the proposals to attend schools at which their enrollment would increase integration.