

SAC / Padres en Acción - 2/12/26

Jill Munson began the meeting with introductions and by sharing a message from Irma Sandoval:

- Thank you to those who wrote postcards requesting funding for schools from the state. We sent more than 75 postcards.
- Going forward, wearing red when present at district meetings is a way to show support for teachers

Jaime Jacobson presented an overview of what was presented at the District Advisory Board:

- The DAB meeting was mostly presentation rather than discussion
- A long-range facilities planning committee has been created with members who represent a level of expertise on specific topics and volunteer community members that were chosen by lottery. This group is not making decisions but rather recommendations.
- Considering school building utilization, boundaries, and facilities attributes to create selection criteria that will later be shared with the community
- There was a presentation of committee progress to date, looking at enrollment trends over time, where students are enrolling based on school choice, where new housing is being built, and where older families are remaining in their homes. The committee communicates with conviction that the data is accurate and based on sound modeling. (2 years ago, there were concerns that actual enrollment at Irish and building utilization was not correctly assessed. This time, the methods have reflected much higher accuracy.)
- Over the last 10 years, kindergarten enrollment has dropped by approximately 1,400 students. This follows nationwide trends.
- Schools receive funding per pupil and therefore lower enrollment results in smaller budgets.
- Declining enrollment (at a projected 2% decline over 5 years) will result in a loss of at least \$6 million (and possibly up to \$17 million depending on legislative decisions that are in progress)
- Principals report that lower enrollment has already forced cuts to various student supports, "specials" (art, music, PE), and gifted & talented programming. Consolidating schools will make providing these services possible.
- Possible approach – criteria for closure could be based on percentage of usage per school building capacity. (Previously, many different criteria were considered. Irish representatives felt strongly that our school serves a newcomer and low

socio-economic status group that could not be similarly served by absorbing our students into other schools) 12 out of 28 PSD elementary schools use less than/equal to 60% capacity. 14 out of 28 PSD elementary schools use less than/equal to 75% capacity.

- Irish currently has enrollment at about 55% of assessed building capacity.
- The majority of schools that fall below these capacity thresholds feed into Poudre High School. CLPE offers benefits for rural communities. Putnam has robust programming for special needs students. Irish offers bilingual education. It would be to our advantage to advocate for an even distribution of services spread across the district.
- Is building capacity based on the idea of 25 students per classroom? Ideally, title 1 schools have fewer students per class and then receive supplemental funding to allow for additional services despite lower enrollment.

After Jaime's presentation, all meeting participants broke into two groups and discussed the following questions with responses to be summarized and submitted to the District Advisory Board for consideration:

- o How do we keep the community informed during the consolidation process?
- o What should the selection process include?
- o How can we remain unified as a district rather than divided as schools or groups?

Brief Padres en Acción Meeting:

\$927 earned through last month's fundraiser at Illegal Pete's

March 31st Irish Community Night at Rollerland – PTO plans to pay entrance fees for families identified by family liaisons

T-shirts for sale – working out pricing and number of shirts to order

Preparing for Day of Child

- Evie – the mobile library, is booked
- Bounce house is booked
- A silent auction spreadsheet has been created to solicit donation and will be shared with families that provide an email address

This year's teacher support activities:

- Coffee cart for staff

- Funding for holiday celebration
- Front office staff appreciation gift bags
- Thank you gift cards to Ms. Flores for t-shirt design and Mr. Bartlett in celebration of his being named PE Teacher of the Year
- **Would like to fund a meal for teachers during conferences**