

# Oct 9, 2024 PFC Board Meeting (Opened to Community) Notes

Mr. Glover provides introduction and intent in scheduling the meeting. Acknowledges the range of emotions in our community and need to be together in community. Notes that there will be increased principals chats and town halls in coming weeks.

Joanna introduces meeting norms and run of meeting and hands off to SFUSD representatives:

- [Janice Jones Mitchell](#)
- [Tami Benau](#)
- [Raul Chavez](#)
- [Bonnie Lo](#)
- [Conrad Tanasychuk](#)

## SFUSD rep:

- Here to listen to and answer questions at this impromptu meeting.
- Intent of coming to this meeting is to answer questions and tailor next week's meeting to our concerns.
- Next Wednesday from 4-6 pm, Superintendent Wayne will be at the school.

## Joanna summarizes our three major questions.

1. Many families intentionally choose small schools, and the district did not offer or disclose school size as a criterion during community alignment sessions. Yet the district's list targets small schools for closure. Why was this new criterion introduced? Why is this criterion 260 students?
2. What new information is the district considering between now and Nov. 12, when it will present its recommended closure list to the Board of Education?
3. If we remain on the district's list and BOE votes for our merger: How will you protect and preserve HMCRA's values, educators and community? How will you make this feasible for our families? The district has already made choices that make this feel like an acquisition and not a merger (e.g., adopting welcoming school's start time).

## Question 1 SFUSD Rep Response:

- Summarizes [Commitment to Equity and Excellence](#)
  - Vision includes elementary schools with 2 classes per grade level so grades aren't merged
  - Eliminates combo classes
  - Gives teachers opportunity to collaborate
  - Size requirement is stated in addition to community's criteria

- Equity audit – occurred over the summer
  - Identified increased staff reductions; in doing that we had to determine how can we sustain and what size should school be; number set at 260 students

**HMCRA Community follow up question:** Don't we donate to the PFC to make class sizes smaller?

- **District Rep Response:** Funds are not sustainable; can't count on them for future

**Community Comment:** District first makes decisions about class availability, and then sets school up for failure and for low composite scores

**District Rep Comment:** We want to know what makes your school special at upcoming community meetings. What makes the school special. What is unique to your community and how would closure or merger impact you and your families.

**HMCRA Community Question:** Will learning this information actually change the list and what are you going to do with information gathered from engagement?

- **District Rep Response:** Holding two community meetings to gather information. First thing that will happen is that the Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board November 12. The Board will vote on December 10. We're not asking should your school close but we do want to know how it will affect you. We are developing what to do with feedback as we engage.

**HMCRA Community Question:** How many students can HMCRA hold at capacity?

- **PFC response:** Historically 260 students.

**HMCRA Community Question:** We would appreciate seeing details and methodology on [composite scores](#). Large schools have outsized influence and high average scores.

- **District Rep Response:** Composite scores from Stanford are on the website. (Links [added by PFC] are [Composite Score Primer](#) and [Composite Score Maps](#)).

**HMCRA Community Question:** What happens to our funds if HMCRA is converted to an Early Childhood Education Center?

- **District Rep Response:** We heard from community it was important to know what would happen to the facility, but these are just ideas. No final ideas until decision is in place.
- **PFC Response:** We would have to dissolve the nonprofit without attachment to HMCRA.

**HMCRA Community Comment:** Do not do performative outreach that won't impact decisions.

**HMCRA Community Question:** What is the date that the list will be released prior to the Nov 12 vote?

- **District Rep Response:** Minimum of 72 hours prior to meeting agenda and materials are required to be released, so Nov 9.

**HMCRA Community Question:** If we had 260+ students would we have met the criteria? If the district controls the number of classes at our school, the district is controlling the outcome here.

- **District Rep Response:** Yes. What I'm hearing from you is it sounds like there's a constructed or forgone conclusion. Will follow up on the sequencing of how the criteria were developed.

**HMCRA Community Question:** What factors went into evaluating historical inequities in the composite score and did they include LGBTQ communities?

- **District Rep Response:** No. Not to my knowledge.

**HMCRA Community Question:** Is there a scenario where milk is not on the list on Nov 12?

- **District Rep Response:** There's no particular metric and all information that's being collected now will go back to the planning team.

**HMCRA Community Question:** I saw that you're saving 22 million dollars by closing/merging schools, so closing our school would maybe save 1.5 million. Where's the savings if you open up an ECE?

**HMCRA Community Question:** What has the school district done to go to large corporations for financing?

**HMCRA Community Question:** Concerns about academic performance at merging schools and concerns that this will lead to widespread attrition.

- **District rep response:** Welcoming schools will have academic support throughout the year to help students with transition to new teachers and environments.

**HMCRA Community Question:** How is anything left of our school if this merger is to take place. The current proposal sets no expectation of a welcome or adjustment on any part of the welcoming school.

**HMCRA Community Question:** Regarding Sanchez, what if any communication did SFUSD have with them about merging or absorbing HMCRA students? Did this decision come as a surprise to them? What is the current size of Sanchez? And will there be an effort to have HMCRA staff go to Sanchez?

**HMCRA Community Question:** Very flawed survey seems to be the driving force behind this decision.

**HMCRA Community Question:** How do we talk to members of the Board of Education.

**HMCRA Community Question:** How do make sure educators at our school have a place at a welcoming school?

- **District Rep Response:** Students would be assigned to the welcoming school unless they opt to take part in the lottery; we do not have the same process for the staff. Staffing decisions would follow consolidations procedures.

**HMCRA Community Comment:** Multiple members of our community have left Sanchez to come to Milk because of bullying. How will you address bullying concerns?

**HMCRA Community Comment:** Daughter left Sanchez and came to Milk because of bullying. Emphasizes Milk's culture, care, and lack of bullying.

**HMCRA Community Comment:** You need to recognize that this is an intergenerational school. Parents who are alumni send their children here.

## Chat Log:

Dave Gordon

6:16 PM

Then why wasn't Milk allowed to open a 2nd kinder class this year? We maxed out at 22 our first class and the district disallowed a second kinder class

Patsy Jaques

6:17 PM

please repeat hte questions

Joanna Lin (Harvey Milk Parent Faculty Club)

6:17 PM

this question was how PFC fundraising to lower class sizes is at odds with district goals to have 2 classes per grade and 260+ kids

Vashti Ferguson

6:18 PM

Might be a lot to ask.. but If someone can type in what is being said when the speaker is not near the mic that would be helpful. We can't hear anyone who is not near the mic

Steve Zwillinger

6:18 PM

What is the capacity for our school with 2 classes per grade?

Patsy Jaques

6:18 PM

what is the capacity of our school

Steve Zwillinger

6:18 PM

I had another question

they are looking at just numbers and not the magic that happens here

Vashti Ferguson

6:19 PM

EXACTLY!!!!

Steve Zwillinger

6:19 PM

SO MANY aprents have transferred their child from anothe s=chool to HMCRA and have been THRILLED with teh difference it makes for their child

Patsy Jaques

6:19 PM

In addition --- Why are they trying to avoid combo classes? (This is Summer BTW - not sure how to update my name during the mtg)

Steve Zwillinger

6:19 PM

they need to talk to these parents

because their solution is not bringing MORE children to the magic

its to being iyr kids to teh less than magic schools

Patsy Jaques

6:22 PM

what will happen to HRCRA Staff during a "merger"

Patsy Jaques

6:23 PM

what's the best way to present an alternative proposal?

Steve Zwillinger

6:23 PM

Exactly...

Patsy Jaques

6:24 PM

What is the back ground on and thinking behind the "Early Childhood Center"

Allison Manzari

6:25 PM

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/projects/2024/sfusd-closures/>

Lisa Pickoff-White

6:26 PM

Will the board members voting in December possibly be outgoing board members? That may not be representative of people's viewpoints as indicated by the election.

Joanna Lin (Harvey Milk Parent Faculty Club)

6:26 PM

Yes, it is the outgoing BOE that will vote.

Steve Zwillinger

6:28 PM

Are all the closings choools under 260 in enrollment?

Patsy Jaques

6:28 PM

Did anyone hear our total capacity of our school?

Dave Gordon

6:28 PM

There are schools with single digit composite scores but have higher enrollment, so yes, they are targeting smaller schools

Mario Tanev

6:29 PM

there are no maps here:

<https://www.sfusd.edu/announcements/2024-10-09-difficult-decisions-brighter-future-sfusd> just a doc with the composite scores, but no breakdown

Dave Gordon

6:29 PM

HMCRA composite score was 21.5

Steve Zwillinger

6:29 PM

If we had 260 or more would we meet their set criteria for staying open?

Nicole Macias

6:29 PM

They are really hard to find:

<https://www.sfusd.edu/resource-alignment-initiative/resource-alignment-initiative-frequently-asked-questions-faqs>

Expand the Q "What is a composite score, and what does it mean for a school?" and you'll see the three new links including the map

Lisa Pickoff-White

6:32 PM

What factors went into evaluating historical inequities in the composite score and did they include LGBTQ communities?

Mario Tanev

6:33 PM

we have high excellence and resource use, and really low equity, 9 score for equity and it accounts for 50% of the grade

Steve Zwillinger

6:34 PM

They can feed our school with kids from teh closed schools

and those kids would BLOSSOM being in our school

Patsy Jaques

6:35 PM

YOU DID NOT LET US GET TO 260!!!!!!!!!!

Steve Zwillinger

6:35 PM

EXACTLY!

Patsy Jaques

6:35 PM

YOU CLOSED US LAST YEAR!!!!

Patsy Jaques

6:38 PM

Thank you for you time!

Allison Manzari

6:38 PM



What if any communication did SFUSD have with Sanchez about merging or absorbing HMCRA students? Did this decision come as a surprise to them? What is the current size of Sanchez? And will there be an effort to have HMCRA staff go to Sanchez?

Mario Tanev

6:39 PM

With an equity score of 9, it sounds like LGBT is not a consideration into equity. Is that correct?

Joanna Lin (Harvey Milk Parent Faculty Club)

6:39 PM

Yes, SFUSD rep said LGBTQ was not part of their equity composite score.

Patsy Jaques

6:40 PM

Please ask how we present an alternate proposal.

Can we have a rep on the planning team?

Jen Kiatta

6:41 PM

And ALSO Neurodivergent community!!!!

Dave Gordon

6:42 PM

Here Here!! Well Said!!

Jen Kiatta

6:42 PM

HMCRA and it's civil rights curriculum is built for middle childhood education. If that aged child is taken away, the building just becomes a name for its namesake and not an actual dedicated institution of how we live and educate our students in SF.

Joanna Lin (Harvey Milk Parent Faculty Club)

6:43 PM

I will compile our comments/questions from this to share with SFUSD to address at their next meeting, if we are not able to get to all of them.

Joanna Lin (Harvey Milk Parent Faculty Club)

6:45 PM

Vashti please type your comment or question

We have a speaker issue

Steve Zwillinger

6:49 PM

NOT A QUESTION: We need to meet without SFUSD people there so we can strategize

Joanna Lin (Harvey Milk Parent Faculty Club)

6:49 PM

Yes, we will make this time too,

Vashti Ferguson

6:51 PM

The survey seems to be the driving force for saying our school is not worth keeping open... this survey was EXTREMELY flawed and it is absolutely horrible that our school is being seen as not desirable enough to keep alive, when EVERYONE knows that's NOT a true reflection of our community!!!

(sorry not really a question)

Dave Gordon

6:53 PM

SFUSD spent \$40 million on their payroll debacle over the last two years. Why are our kids being punished, especially our LGBTQ+ families for the districts failures?

Allison Manzari

6:53 PM

Regarding Sanchez, what if any communication did SFUSD have with them about merging or absorbing HMCRA students? Did this decision come as a surprise to them? What is the current size of Sanchez? And will there be an effort to have HMCRA staff go to Sanchez?

Joanna Lin (Harvey Milk Parent Faculty Club)

6:53 PM

thanks Allison I will raise this question next

Vashti Ferguson

6:54 PM

There are parents and staff reaching out to some of the board members. The district will not send them

Jen Kiatta

6:56 PM

That is not a merger!!!

Allison Manzari

6:56 PM

Exactly, Jen!

Jen Kiatta

6:57 PM

That is us going to Sanchez

Tiffany Furrell

6:58 PM

Harvey Milk has AC and new HVAC, what are the facilities at Sanchez? Is it comparable? After the heat wave, this is a concern. Are the pipes lead free?

Vashti Ferguson

6:59 PM

When is Wayne coming??

Joanna Lin (Harvey Milk Parent Faculty Club)

7:00 PM

next Wednesday, 4-6 (i believe, will confirm)

Steve Zwillinger

7:02 PM

This is terrifying

we need to really listen to this...

Steve Zwillinger

7:04 PM

She is our spokesperson!

Amazing

Dave Gordon

7:04 PM

Well said!!

Please come next week to the Wayne meeting!