

**MINUTES OF THE
SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SCAC)**

Newark Unified School District

September 24, 2020-6:00 PM held virtually via Zoom

Approved October 8, 2020

A. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Martinez.
B. Roll Call	<p>Members of the Committee Attendees Chae Marshall, Rachel Bloom, Sue Eustice, Janet Crocker, Hamilton Baylon, Veronica Medina, Angela Ringlein, Maria Ibarra, Cathreene Ingham-Watters, Christine Dix, Michelle Padilla</p> <p>Mark Triplett, Ed.D., Superintendent Elisa Martinez, President NUSD School Board Phuong Nguyen, Member NUSD School Board</p> <p>Absent Vilma Cristina Mendoza, Selene Nevarez</p>
C. Superintendent's Welcome	Dr. Triplett welcomed the committee.
D. Visitor/Public Comment	Most of the public comments received via email were read aloud. (All public comments are included below as part of the minutes.)
E. Approval of September 15, 2020 Minutes	<p>Motion to approve minutes as presented.</p> <p>Motion: Padilla Second: Marshall Vote Yes: Marshall, Bloom, Crocker, Baylon, Medina, Ringlein, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla No: Eustice Abstain: 0</p>
F. Presentation of Facilities Information	Ken Reynolds, President Schoolworks Thang Do, Aedis Architects
G. Site Analysis	Brianna Garcia, Director, School Services of California
H. Next Meeting	Next meeting: October 8, 2020 - Complete Facilities Scoring for condition of schools (rating good, fair or poor), and present Educational Services and District's financial information
I. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn 7:57 PM

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	<p>Motion: Medina Second: Baylon Vote Yes: Marshall, Bloom, Eustice, Crocker, Baylon, Medina, Ringlein, Ibarra, Ingham-Watters, Dix, Padilla No: 0 Abstain: 0</p>
Other Attendees	<p>District Personnel Attendees Marie dela Cruz, Chief Business Official Jessica Saavedra, Executive Director of Human Resources Lucia Gutierrez, Executive Assistant to Superintendent Paul Rose, Network Manager Jodi Croce, Business Services Administrative Assistant</p> <p>Other Attendees Facilitator: Brianna García, Director, School Services of California Demographer: Ken Reynolds, SchoolWorks Thang Do, Aedis Architects Gilma Guevara, Spanish Translator</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Hello I am writing to voice my concern for the children and families of Musick Elementary School. These children have been through so many stresses this year not being able to go to school physically and play with their friends and it is taking a toll on these children. To close a place they can call home is inexcusable for Newark Unified. We are family at Musick. One of my children has special needs and change has a drastic affect on him. This should not be happening. As a school district this shows a negative effect on how Newark unified can't get their selves together and is a disgrace. Do not close Musick Elementary not only for the families but for the kids!</p> <p>Sabrina Dalton</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Email received from Rick Dominguez</p> <p>Hello, back in May of 2015 when the council planned on the merger of Bunker and Milani, all we heard from the council was " all the new students from the new developments"</p> <p>We told them there were few new students. Will this council ever listen to the ones who are paying the taxes?</p> <p>Where is the money that is being saved from the schools not open now?</p> <p>When will the junior high be made to look decent?</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>I have followed NUSD board activity for over 30 years. I can appreciate the current financial situation as accumulative and dire. The Newark community has made clear their priorities which include the small-town feel with smaller elementary communities.</p>

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	<p>Closing a school and/or moving the sixth graders is by no means easy nor desirable. I do however understand the approach and resolutions that could be incurred. We have many new administrators and almost a completely new board. I would therefore encourage moving forward by keeping closure to one school only at this time. This decision would allow for the least disruption and go a long way to build trust and transparency It would also allow the district to learn about what works and what improvements can be made. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Noel Doot</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>My name is Tony Doot.</p> <p>I have lived in Newark for 42 years. I am a parent, grandparent, school volunteer and currently serve on the CBOC.</p> <p>There is been a continuous financial down slide by the School Board for decades culminating in yet another bailout by closing another school.</p> <p>The closing of Russian was to be the fix all and we know how that went. Mismanagement seems to be the strong suit.</p> <p>As a member of the CBOC, I have been able to tour the school sites and see the deplorable conditions our teachers and children have to deal with. Yes we need to do something but quick fixes do not work. Closing a school – as in ONE school - will probably have to happen but only after the entire board looks at EVERY SCHOOL ... AND PORTABLE to determine which one needs the most expensive repair's or elimination. The quick fix seems to be using the existing portables that have rats, mice, and snakes and I have literally put my fist almost 3 inches into rotten wood. I put a basket ball on the floor and watched it roll from one wall to the other. The list goes on. My point is that if you think that you can go for the quick fix it is NOT going to happen.</p> <p>If or when we sell a school site it should go to a developer who can build some condos with a focus on incentives for teachers to live and work IN NEWARK instead of watching them drive across the freeway.</p> <p>As far as a bond or parcel tax in the future- please notice the number of people who are moving to Newark that are NOT putting their kids in our school system and rather registering them into private school. As a realtor I have talked with many buyers who are doing EXACTLY THAT. How many of those families would vote for a bond? Do Not Waste The Money on something that would clearly not pass .</p> <p>Pretend it is YOUR money instead of wanting more from the tax payers.</p>

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Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Dear SCAC Committee Members,</p> <p>As a parent of a student who currently attends Musick Elementary School, I strongly disagree that closing any of our schools is the solution. As a community and a district, we need to focus on our students and their best interests, and closing schools is not the answer.</p> <p>By closing any of our elementary schools it will only result to over crowded classrooms, teachers unable to assist students adequately, more traffic problems, and it will have a negative impact on our students, teachers and community. Moving our students away from their teachers - the ones that they have grown up to love and friends they have created over the years, is not an acceptable way to make up for the districts inability to manage their finances.</p> <p>The year 2020 has already been a tough year for our children with distant learning, why would the district want to take away one of the things that are consistent in their lives? Why do our children's education need to suffer? Our children shouldn't have to worry or stress about their school closing or going to a new school. It is not good for their well being or their mental health.</p> <p>Instead of making the decision to close down schools, the district should be thinking of different ways to save. The district should look at the overall picture before making drastic measures such as closing a school. A decision like this will only further affect the children.</p> <p>As a concerned parent, I ask that you please reconsider other viable options opposed to the one at hand.</p> <p>Concerned Parent - Nick V.</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>I want to thank those individuals who applied to be part of this committee. You applied knowing this committee was going to require a lot of work and the conclusion probably wouldn't be popular with many within the community.</p> <p>From the first meeting you fought to be an independent body. Yet the district flexed their muscle, reining you all in.</p> <p>As I watch the meetings I'm disappointed, not in all of you but in the way you're being treated. You are force feed information and driven to an outcome not your own.</p> <p>This committee was charged to "Develop and utilize criteria and demographic data to base its recommendations on." Instead the facilitator provided the criteria document with the scoring scale. Furthermore, you have been given only nine week for this process, when you were told the committed time "could be 6-12 months."</p>

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	<p>The district's manipulation of this committee has culminated with the facility portion of the criteria sheet already being completed, before you have even met to discuss facility conditions.</p> <p>At the last meeting many members asked questions concerning the age and condition of the portables. They were told it would be a discussion for this week's facility meeting. Now that you've had an opportunity to look at the Aedis Facility Master Plan and the report from EMG, I hope you will revisit the exclusion of all portables & adjust the impact they have on capacity scoring.</p> <p>And speaking of capacity numbers, the numbers assigned to Musick & Lincoln are based on certain programs currently held at those sites. That methodology is not an accurate depiction of the over-all capacity levels of those two sites and perhaps there are other sites as well.</p> <p>Even though the AEDIS Facility Master Plan cover is dated September 18, 2020, the plan and the EMG report are based on information gathered two years ago. So keep that in mind when looking at the Deferred Maintenance timelines.</p> <p>One issue not captured in the reports is the condition of wing three at Snow Elementary. It was noted when the Bond Oversight Committee toured two of the affected classrooms. There appears to be foundation issues. Literally, a ball when placed on the floor will roll from one end of the room to the other. When the committee members discussed the situation with the construction management team from Vanir, they mentioned the water table issue that arose during the hard court replacement. At this point it is unknown what is causing the current sloping in the classrooms. This project is mentioned on the Measure G & Ruschin project list with an estimated \$1 million price tag but no current funding source.</p> <p>Finally, please confirm the list of programs at school sites. BGP does not offer Think Together. I believe the program is offered at Graham and Schilling. Ms. Ingham-Watters can confirm whether BGI offers music. BGP offers Music For Minors, but that's not a district sponsored program, it's paid for by the PTA like other programs offered at others sites.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Cindy Parks</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Dear Consolidation Committee,</p> <p>My children are students at Musick Elementary School. We love our school and community. We do NOT want our school to be closed or consolidated with another</p>

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Visitor/Public Comment	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE SCHILLING! Closing our schools will be detrimental to our community. This school has 70-85% of families who are low income. If this school is closed then that would increase expenses for these families that are already struggling to keep food on the table, gas in their cars (increase travel to go to another school) and more. This school is in close proximity to where these families live and if this school is closed then there's a risk that many of these families may leave Newark. What other options have you all considered or thought about? Are there any "out of the box" ideas that SOMEONE can try to come up with? Closing schools will increase classroom size and how is that fair to the students who are trying to learn and teachers who are trying to teach? How will that learning be effective? Where will our amazing teachers and staff go? Either way closing schools will lose many of the Newark community. Newark will not be a place where families want to live. Please reconsider and DO NO CLOSE SCHILLING!</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Michelle Gapuz</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Dear Members and Community,</p> <p>This Dog and Pony show needs to end, it is an embarrassment to the community! I have never seen board members acting with such disregard for the rules and the democratic process. President Martinez is literally making up rules on the spot and ruling as if she is a sovereign. There is no such thing as a 30-minute maximum</p>

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	<p>discussion allowance, neither is there a rule that a chairperson can unilaterally change public comment time, or that a committee's meeting time can only be extended once. But it does not stop there, requests from members to agendaize an item are ignored and members are wrongly told they cannot communicate about a request to put an item on the agenda. The Brown Act clearly allows such communications. The Brown Act, by the way, which President Martinez believes merely provides guidance. One wonders what a Grand Jury would find about public officials calling the Brown Act simply guidance.</p> <p>Every time we believe the low has been seen it goes even lower. It is outrageous that the facility ranking has already been entered in the spreadsheet, the facility ranking is supposed to be discussed in this meeting! It shows the contempt the board has for this committee and the community.</p> <p>Once wonders what the source is of the rumors that the state will take over the district if we don't close schools next year. This is simply scaremongering; it is not true. The community should keep a keen eye on whether the presentation of the district's financial condition later on is not understated.</p> <p>I believe there are people in our town who want to close multiple schools, sell the land and then use the money to build a new school in the new development at Cherry and Stevenson.</p> <p>So here you are told we need to close schools because we have too many of them and we can't afford it while later on you will be told we need to build a new school. How morally corrupt is that?</p> <p>Cary Knoop</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Dear Committee Members and members of the community watching this streamed meeting,</p> <p>I want to bring up a few things:</p> <p>First, at the last meeting some people kept saying "I know this is an emotional issue" and I know "emotions can run high" after people shared their opinion or spoke out. That has to stop. Claiming someone is being emotional in a meeting is what sexist people have been doing to women ever since women entered the workplace.</p> <p>When you label something that is said as emotional, you invalidate what the person says, whether that is your intention or not. Women should support each other and not engage in actions that perpetuate sexism or be used to undermine other member's contributions, questions, and statements.</p>

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	<p>Second, a petition has been circulating online with the goal to get the board to not close schools. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but that petition is too little, too late. For years the state has been underfunding schools. For years, the Newark community has not passed a parcel tax to help bridge the gap between what the state provides and what the district needs to be the high achieving, high functioning district the students and our community deserve.</p> <p>In my opinion, elected district leadership and high ranking district office employees took an easy way out. They should have worked to pass taxes to support the city's schools years ago. Elected officials probably didn't want to have uncomfortable conversations with the community encouraging them to vote to help support the schools, thereby increasing their taxes.</p> <p>So, now people are sending around a petition. That will not put an end to this process. There is simply not enough money to continue the way we have been.</p> <p>If you want to save the district you must ACT. You must, literally, put your money where your mouth is. In addition to signing the petition, I encourage you to start a group that will work to help get taxes passed to support the School District. The District needs more money if it is going to transform into the high achieving and high functioning school district we know our community and students deserve.</p> <p>Sincerely, Rachel Bloom, the same Rachel Bloom that is on this committee, waving at the camera right now, and, after sharing this strongly worded message, quite possibly, the most despised teacher in NUSD</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>To Whom this may concern, Hope this email finds you well.</p> <p>I am writing to you as one of the parents of two children currently attending Musick. We understand the reason why the school may be closing, but it is very hard to explain this to our children. The reason why I am writing to you is to petition for the school to remain open. Please note some of this children have been attending Musick since they were in Kindergarten. It is their home away from home! We understand the challenges you are facing, but you also need to understand the challenges the children and staff will be facing if you decide to close them down.</p> <p>We are currently facing a pandemic that has created a lot of anxiety, stress and even depression to some of our staff, parents and student's. The last thing we want is more changes for our Musick community. If you can find in your heart to be able to keep Musick open we would deeply appreciated it.</p> <p>Please let us know how we can support you at this time.</p>

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	<p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lorena Lovrin</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I wanted to reach out to you today in regards to the school closure issue. I have heard from many people on the subject and was saddened to hear that one of the school's being considered is Musick.</p> <p>For years Musick has been not only a wonderful educational experience for both of our children but the staff cannot be beat. Although our son will be enjoying his final year there as he is in 6th grade and our daughter is attending college.</p> <p>I couldn't help but to think of all of the kids that this will have an effect on. I will say that my husband and I looked into sending our son to a different school in the area twice and both times in our humble opinions the staff fell short of not only our expectations but our son's as well. This was due to his specific needs at the time. Nothing Musick did but looking for a smaller learning group for him.</p> <p>To close a school like this would have such a huge impact on the kids not to mention the staff. You would be taking away what I consider to be comfortable and familiar to these kids all for what the bottom line?</p> <p>Not sure when it became more about the bottom line than the children. They are the ones that truly matter in this decision. I implore you to really think before you act in such haste and truly realize what this will do to the kids their Musick home and families.</p> <p>Keep Musick open because it is the right thing to do. It is the thing that needs to be done for this community and the children.</p> <p>Respectfully, Kathleen Dominguez</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am a parent of 2 students at Musick elementary school. Please don't close the school. It has a great principle teachers and staff that help the students and parents a lot. They are a great team together. They have a lot of programs for the students . Specially Tk not a lot of schools here in Newark have that and that helps out a lot and</p>

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	<p>being next to the district that a plus. Musick Elementary school is the best one in Newark! I hope we can keep it for many more years!</p> <p>Thank you, Norma Carranza</p>
Visitor/Public Comment	<p>Email received from: F Franky</p> <p>I would not want Musick nor any school to close since this Covid 19 pandemic we don't benefit of overcrowding schools by compiling them together for higher exposure. The schools are part of the community growth and excellence. Musick has come a long way in excelling in more programs offered these past 2 years. The staff has known us for 24 years, my children and grandchildren, currently attend. Overcrowding the schools will deplete quality of learning for the kids. I don't see any benefit at all in any school closing. Thanks for giving me an opportunity to comment. A concerned grandma.</p>