

AHSCC April Newsletter

Edition 2

April 27, 2011

What happened at the April 14th GUHSD Board Meeting re: the 12th High School?

The Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) presented their proposal to the GUHSD Board.

Prior to their presentation, three speakers from Alpine spoke to the Board regarding the CBOC's recommendations. After the presentation, Priscilla Schreiber once again, gave her full support for the high school, noted her opposition to the CBOC's proposal, and pointed out how the trigger clause complicates the entire process and potentially wastes tax-payer dollars if the trigger is not met and construction is not allowed to commence. Jim Kelly and Dr. Gary Woods supported the proposal and noted apologetically that the school may not be built due to budget constraints and declining enrollment.

Doug Deane presented an update to the Board regarding the Boundary Committee's progress. March's meeting agenda included the following: District's Policy Re: Student Migration, High School Enrollment Capacity, Two Boundary Scenario's for a High School in Alpine, and Boundary Options for All High Schools.

To jog your memory, the CBOC proposal included the following:

- No additional bond money be expended on the 12th HS beyond land acquisition until district enrollment numbers meet the trigger set out in Prop U.
- If the trigger is met, the CBOC suggests

Boundary Committee Update...

Doug Deane, the chair of the Boundary Committee presented his report at the Board Meeting. The good news is that the Boundary Committee is still surveying the boundaries that would include a 12th High School. The bad news is that, unfortunately, there is no projected population growth in Alpine until 2030. This is all based on facts provided to the Boundary Committee by the District's consultant who is using the 2009 SanDag map, which shows the entire eastern half of Alpine as undevelopable. However, that is not taking into account the possibility that there may be growth if the County changes zoning for eastern Alpine to allow for subdivisions. Rest assured that Chris Newcomb and John Cooley are gathering as much relevant data as possible to build a strong argument to build a high school that will serve all students who want to attend. The Boundary Committee will present its final report in July of 2011.

What the speakers said at the April 14th GUHSD Board Meeting Re: the CBOC's recommendations:

Sal Casamassima pointed out that though the district may have lower enrollment numbers, the decline is not coming from any high schools attended by Alpine students. The decline accounts for numbers from two high schools that are located in the communities most affected by mortgage foreclosures. He also pointed out that though the CBOC's proposal mentions that a high school might have to be closed if a new one is built, no one from the district or the Board has ever publicly made that claim.

George Barnett reminded the Board that the CBOC's purview is not to write policy. He pointed to the Educational Code that outlines their duties and suggested they follow those. He also referred to enrollment data since the early 90's and mentioned that when West Hills and Steele Canyon were built, overall enrollment across the district surged, suggesting that this also may occur when the 12th HS is built. Finally, he pointed out that the enrollment trigger numbers have still not been released from the district.

Megan Werland spoke to encourage the Board to continue with land acquisition and to submit architectural and grading plans to the DSA within the next few months. She also reminded the Board that this school's curriculum design would be innovative and attract students to the district, once again noting that this school will help the district, not hurt it.