

Dublin USD DOC Town Hall Meetings 6.1.2015

Key: Q=Question

A=Answer

S=Statement

Questions and Answers

Q	Has a child in 6th grade, with boundary changes will the second children be in both middle schools?
A	We will always keep students together in the same school.
S	If they change the boundaries your real estate prices will be reduced by 20%
Q	Should this go forward are you considering bussing to Fallon or to the high school?
A	We are working closely with Wheels; the district does not offer bussing. The state of California does not fund enough to pay for bussing for even our Special Education students, let alone regular education students.
Q	Thanked the DOC for their work. Plan seems very short on details. Student to teacher ratio may be almost 30:1 and that seems high. There seems to be a lot of bad data.
A	Regarding the K8 concept. All of the schools were built to house around 950 students. With regard to a magnet program, the educational leaders would explore those concepts. Our class sizes are some of the smallest in the tri-valley at 28:1.
S	Does not think that the presentation is very sound. Have to consider more schools. There is enough funding and there is enough land.
S	Two children in Green. Does not want boundary changes. Needs a long-term plan. The data seems to not be accurate.
S	Wants no boundary change and wants to see a new high school and middle school for the east side of Dublin.
Q	Why haven't you said I need help to the city of Dublin? Every option is a work around? Middle schools should be at 800 not 1600, the high school should be at 1200 like other high schools.
A	Dr. Hanke stated that the district has worked very closely with the city of Dublin on issues regarding needs of the school district and they have been very generous in helping to meet our needs. This is a complex issue and much of our funding needs has to do with the lack of funding from the state of California.
S	All of our elementary schools will be at 800 to 1000 capacity for the next five years. Wells will also be at capacity in the next five years. Next time a charter school comes here we will support it.
Q	Wants to know why the schools are going to be run at the maximum capacity? Why not run E-5 as a middle school. Wants the right to recall the decision if it is not right.
A	The DOC is reviewing a number of options and that will be one of them.
Q	If you see other school districts that they have multi-level schools, why don't we have schools with multi-levels?
A	That is a good point and it is something that we are already doing. Amador Elementary School was built as a two-story elementary school and both Wells Middle School and Dublin High School are two story schools.
S	Worried about his children traveling to WMS on busy roads through construction traffic. Does not want to see boundary changes.
S	We have space and time on our side. Suggested that school district move to year-round school. There is room for a middle school and a high school next to the fire house.
S	Moved from Boston to Dublin; kids went to FMS and JDS. Concerned about students travelling from JDS area to WMS on busy streets.

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Q	Asked if the information that Mr. Tomlinson provided regarding the costs of building schools is available to the public?
A	Ms. McNeeley stated that yes, all of that data is available on the district website or can be provided upon request. It can be found on either the District Optimization Committee Link located on the left side of the front page of the website or in the Facilities section located under the drop down menu at the top bar on the website.
Q	Why was the district not at the city council meeting to oppose the development if having more students will impact the schools so much?
A	The district's interest is to educate students that come to the district, not to take positions on issues that come before the city council.
S	They have claim every school board need to build a new middle school. Does board need anything more to secure a K-8 school? Does not think the foundation of projections are right. Boundary change can be solved solved by building a K-8 school as soon as we can.
Q	Will Amador Elementary School will be a K-5 or a K-8 school?
A	We don't know; at this point it will open as a K-5 but that could change. It could also happen at Dougherty, Green or Kolb. As we look at the numbers, we will use that as a factor to make sure kids will fit. It could be a K-6. It may be that all east elementary schools will be K-6.
Q	Can you clarify boundary changes by year of construction? Purchase date of home or new to the community?
A	The later the date, the more seniority; the closer to today's date, would have less seniority.
S	We were all newcomers once. To the country, state, to Dublin. I'm here to speak out against a sentiment of newcomers to the city, by construction zones; those who are not here yet. Speaking on behalf of those who do not have a voice. Urged everyone to think about people, other than just themselves. Stated people are thinking "As long as I'm not affected" it's ok". Put yourself in the position of someone yet to move here. Think how they would feel. Oppose any option that impacts any newcomer. Do not support boundary change by construction date.
S	This school (Fallon Middle School) was built by a developer. A precedent was set. We don't believe the data. Come back with more than a bandaid. We don't believe you can fix the problem any more. You are accountable for the mess we are in today. We need more schools. You could have used leverage. We need new leadership.
Q	Looking at the numbers. What is the constraint, making new E-5 a K-8 or middle School? Why are we even looking at boundary changes? The easy answer to building a middle school.
A	The land at E-5 isn't big enough to support a full middle school. A K-8 school is a viable option.
Q	Oppose boundary change, and strongly consider K-6 option. Cited a 2007 study from Duke University. Went to an intermediate school in Concord. Benefits for both sides. Big benefits for sixth-graders attending elementary schools, fewer behavioral problems. In 1994, why was a second high school not considered 21 years ago.
A	At this point, the district needs to look forward towards solutions, not back to why something wasn't done. The district is studying all possible solutions to the capacity issues in the East.
Q	Thinking about people who don't have a voice? Can you mention name of ballot, type of ballot, help build more schools? Who were the folks that blocked in the state ballot?
A	State had \$10 billion in the pipeline. There just isn't money at the state level. We are part of the \$1.4 billion in projects still waiting to be funded. Another state bond measure has to come up before the voters. Governor vetoed placing a facilities bond measure on the ballot in November 2014. The governor himself blocked it. There is a petition going around to place a measure on the next ballot.

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Q	Has a daughter at Kolb. This affects my kids future and my financial future. Why are boundary changes and lottery's an option?
A	Because as a committee, we brainstormed everything to look at possible changes. Those are the things we are looking at. Many communities operate in this way. Boundaries have changed very often, particularly at the elementary level. It's a fluid issue we have to look at and deal with.
Q	Do not want to see boundary change or lottery. Going to cause financial losses. They don't have a right to do that. The DOC trying to help us, already feel as if I'm being robbed. Who is responsible for this mess? The council or the school board?
A	The city council establishes and develops the specific plan. If there are unvested units, that is where adjustments can be made. Places for the schools were all part of the vested developments. We are pushed going to have to do something to get there. Middle School can't come from vested lands because it's already passed us.
S	Going to propose solutions. Been in this fight, 2000 have been opposing. Did not see impact fees on school? Here is the solution, tomorrow another 2000 go to City Council and propose Mello Roos on infrastructure. All new developments from here on are Mello Roos. Our problem with council or school board. The state mandates housing in our city. Stand up for your rights.
Q	If there is no land in the east, why can't we sell land for west side schools to build schools in the east side? Wells is a good school. Same level of school as Fallon. Two schools close on the left side, why can't we sell that land? Data not accurate.
A	We are not look into swapping land. The Board approved not selling land at Nielsen. The decision was made, look at the numbers, as the middle of the community continues to grow, we want to utilize all options, hold off and make sure we know what growth brings and preserve flexibility.
Q	Saw school built and other school being built. Seen kids sitting on the floor. Really sad to see kids, people pay a lot of money to live here, kids to sit on the floor. Maybe walk through the classrooms and come back and evaluate the data. What people want here is another school, which is as basic as it gets.
A	class size is by contract with the teachers association and they are the same across the district. Big schools can be efficient. 1500 is big at a middle school, and we are looking at ways to mitigate that issue. I do walk the school and visit classrooms throughout the district.
Q	Everybody came here, for one thing. Message getting from you, trying to make everybody happy, telling me, neighbor kids will be suffering. Is this the only the solution? Should we be spending a lot of previous time? What would be the recommendation you have for us?
A	We are going to continue to look at every way we possibly can to make this work. This isn't something we just started. These issues are part of our growing community.
S	Been to Dougherty, Fallon and DHS. It's a mess what we have today. I have a recommendation. All elementary schools should be K-6. Make new school K-8. City is saying we haven't asked for the land. We will find a way to build a school, as a community we have never rejected a bond. We elected any one of you, if you feel you can't do that, please step aside.
S	Student from Dougherty wants to go to Fallon because he wants to bike or walk there and his sister goes there. Sister says, we need to work together at one community school. Politely point out, personally opposes boundary changes. Want students to feel connection with schools. Dad has a lot of respect for the DOC, one of the solutions. Boundary change and lottery does not make sense at all. These kind of options, while they do exist, should not be brought up in a public forum.
S	Shocked that boundary change even made it to the list of criteria. Forcing our kids to Wells is detrimental. We were going through city financial statement, money transferred from community benefit to general fund. How many board members actually live in area that will be impacted by boundary changes. no boundary change.

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Q	Moved to Dublin in 97. Dublin, Fallon. 1) the land, 2) the fund 3) our willingness to work. From the land perspective, can't accept that we don't have te land. Now I see only building. Where there is a will, there is a way. We should find the land. City building a water park. city and school board is not working together. where there is a will there is a way.
A	respond to whether school district is working with the city. Just signed two MOU, two pieces of property, which are E-5 and E-6 with no expense to the school district. As state stepped away, city has stepped up.
Q	1) gone through elementary boundary change, couple of town hall changes, why didn't we do more meetings? Just one chance? 2) can you share all the data on all six options and how they are going to impact school capacity? 3) if all the residents want boundary change to be off the list of recommendations?
A	As a committee, we held a town hall now. We can address data points. he DOC is going to make that recommendation, wait until they make that recommendation.
S	All we are hearing out is about limitations. You have best minds avaiable at your disposal.
S	The data can't be right. We are all here trying to find a solution.
Q	I have a child who is in 7th grade at Fallon. What about a new high school?
A	The vested units are only units remaining today. There is no land availale for an additional high school. Down the road, it could be a different question but today we can only work with what we have.
S	Everyone believes you have already made your decision. The boundary change would not be on the agenda if you hadn't decided on it. You have a duty.
S	Don't sacrifice your neighbor and send their kids to the other side of town--no to boundaries and lottery.
Q	Build schools first and then build houses. Improve the quality of residents who are already here instead of bringing in more and more people. Drought. Learn something from communities who are growing slower. How many of DOC live in boundary change area? Cramming students into portables taking up space and place of playground areas. Don't believe that 1994 plan can't be changed.
A	Mr. Cunningham stated that he takes offense to comments made that infer he is not making decisions based on the good of all students in the district. His decisions are always made for the good of all students, not just for those in one part of town or area. They are made based on sound information and data, not on hysteria and rumor.
Q	Capacity problem. We don't want a choice, we want a vision in the future. Building more middle and high schools is the only options. Short term and band aids don't work. (Daughter at Dougherty wants to bike/scooter to Fallon)
Q	If projections were spot on, how come the problems weren't solved five years ago? There is a trust issue between community and district. Before recommendation is made we want to see recommendation. Make publicly available.
A	Recommendation will be made public before board considers it.
Q	Kids will be in school soon. Why don't we add more permanent classrooms to Fallon? Where does this data come from from the demographer/how often is it updated? Every 6 months we should reevaluate. No to boundary change.
A	We work with city very regularly for demography. Used to be 6 months to a year, now more often. As for permanent buildings at Fallon, would require another bond measure, yes is possible.

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S	Kid went to Dougherty Fallon and now DHS. If DOC changes boundary, it's 4 mile ride to to Wells. Takes 5 mins to drive to DHS. It will take 30-40 minutes with growth. Unrealistic for parents who have jobs and unsafe for kids.
S	None of options are desirable or workable to community. If you found more space at Fallon, find more space elsewhere and build us a new middle school.
S	I don't have children in the district. You are only being lazy. What you are recommending is affecting people's lives. If you don't want to tackle this issue we will find someone who will.
S	No coordination between building schools and building houses. So many houses and still building, but need more schools. Changing a boundary is not going to work. Here 16 years, people are moving city to city to see what schools offer.
S	Done a great job of increasing quality of school district. Still see a problem. You would have known there would be more children coming in but you did not plan for it. We want assurance today about no lottery and no boundary. We want constant effort before June 15th. We are here to support.
Q	The plan was created 21 years ago... when is the next plan? Need more schools, more area for kids to play. Why doesn't city tax houses? How much in dollar amounts are developers paying for houses?
A	\$12,000 per unit--half of what schools cost to build.
S	Have two daughters, am invested in this community. Who are you honoring with your seniority criteria? Not residents like us who have been here for years. Concerns about traffic, safety.
S	Not sure our voice is being heard. More schools. Want to trust that the DOC will come up with the right options that are in the best interest of community.
Q	Mr. Tomlinson walked through a lot of data, including cost of building schools. How much of data is available to us? We feel like you're constraining yourselves too much and just using bandaids. Do right thing long term. We expect the Board to think about the school district 10 or 20 years out. We want someone to be held accountable.
A	All of the data you've asked for is available both online through the website and at the district office; budgets and costs of construction.
S	Know 2 personally on DOC who live in boundary change area, know they are working hard. In support of K-6 because children work better. Left SF because of lottery system. Not fan of boundary system. Lived in Dublin for 10 years, family has grown, moved houses. Moving to Wells loses child's independence because they have to be driven to school.
S	No to boundary change, kids should go to home school, people need to drive their kids and go to work.
Q	Moved to Dublin from San Ramon. Hopeful that we will solve issue through working together. What is boundary between East and West? Realtors telling people on border their kids will go to Fallon. 4 elementary schools and 2 middle schools and 1 high school in San Ramon communities. Why can't we do that? We need to team up to be more creative.
A	The boundary is Arnold Rd.