

## UHS Site Council Response to TUSD High School Reconfiguration Report

Resolution Passed by UHS Site Council 11/21/17:

*University High school is accredited as an official high school, not a district program. University High School shall never be considered as a "program" of another high school or split into satellite campuses.*

Recommended Corrections:

- On page 42 a response from the Rincon Site Council states "Some suggestions have been made to return to the original model of UHS where they are considered to be a part of Rincon with only one administrative team. Within this model, an assistant principal or a coordinator/director could be designated to oversee the UHS charter...". This is an inaccurate statement with no historical data to supplement it. The original charter established UHS as a separate school with its own administration, student council, prom, graduation ceremony, etc. This arrangement was supported by the Rincon administration when UHS was transferred from Tucson High to Rincon in 1985.
  - In addition, we would like to reiterate the UHS is accredited as a school, not a program, and has been validated as a school by the Unitary Status Plan.
- On page 32 a response from the Rincon Site Council states "Rincon students currently have the opportunity to participate in 65 student clubs, 30 of which will most likely dissipate if UHS moves because they are sponsored by UHS staff." This implies that Rincon students participate in clubs led by UHS staff. Aside from the clubs associated with fine arts (which would likely exist regardless of the presence of UHS), no Rincon students are active in clubs sponsored by UHS staff. To the contrary, the two clubs with overlap from students from both schools are sponsored by Rincon staff (Junior State of America and Gay Straight Alliance).
- On page 34 a response from the Rincon Site Council states "We implore the district leadership to perform the analysis of what our letter grades would be at our traditional high schools if students in UHS were attending their home schools." This statement assumes that all UHS students would attend a TUSD high school, which is not accurate. Currently 50% of the UHS student population either comes from out of district or re-enters the district after leaving for elementary and/or middle school.
- On page 78 the *Rincon High Enrollment Losses* makes an inaccurate statement about open-enrollment Rincon students in UHS classes. The report states that "203 of the 407 open-enrollment students at Rincon are taking UHS classes." This statement includes open-enrollment students enrolled in fine arts classes taught by UHS teachers, however these students would be enrolled in these classes regardless of whether they were taught by UHS or Rincon teachers. The more accurate number is Rincon students enrolled in classes unique to UHS, which is less than 10 students total in the 2017-2018 SY.
- We would like to see a re-evaluation of the Fine Arts staffing needs on page 131 of the report. There does not appear to be an accurate analysis of the staffing between UHS and Rincon, and the report does not account for the current Fine Arts teacher at Catalina. Our concern is that these inaccuracies will affect the overall financial assessment in the report, especially in regards to ongoing expenditures.

Concerns from UHS Site Council:

- On page 37 a response from the Rincon Site Council states "All of the desks, furniture, classroom and sports equipment, instruments, music, scripts, etc.. stay at Rincon and all of the same stay at Catalina." We believe that while as many assets should remain at their home school as possible, the ultimate division of these items should be dependent on student enrollment at each site. In

addition, all items purchased by the UHS Foundation, UHS Site Council, or donated to UHS by outside sources shall be moved to the new site with the school

- On page 42 a response from the Rincon Site Council states “If this proposal does not go through, would it be possible to set forth a ruling stating that further examination to move UHS be put off for at least several years so that Rincon and UHS can focus on building unity rather than continually building a case to divide?” Any such ruling would be punitive and retaliatory and deny UHS the right to continue to advocate for the best interests of its student body.
- On page 36 a response from the Rincon Site Council requests staffing for a 7-period day. This request is then factored in to the overall financial analysis that is delivered later in the report. This request for a 7-period day has not yet been approved by the TUSD Governing Board, therefore it is not appropriate for the cost to be included in the projected expenses of this plan.
- On page 64, a bullet point suggests that UHS “may consider admitting students who score a 6 stanine on the Cogat.” All discussions and approval of the topic of UHS moving to an independent campus have included the caveat that existing admittance standards would not be lowered.
- We would like to see a more thorough analysis and specific evidence for the projected ongoing expenses and revenue suggested by the Operations Department on page 99. What factors specifically constitute the anticipated \$900,000 in projected ongoing expenditures, and the \$127,000 - \$1,500,000 in ongoing revenue? The variety is the estimate of ongoing revenue is especially concerning given the lack of evidence.

#### Recommendations from UHS Site Council:

- On page 37 a response from the Rincon Site Council states “Agreement that UHS cannot take staff from Rincon for a limited time.” The UHS Site Council would recommend that TUSD confirm whether or not this proposal is a violation of the existing TEA consensus agreement regarding staffing.
- UHS would consider the retention of district services currently housed on the Catalina campus to help mitigate the cost of the proposed move and also maintain their central location to support accessibility for all TUSD students. However, we also acknowledge that some of these services might be better suited for the combined Rincon/Catalina site, therefore we recommend consultation and collaboration with the district, affected service, and the Rincon and Catalina administration to reach the most beneficial decision. These services include but are not limited to:
  - Catalina Family Resource Center
  - Interscholastics Office and (ExEd) Community Transition Program Relocations
  - Mexican American Student Services
  - AGAVE
  - Dropout Prevention Department
  - Refugee/APASS Student Services
- UHS would consider the deferment of some of the financial costs associated with the move to Catalina as seen on page 103. Some of these costs can be covered by private fundraising, or deferred to future years in order to mitigate the overall expense of this move. These costs include but are not limited to:
  - \$115,000 Signs and Marquees
  - \$225,000 Paint school with UHS colors
  - \$1,200,000 Renovation of Hangar for Fine Arts
  - \$45,000 Purchase café equipment/patio furniture
  - \$243,000 Athletic Uniforms
  - \$7,500 Athletic Equipment (ex: helmets & shoulder pads which already exist and would only need to be repainted)
  - \$200,000 Band Uniforms
  - \$39,600 House System extra planning period

- UHS would consider the deferment or removal of some of the requested staffing associated with the move to Catalina as seen on pages 99-101. The school has functioned without these positions and could organize these responsibilities to be absorbed into existing staff responsibilities. These positions include but are not limited to:
  - Visual Arts Teacher (already exists at UHS, no need for additional FTE)
  - \$65,000 Marketing Coordinator
  - \$50,000 African American Recruitment Specialist
  - \$60,000 Mexican American Services Staff
- UHS staff and faculty would be willing to accommodate any necessary remodeling of classrooms during the 2017-2018 SY in order to prepare the campus for the combined Rincon/Catalina students in the 2018-2019 SY. This may require faculty to relocate to different classrooms or even move between multiple classrooms during the day.
- The needs of the Catalina students should be met, especially the necessary accommodations for the ExEd population. The physical support students enjoy at Catalina is not available at Rincon, but it should be, as they are legally required accommodations. The Rincon campus should be fitted with the structural and programmatic support that Catalina students currently enjoy, as state law requires. Teachers at Catalina will continue to support students with special needs with personal and programmatic support as they do now.