



ALUM ROCK UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2930 Gay Avenue, San José, CA 95127 · Phone: 408-928-6800 · Fax: 408-928-6416 · www.arusd.org

STAFF MEMO TO BOARD

At its January 14, 2021, regular meeting the Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the District's Facilities Repurposing Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to review the projected school enrollment and other data as provided by the district to determine the amount of surplus space and real property, establish a priority list of use of surplus space and real property that will be acceptable to the community, cause to have circulated throughout the district a priority list of surplus space and real property and provide for hearings of community input to the committee on acceptable uses of space and real property, make a final determination of limits of tolerance of use of space and real property, and forward to the district governing board a report recommending uses of surplus space and real property.

Parallel to that process, Administration has been reviewing and analyzing the impact of declining enrollment on District finances and facilities utilization. After review and consideration of those impacts, Administration is requesting that the Board take action to close and consolidate two schools. That action will allow the District to achieve cost savings while allowing students to enroll in two of the District's highest performing programs.

The District has previously received a demographic study which shows that two District schools are most impacted by declining enrollment: Mathson Middle School and Fischer Middle School. According the demographic study, by 2026 – in just 5 years - only 11.9% of the Mathson Middle School facilities will be needed and utilized for instruction for students in that attendance area, with enrollment projected to drop at that school to just 100 student by the 2026/2027 school year. By 2026, only 15% of Fischer Middle School facilities will be needed for instructional purposes as enrollment at Fischer is projected to drop to just 140 students by the 2026/2027 school year.

On that basis and in light of the enrollment data and the need to maximize District facilities and funds and human resources for the benefit of all students, the Administration is recommending that the Board authorize the closure of Mathson Middle School and Fischer Middle School effective the 2021-2022 school year, and the consolidation of those programs with Renaissance Academy at Mathson School and Renaissance Academy at Fischer School, respectively, and approve Board Resolution #41-20/21 submitted herewith. It is important to note that if the Board approves this action the Mathson and Fischer sites will not close; rather, the Renaissance Academy at Mathson will continue to operate at the Mathson site, and the Renaissance Academy at Fischer will continue to operate at the Fischer site.

Hilaria Bauer, Ph.D., Superintendent

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