

School Master Plan

Supplemental Information to the BAI of October 23, 2012

Focus Group Survey Results and Consensus Elements on Consolidation Criteria

Focus Group Criteria Matrix



Summary of All Groups

Was the criterion important in your work?

Criteria	Very	Some-what	Not	Not Used
Is the Facility Condition Index below 2.5?	3	6	1	2
Are 20% of the classrooms below 650 square feet?	1	4	2	6
Is the average age of the building greater than 50 years old?	1	8	3	
If an elementary school, does it have less than two classes per grade level and/or more than one combination class?		5	1	7
Does it cost more to operate the school than the revenues received?	5	4		3
Is the utility cost per square foot in the upper quartile?	3	6		3
Is the utilization of the school less than 80%?	10	2		
Is the attraction to flight ratio below the TUSD average?	5	3	1	2
Is the enrollment in the area decreasing and projected to decrease?	3	8		1
Are potential receiving schools (with capacity) within 30 minutes transportation time?	9	1		2

List Other Criteria Used:

Encourage K-8 option; Provide school choice K-8 and K-5	2	1		
Prior neighborhood effects: Was the school community affected by previous closures?	3			
Flight and open enrollment numbers.		1		
Income potential and future usage of the closed facility.	1	1		
Acreage of campus to add to size of school in the future.	1	1		
Common sense		1		
Financial analyses (look at all cost information together).		1		
Charter options – especially for alternative programs		1		
Locations of other schools in the area; school proximity; proximity of competitive options.	5			

Natural barriers (highways)	1			
Neighborhood demographics	1			
School capacity; enrollment compared to capacity.	1	2		
Transportation.	1			
State letter grade—academic performance.	2	1		
School enrollment; enrollment less than 300.	2			
Keep a whole school together in the consolidation.	1			
Consolidate programs into one campus (IB, Fine Arts,...)		1		
Politics.		1		

Comments:

We had collaborative efforts with lots of ideas.

Our starting point was based on the number of “Yeses” assigned to each school, which takes all criterion into consideration.

There was an extensive amount of data provided with a limited amount of time to evaluate materials to produce a viable product.

Various comments on needed more or updated/corrected data.

Deseg requirements not a part of discussion.

The far east side needs a self-contained GATE program in elementary/middle school, they are competing with Vail and Tanque Verde districts and could possibly keep students in TUSD if an equal program is available on the far east side.

Thank you for the well organized binders-very helpful.

We hope the Board has the integrity and moral fortitude to honor our work.

Process was beneficial “assigned areas” was a good idea.

We recommend that our work and its results be preserved and used for current and future decisions regarding school consolidation.

A group representing the desegregation project (some plaintiffs, lawyers and TUSD representatives) also did a mini-exercise. They felt that the ethnic/racial makeup of all impacted schools should be a key criterion and they rated the utilization of the school and the capacity of potential receiving schools as very important criteria.

Focus Group Phase Two, Meetings Three and Four

Evaluation Criteria Group Consensus Comments

Group	Multi-group Consensus Comments
Employees Principals	Remove schools that were consolidated in the 9 school round from consideration in this round. Don't close schools that would impact communities surrounding the 9 schools that were previously closed.
Site Council Community	Expand good schools. Create a school to accept the overflow of students once the good school is at capacity. Consider replicating successful school programs throughout the district instead of turning away students. Expand excellent Programs. Implement a "No-Turn-Away" policy.
Committee Community	Keep on message. TUSD is not closing schools. The teachers and the students are not being consolidated. It is closing and consolidating building. Every decision made in this process should be in the best interest of the children.

Group	Consensus Comments
Employees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconcile the “Yes” numbers of schools in all documents. List schools in their correct geographic sectors. 2. Consider improving Middle Schools in the process in order to attract and retain students. 3. Consider the cost benefit ratios for closing schools that have undergone recent improvements. 4. Remove schools that were consolidated in the 9-school round from consideration in this round. (How many students did we lose in that process?) 5. Consider 6-12 schools configurations
Principals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don’t close schools that would impact communities surrounding the 9 schools that were previously closed. 2. Why weren’t Arts Programming included in the Scenarios under Staff and Program Reductions? (We don’t want to cut arts.) 3. Check data for accuracy. 4. Review program enrollment numbers. 5. Phase II, good place to consider academic achievement. 6. Consider renaming schools. 7. Should utility management be weighted differently from actual utility usage of buildings which are outside the control of the Principals? 8. Principals need to be told what they are going to be doing in this process by January or February so that they can make plans if needed. They must be notified if they are doing a poor job, so that they can develop an improvement plan. 9. Principals need to be recruited as ambassadors and spokespersons for this process. 10. Phase II consolidation, additional considerations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Academic Achievement b. Recent Consolidations (don’t close these schools and impact these communities again) c. Consider not closing high achieving schools that border other school districts. d. Provide a key for all abbreviations.
Site Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider consolidation only in the South East and North East Sectors where the high population losses occur. 2. Why aren’t focus groups working on Staff and Program Reductions and Vision Options? 3. Include last year’s Pre K data in the list. 4. Pre K’s are feeder programs. Usually if they go to a school for Pre K they usually remain at that school. 5. Include map of surrounding schools for each school. 6. Dunham has 3 resource rooms, please review. 7. Include data regarding the level of poverty for schools. 8. Gate information should be considered 9. Is the data true and accurate? Example room capacity. 10. Take Portables out of the mix as they are not part of the Yes formula and are confusing.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Expand good schools. Create a school to accept the overflow of students once the good school is at capacity. 12. Consider moving Alternative Schools to other receiving buildings.
Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider opening up K-8s to a larger area 2. Consider yearly boundary changes to assist with planning. 3. Boundary changes are needed, if you create more K-5s may have to look at more elementary schools to close and boundaries would have to change. Parents don't want to do open enrollment for elementary schools. Parents usually do not like combined classes. 4. When consolidating high schools consider transitioning by no longer taking freshmen at the school that is slated to be consolidated and/or changed. Consider moving students from closed schools to schools that have relatively low cost, high capacity and improving academic achievement scores. 5. Keep on message. TUSD is not closing schools. The teachers and the students are not being consolidated. It is closing and consolidating buildings. 6. Every decision made in this process should be in the best interest of the children.
Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider replicating successful school programs throughout the district, Davis, University High, instead of turning away students. 2. Expand excelling Programs. Implement a "No-Turn-Away" policy. 3. Consider moving students from closed schools to schools that have relatively low cost, high capacity and improving academic achievement scores. 4. Keep on message. TUSD is not closing schools. The teachers and the students are not being consolidated. It is closing and consolidating building. 5. Every decision made in this process should be in the best interest of the children.