

SFUSD Resource Alignment District Advisory Committee

Meeting 7 Summary

March 4, 2024, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location

- SFUSD Administrative Offices, 555 Franklin St, San Francisco, CA

Agenda

Agenda items at this meeting included:

1. Outline our K-8 Portfolio Context
2. Develop shared takeaways about key information from the K-8 School Fact Base
3. Public Comment

Attendance

Members present: Geri Almanza, Tai-Sun Schoeman, Sarah Wilson, Camille Seiberling, Edward Parillon, Asipesionau Finau, Teddy Gomes, Orlando Leon, Debby Lu, Mauricha Robinson

Alternates Present: Linda Ho

Members Absent: Karen Rolph Morales

Alternates Absent: N/A

Actions Taken

- Learned about the K-8 portfolio, and developed shared takeaways from the Fact Base

Key Takeaways

- **K-8 Success:** DAC members brought up the effectiveness K-8 schools have shown for fostering a strong community for families
- **K-8 Popularity:** K-8 in-language school programs are popular with families and aid in equitable access for many ESL students
- **Resource Alignment Initiative Concerns:** DAC members expressed concerns about staffing cuts happening this school year and the impact on school closures / mergers next school year
- **Merging Schools:** DAC members raised the possibility of merging K-8s with lower enrollment middle schools on the east side to avoid closures concentrated in one half of the city
- **Capping School Enrollment:** DAC members expressed concerns about capping school enrollment and the impact an enrollment cap would have on east side schools

- **School Capacity Differences:** Questions were raised about the differences between enrollment and facility capacity for schools and how it relates to the proposed staffing model

District Advisory Committee Member Questions and Follow Up Requested

- To what extent are the changes that are being implemented in the staffing model for the 24/25 school year going to negatively impact schools when we move to closure/merger conversations in the next school year?
- The majority of K-8's are on the East side of San Francisco. How do we make sure those students can be supported?
- How does the staff turnover compare to other districts?
- Are there District plans to implement "Initiate Wonder" to the K-8 schools?
- How do we expand the K-8 model since it's so popular with the public?
- How will construction at BVHM impact their enrollment process?
- Why are students leaving SFUSD?

Key Topics Discussed & Activities Undertaken

- A DAC member expressed concerns that the school staffing cuts would negatively impact schools being considered for closing/mergers - how can we ensure this doesn't happen?
- A DAC member asked about the methods of SFUSD's student assignment system. How can this be more transparent?
- A DAC member asked about the difference between one-way and two-way immersions
- A DAC member asked if Bessie Carmichael is a World Language Middle School
- A DAC member asked about the difference between enrollment capacity and facility capacity. What are the student space considerations specific to K-8 schools?
- A DAC member asked if there were resources being given to schools on the West side that aren't being given to schools on the Eastern side of the City. Does this account for the difference in academic performance between the schools?
- A DAC member asked about differences in PTA funding in schools across the district - How much money do schools get through PTA funds? Does this account for the difference in academic performance?
- A DAC member noted: in-language programs at K-8 middle schools are incredibly popular and important when considering equity:
 - It is important to acknowledge the cultural community the school serves
 - There should be focus groups implemented to receive feedback from families that don't speak English to increase their engagement
 - Implementation of language programs are not being fulfilled for every student at every school as promised by the district
 - Serving immigrant students jumps out as an important issue of equitable public education access in the City. How can we support immigrants while closing in-language programs?
 - The K-8 language models can potentially be strengthened to help immigrant students learn English and act as a point of attraction for families that want their students to have bi-lingual education
- Successful outcomes: K-8 schools are successful in-language school models. The popularity and academic results reflect this



- K-8 Portfolio Changes to Prioritize Student Success
 - Many families want to enroll students in the same schools. There are other schools that don't have the same support. What successful practices at high performing K-8 schools can be implemented at struggling schools? How can we implement these practices in an equitable way?
 - Schools like BVHM have low demand but high retention rates. Rooftop has high demand but low retention. It's important to consider their communities and how community support and popularity play into the data.
 - We need to make sure that we are careful about how we interpret the idea of demand for certain schools and as a marketplace. There is more to data points specific to retention and application rates.
 - Can the enrollment process for SFUSD be more transparent to members of the District?
 - SFUSD must prioritize supporting families and schools on the east side of San Francisco

Public Comments

- Maria - Keep teachers working at Buena Vista and to help students from struggling in classrooms.
- Maria - It is frustrating that teachers and their budgets are being cut at small schools and are advocating to keep resources at our school.
- Julissa - Why is Horace Mann suffering despite a record of good attendance. This goes against the guardrails of the staffing model.
- Jason - K-8 dual immersion programs have made promises to families that SFUSD won't be able to accomplish with the proposed cuts.
- Ruby - Bessie Carmichael deserves the equitable financial support needed to survive.
- Zachary - Many families at Bessie Carmichael need support. Bessie Carmichael is a high-need school where 70% of students and families are struggling financially. Cutting social worker positions through the staffing model is dangerous to the community there.
- Jodie - The new staffing model is not equitable. Bessie has two campuses and needs more focal roles to support the students holistically.
- Darin - The data in the DAC deck is misleading and other points need to be considered to fairly bring families back in the public system.
- Claudia - The beauty of the K-8 model is clearly popular in our communities and can really shepherd the success of students.
- Glenda - Supporting Horace Mann is important for the community it serves
- Kurt - My child is worried that increasing class size is going to impact how we support students who need the extra help.
- Melissa - Please invest in our students and teachers. This is where it matters the most and cutting programs that can help disenfranchised students is not equitable.
- Coco - The Wellness Center helps our special needs students. Please don't cut mental health support funding through this staffing model.
- Jenny - A budget is a moral document and the integrated K-8 school is something to be proud of and grow.
- Student at Horace Mann - The teachers create an incredible environment to learn.



- Isabel - Bessie Carmichael needs more funding. Social workers can help students, especially Filipino students who are more likely to commit suicide. We need more support for social workers in our community.
- Kate - More support is needed to help students with mental health issues. I am a former Horace Mann social worker and I understand the needs of that particular community
- Erica - The K-8 model is wonderful for the older students to help their younger students to cut down their truancy.
- Parent at Horace Mann - Students deserve to go to school near where they live.
- Rachel - There is a demand for social services for my children's school. The District has a responsibility to help the Filipino community and give the funding necessary to thrive.
- Teresa (Parent) - Bring money allocation back to Horace Mann to support their high-needs children. Ask the state to look for the money if there isn't enough.
- Bridget - Many children live in poverty at Horace Mann. The staffing model cuts would hurt these students most.
- Veronica - Students will be affected by the budget and will be emotionally impacted negatively if they cut funding for programs that support them. The funding cuts aren't right, and SFUSD should consider the future of their students.
- Erin - In the slides that outline K-8 schools that are cut because of low attendance, it is unfair given the price of housing pushes out families, therefore cutting attendance.
- Vanessa - There is a lack of quantitative and qualitative data to make a good decision re: school mergers and closures.
- Miguel (Parent at Charter School) - Cutting a Charter school will make it a difficult commute.
- Joanna (Parent at Horace Mann) - Cutting teachers is not good for the students and increasing class size will make it difficult to support students. Cutting art and sports classes should be thought through, as this hurts student experience and outcomes.
- Tigerlily (Student at SF Community) - There's no money for the most basic school supplies and students need more support.
- Bernice - Data points being shared in DAC meetings are misleading and there needs to be discussions on cutting roles at 555 Franklin before cutting schools.
- Bob - Deeply concerned about funding of the arts for the next year and mindful of the needs of student services across the district.
- Gina - The new staffing model sets up the K-8 model to fail.
- Brandee Marckman - Budget utilization needs to be readjusted to prioritize school success.
- Courtney - There needs to be more consideration into the impacts of these cuts on students and the data being reviewed in these meetings.
- Charm - How is the District making these tough decisions. It is hard to hear our schools would be losing a social worker.
- Julissa (Parent) - K-8 has great qualitative impacts on students' emotional well-being. Merging low-attendance middle and elementary schools should be considered to accommodate the popularity of K-8 schools.
- Anna - Decisions need to be made that help SFUSD grow and not set schools up to fail
 - Bessie Carmichael needs more social workers.
 - If schools are fully staffed by increasing class size, there will be less teacher retention and not meet the needs of students.
- Tigerlily - Funding for school staff needs to be prioritized



- Large middle schools aren't the best option. Smaller middle schools can meet the needs of students at a higher level.
- A Community Member - SF Community School has a rich history of helping K-8 students grow and prosper in San Francisco

Written Notes

The following written notes were taken during the District Advisory Committee meeting:

