

RESOLUTION REGARDING HIGH SCHOOL RECONFIGURATION AND RESTRUCTURING

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2017, the Governing Board (“Board”) received the study report it directed on October 3, 2017 regarding High School Reconfiguration. This report included excellent and informative material from the site councils of University, Rincon and Catalina High Schools, as well as from district department staff, and

WHEREAS, through two rounds of school closures, TUSD has never addressed the problem of high school overcapacity, now far exceeding 4,000 seats; and

WHEREAS, the overcrowding and inherent friction caused by housing two coequal high schools at a site designed for one is a pressing problem that promises to worsen with time and damage both schools (e.g. both schools’ declining AzMERIT scores); and

WHEREAS, the pressing problem of enrollment decline, and budget challenges which this creates, impart urgency for aggressive and rapid steps to increase high school enrollment; and

WHEREAS, the AzMERIT passing rates at Catalina and Santa Rita High Schools, steadily declining and currently the lowest among all TUSD high schools, show no signs of internal resolution despite their staff’s dedicated efforts under often adverse circumstances, making the improvement of those students’ education a critical priority that may require structural change; and

WHEREAS, the original October 3, 2017 report to the board focused on three leading options (closing Catalina HS, closing Rincon HS, or closing Santa Rita HS); and subsequent input from the site councils and other stakeholders includes support for each of these options and for the additional options of closing University HS or partially dispersing UHS staff and students to satellite campuses; and

WHEREAS, the October and November reports already incorporate much of the research necessary to evaluate all options concerning Catalina, Rincon, University, and to a lesser extent Santa Rita High Schools; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty concerning the ultimate configuration of high schools has hung over all four schools for years and now acutely needs resolution; and

WHEREAS, no timetable can be placed on TUSD’s ultimate release from the desegregation court order, given the lack of complete agreement for such release among the parties and the unpredictable course of any appeals;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- A. The Board thanks and commends the Catalina, Rincon and University High School Site Councils and school and district staff for their excellent work on the November 22, 2017 Report to the Board.

- B. Building on the work completed to date, TUSD staff shall present to the Board no later than January 30, 2018 a preliminary high school reconfiguration and restructuring plan that addresses the concerns above. This plan should support a realistic implementation date as early as Fall, 2018 and no later than Fall, 2019, even after accounting for the time consumed by any necessary action in the federal court. Staff shall present to the Board a final reconfiguration and restructuring plan no later than May 1, 2018.
- C. The plan shall include a detailed revenue and cost analysis, which distinguishes between costs that would be necessary or appropriate regardless of the plan's adoption, costs created by the plan that staff believes are critical to the plan's success, and costs created by the plan that are discretionary but which staff believes could also contribute to the plan's success.
- D. The plan shall include a realistic timeline for implementation.
- E. The staff shall continue the process of seeking input from all affected schools and stakeholders generally, as it has done throughout the preparation of the current report, as well as from the parties to the desegregation proceedings.

Adopted this 12th day of December, 2017.

Tucson Unified School District Governing Board

Michael Hicks, President

Dr. Mark Stegeman, Clerk

Adelita S. Grijalva, Member

Kristel Ann Foster, Member

Rachael Sedgwick, Member