

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent

March 26, 2003

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Dennis K. Chaconas, Superintendent
SUBJECT: A Report and Recommendation from the Superintendent on the opening of:

- Two already operating schools becoming New Small Autonomous Schools in 2003-2004:
 - ACORN Woodland Elementary School (Open)
 - MetWest High School (Open as independent study program)
- Two New Small Autonomous Schools in 2003-2004:
 - Think College Now
 - The San Antonio Multicultural School (formerly Franklin West)
- Five New Small Autonomous Interconnected Schools that comprise the Fremont Federation of College Preparatory High Schools in 2003-2004:
 - College Preparatory and Architecture Academy
 - Mandela High School
 - Media College Preparatory School
 - Paul Robeson College Preparatory School of Visual and Performing Arts
 - YES, Youth Empowerment School
- Two New Small Autonomous Schools 2004-2005:
 - East Oakland Community High School
 - EnCompass Academy

LEGISLATIVE FILE

File ID No. 03-0403

Introduction Date 3-19-03

Enactment No. 03-0278

Enactment Date 3-26-03

By R

ACTION REQUESTED

This report requests that the Board of Education approve the opening of eleven schools between 2003-2005 by the Superintendent. The schools are four New Small Autonomous Schools and five New Small Autonomous Interconnected Schools for 2003-2004 and two New Small Autonomous Schools for 2004-2005. These schools have met the standards of the RFP for NSAS design teams and, in accordance with the NSAS policy, will operate on a revenue neutral basis. Each school's final approval to open will be contingent upon staff's approval of the team's Implementation Plan, a site and the signing of an Autonomy for Accountability Compact. Copy of the school's proposals will be available at the Board of Education office.

BACKGROUND

Under the NSAS policy passed in 2000, design teams could apply to start NSA schools by responding to a district-issued Request for Proposals (RFP). In accordance with the policy, all schools accepted through the RFP process will operate as revenue neutral schools. The budgets for these schools are revenue neutral, and will be adjusted appropriately as financial realities of the district are outlined.

DISCUSSION

The San Antonio Multicultural School (formerly Franklin West) applied and was accepted under the 2000 Request for Proposal process. It was one of the original seven teams accepted of the fourteen who applied. Six of these seven approved schools have been opened; only The San Antonio Multicultural School remains to be opened from this initial group.

The remaining five NSAS design teams applied and their proposals were accepted under the revised 2002 Request for Proposal for NSAS. The New Small Autonomous Interconnected School design teams, all of which

were part of Fremont, applied under a Fremont RFP. Three school designs were accepted in 2002 and two school designs were accepted in 2003 with plans to open as the first NSAIS schools in the district.

New Small Autonomous Schools (NSAS):

ACORN Woodland Elementary School, which opened as Woodland School in September of 2000, was the first new small school in Oakland and is located on an attractive, spacious temporary site in the Elmhurst District. It will open as a New Small Autonomous School this fall. The school was born out of the efforts of a local chapter of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN). Their vision is for a school where children learn lessons in social responsibility and community participation in addition to getting a quality education that will prepare them for success in any secondary school in the Bay Area. ACORN members and other community members also work with school personnel to create a school where parents play a greater role in their children's education. The school currently serves 255 students, about half of whom participate in bilingual education.

Many K-5 students receive after school tutoring or participate in enrichment classes in English Language Development, Dramatic Arts, Capoeira, African Dance, Mexican and Central American Folkloric Dance, Outdoor Recreation, Intramural Sports, and Arts and Crafts. Through its Healthy Start grant, the school sponsors various parent-led support groups and one of the first Care Teams in the District, helping connect families with needed services available through partnerships with a wide variety of public and private agencies.

Location: Presently in portables at 79th Avenue and Rudsdale; in the fall of 2004, in the new ACORN Woodland/EnCompass site being constructed in the same location.

MetWest High School opened this fall as a independent study pilot school on the Laney Community College Campus and seeks to become a New Small Autonomous School in the fall of 2003. MetWest students pursue their interests and passions in the real world. Working alongside mentors in the community two days a week, students *learn through internships* where they complete projects that develop important academic and interpersonal skills. MetWest teachers work in collaboration with each student and his or her family to develop a personalized curriculum based on the student's individual interests, talents and needs. At the conclusion of the inaugural semester, MetWest reports the following: 97 percent attendance rate, 97 percent of students placed at an internship, all ninth grade students are enrolled in Laney College math classes and many are also earning college credit in psychology, Spanish, swimming, yoga, beginning writing, computers and photography.

MetWest currently serves 32 students in grade 9 and plans to expand to a total of 64 students in grades 9 & 10 next year. MetWest is working in collaboration with the Peralta Community Colleges to develop a 5-year program where Oakland students can concurrently earn a high school diploma and an Associates degree.

Location: Laney College and downtown non-district location leased by the school

The San Antonio Multicultural School, (Fall, 2003) formerly known as Franklin West, intends to serve the Latino, Chinese, Vietnamese, African American, Mien, and Cambodian population from the Garfield/Franklin school area. We will open K-3rd grade and plan to grow to K-5th grade. Our school will be a hub of activity for the community that will include access to resources, services and classes. Our design team that consists of parents, teachers and community groups have been developing the plan for the school with the support of its partners: Oakland Community Organizations and East Bay Asian Youth Center.

At SAMS, students will be empowered with the tools for success to think critically and resolve conflicts for themselves and their community. They will demonstrate citizenship through service learning and activism. Students will maintain their first language (Chinese and Spanish bilingual) as they learn English. The history and culture of different ethnic groups will be taught and shared. English speaking students will have the option to learn a second language. Students will learn in a constructivist, project based approach integrating fine arts, music, the sciences and social studies. Staff will hold high expectations and make decisions regarding the children through on-going assessment, analysis of student progress, collaboration and a deep commitment toward equity and multiculturalism. Staff will provide culturally relevant curriculum and high cognitive thinking strategies within a meaning-centered curriculum. The parents are included in all aspects of the school.

Location: TBD—in an already existing district school with capacity

Think College Now: *Juntos, Si Se Puede!* (Fall, 2003) Think College Now's vision is that all students will have an equitable opportunity to attend college and pursue their dreams and that they will have the tools to successfully choose their life's path and desired occupation. TCN will focus on educational excellence and equity by increasing college opportunities through strong student achievement, standards-based instruction, parent relationships, and community partnerships. Think College Now will open with grades K-2 and will grow to serve grades K-5 and seeks to serve students in the Fruitvale Area of Oakland.

Location: Cesar Chavez campus

East Oakland Community High School (Fall, 2004) believes that integrating the school with the local community will make education relevant, and empower families to take ownership of the school. East Oakland Community High School strives to incorporate the school as a community village, and sees parents as leaders in this village. Everything in the school design empowers parents as key leaders and decision makers: from student assessment, to teacher evaluation, to the school governance. The school will create partnerships with local community organizations so that art centers, health centers, recreation centers, and adult education programs will be a part of the school.

East Oakland Community High School's academic vision focuses on Equity and Excellence. **Equity** accounts for the wealth of cultural resources that students bring from family, race, language, and culture. Equitable schooling requires anti-oppressive curriculum, culturally relevant teaching, and a foundation in students' culturally specific "funds of knowledge". **Excellence** is achieved when the school promotes mastery in critical literacy, provides access to high levels of education, and empowers students' intellectual voices and social leadership in the larger world.

Location: TBD

EnCompass Academy (Fall, 2004) proposes to open a school that honors, acknowledges and encompasses the developmental balance of the body, mind, emotions, and spirit of the whole child. Their vision of an educated child is one who has the capacity to fulfill his/her innate humanity. EnCompass seeks to teach students to uphold the power and responsibility of belonging to a Life spiral that starts with Self, becomes guided by Family, engages with Community, and is rooted through Ancestral heritage. EnCompass Academy will provide capacity-building opportunities for children to transform learned experiences into informed choices and hopes for their future selves in compassionate, sustainable ways. Students at EnCompass will exemplify excellence in standards for developing active, curious, and disciplined minds; healthy and physically-fit bodies; centered in stillness spirits; just, caring, and courageous self conduct, and community and environmental stewardship. EnCompass will serve students from the Arroyo Viejo/Elmhurst District in grades K-5.

Location: New ACORN Woodland/EnCompass site being constructed at 81st Avenue and Rudsdale.

New Small Autonomous Interconnected Schools (NSAIS):

Fremont High School opened in 1906 in Oakland. It is now transforming from one large high school into five New Small Autonomous Interconnected Schools (NSAIS). Three teams are now operating pilot programs within the large high school. The first implementation of New Small Autonomous Interconnected Schools at Fremont is projected to begin in the fall of 2003. During the 2003/04 and 2004/05 school years, in addition to the five NSAI schools, a sixth school (Fremont-in-Transition) will also operate as a small school serving the needs of 11th and 12th graders not enrolled in any of the five NSAI schools. This school will have a leader and enjoy the same privileges as all other schools sharing the campus, including access to the Small Schools grant program. Fremont currently serves approximately 1900 students. 50% of Fremont students are Hispanic, 35% are African American, 15% are Asian and Pacific Islander, and 1% of students identify as other.

The following schools comprise the Fremont Federation of College Preparatory High Schools:

College Preparatory and Architecture Academy:

Pedagogical emphasis: We emphasize “traditional academics” with non-traditional scheduling and support mechanisms, such as advisory, extended class time minutes in math and English, senior projects aimed at raising the achievement of all students, etc. We use our construction and architectural design classes for more non-traditional, project based learning opportunities.

Vision: In a safe, secure and clean environment, we will create and support appropriate and progressively challenging endeavors designed to produce a strong sense of community in our school, the power to make positive change in the self and our environment, and the ability to think critically, which will result in improved motivation, higher achievement and personal growth.

Media College Preparatory School is a small school built around journalism as an academic discipline and career area. The school emphasizes academic rigor, greater math and science content, cross curricular activities, writing for a larger audience as a means to reinforce language arts skills. We are a school that retains at risk youth and exposes students to a career area that is actively seeking larger numbers of people of color, especially if they are bilingual. Our language arts curriculum will be bilingual in English and Spanish. Students will publish a newspaper and magazine, produce radio and television programming, and build web sites, activities that maximize heterogeneous groupings that allow all students to participate and learn. The following are our goals:

- Upon graduation 90 percent of the entering freshmen class will perform at or above grade level on the SAT9 examination.
- Upon graduation 90 percent of the entering freshmen class will meet the requirements to enter the University of California.
- Upon graduation 90 percent of the entering freshmen class will be conversationally functional in Spanish.
- Upon graduation 90 percent of the entering freshmen class will have a thorough understanding of Media and be proficient in print, TV, radio broadcasting and web design.

Upon graduation 90 percent of the entering freshmen class will be proficient in Microsoft Office and desktop publishing applications.

Mandela High School:

Mandela High’s vision is a rigorous academic environment where students become articulate, skilled, active, caring critical thinkers. We believe all students, given adequate time, effort, discipline and support, will be able to read, write and speak in both English and the language of mathematics at a level that will allow them to enter college fully prepared for the academic work required.

Paul Robeson College Preparatory School of Visual and Performing Arts:

The Paul Robeson College Preparatory School of Visual and Performing Arts is designed to provide every student with the opportunity to gain the academic skills necessary to excel beyond high school and gain admissions to post-secondary institutions and/or acquire entry skills for various careers. Academic success will be achieved because each student’s learning modality is a significant aspect to the school’s philosophy of teaching. We envision an arts school that incorporates the three styles of learning—auditory, visual and kinesthetic—consistently and in combination to reach all three types of learners. This implementation will be done through a high quality comprehensive, culturally dynamic, sequential and standards-based curriculum providing integrated visual and performing arts opportunities for all students. In a positive unified partnership that utilizes the creativity and self-expression of an urban multicultural community, students will have real-world connections, community audiences, management skills and a transformative educational experience.

YES, Youth Empowerment School:

YES believes that students must look at the world through many different eyes, identify problems that they want to solve, and build a plan that will change the community in a way that is meaningful. What students like about this program is that they can show how they have learned math, English, history, and technology skills in their projects that are designed by the students! If students want to open a hip hop studio, design a teen center, run a

program to sell lunch specials, build a park or whatever they see their community needing...they do it and create their own real world education through real world experience.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff is recommending that the Board approve the Superintendent's request to open eleven NSA schools from 2003-2005 in accordance with the New Small Autonomous School Policy. ACORN Woodland Elementary School, MetWest High School, The San Antonio Multicultural School and Think College Now will open as New Small Autonomous Schools for the 2003-2004 school year. College Preparatory and Architecture Academy, Media College Preparatory School, Mandela High School, Paul Robeson College Preparatory School of Visual and Performing Arts, and YES, Youth Empowerment School will open as the first five New Small Autonomous Interconnected Schools for the 2003-2004 school year and will comprise the Fremont Federation of College Preparatory High Schools. East Oakland Community High School and EnCompass Academy will open for the 2004-2005 school year.

In accordance with the NSAS policy, these schools will be revenue neutral and will adjust their financials based on fiscal conditions of the district as those are outlined. Each school's final approval to open will be contingent upon staff's approval of the team's Implementation Plan, a site and the signing of an Autonomy for Accountability Compact.

**New Small Autonomous Schools and New Small Autonomous Interconnected Schools
Board of Education Meeting
March 26, 2003**

Schools to Open in 2003-2004

NSAS Design Team Name	Opening date	Location	Enrollment (Year 1)	Grades in Year 1	Grade Level
ACORN Woodland Elementary School	Open as small traditional school—NSAS Fall 2003	Woodland portables; will be at Woodland/EnCompass site	253	K-5	K-5
MetWest High School	Open as independent study program—NSAS Fall 2003	Laney College and independently funded non-district site*	64 (now 32)	9	HS
The San Antonio Multicultural School (formerly Franklin West)	Fall 2003	Located within Franklin Elementary School	80	K-3	K-5
Think College Now	Fall 2003	Cesar Chavez campus*	120	K-2	K-5

NSAIS Design Team Name (all part of Fremont Federation of College Preparatory High Schools)	Opening date	Location	Enrollment (Year 1)	Grades in Year 1	Grade Level
College Preparatory and Architecture Academy	Fall 2003	Fremont	416	9-12	HS
Mandela High School	Fall 2003	Fremont	256	9-10	HS
Media College Preparatory School	Fall 2003	Fremont	384	9-12	HS
Paul Robeson College Preparatory School of Visual and Performing Arts	Fall 2003	Fremont	416	9-12	HS
YES, Youth Empowerment School	Fall 2003	Fremont	128	9	HS

NSA Schools to Open in 2004-2005

NSAS Design Team Name	Opening date	Location	Enrollment (Year 1)	Grades in Year 1	Grade Level
East Oakland Community High School	Fall 2004	TBD*	100	9	HS
EnCompass Academy	Fall 2004	Woodland/EnCompass site	120	K-3	K-5

*Site still needs to be finalized.