

Chaparral Complex: Community Forum
March 20, 2008
Community Discussion Groups

1. Aztec, Zuni, Cheyenne, DCES, Hohokam, Navajo, Pima, DCMS
 2. Communicate classroom capacity accurately with special programs up thru grade 8
 - Gifted
 - PE
 - Panda
 - Preschool
 - Etc!
 3. Desert Canyon becomes K-8 (using both campuses) to include new preschool
 - Aztec continues thematic instruction
 - Zuni becomes K-8 but remains with specials programs up thru grade 8
 4. By making these schools K-8, they can feed to separate high schools
 5. Move 6-8 Cheyenne to Desert Canyon MS or Mountainside MS – let them create houses for different philosophies
 6. All K-8s use DCMS on rotating schedule
 7. Cheyenne (K-5) remains on their campus for next year!!
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Market the variety and choices offered within SUSD

- Traditional
- Collaborative theme-based learning
- 21st century model school already exists – Aztec

Ensure fair treatment of special needs students/families

- Avoid adverse impact of protected class (e.g. handicapped)

Current process pitting schools/communities against one another

- Process leads to local and not district-wide solutions
 - No one school is more important than another!!!
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Make all elementary school in the Desert Mountain Complex K-6, middle 7-9, and HS 10-12.

This would alleviate the overcrowding at DMHS, fill elementary and middle schools, and allows MMR students to attend DMHS. *No need to build new facilities.

Aztec becomes K-8, Zuni K-8

Desert Canyon becomes K-8 at the Desert Canyon Complex

Cheyenne K-8 moves to Desert Canyon Complex (1 @ MS, 1 @ ES – share the gym)

Benefits

- Fills 3 schools (Aztec, Zuni, and Desert Canyon (instead of 2
 - No need to build a gym
 - No over capacity schools
 - Empties Cheyenne campus saving \$950,000/year
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Get a state university (maybe NAU) who doesn't have a valley campus to bring a teacher cohort to rent rooms on a campus. These education students do practicums and student teaching on that campus. This would generate additional income and future teachers to the district.

1. Re-draw boundaries for high schools and feeder schools (MMR)
 2. Because of budget requirements, school closings are preferable to program cuts
 3. Elementary-Middle-HS feeder patterns continuous – no splits
 4. Convert additional K-8 traditional school choice school in Granite Reef area
 5. Leave Cheyenne alone in budget analysis. Put Cheyenne on future bond to address specific program needs.
 6. If a school is closed and relocated, what are the specific plans to address facility shortcomings and honor teaching styles of proposed closed school?
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Generate money by selling existing property that SUSD owns like the empty warehouse and the bus lots.

Utilize gated school campuses for buses instead of bus lots.

Consider starting the school year after Labor Day and conclude school year in June. *Savings in electricity.

Save money by discontinuing bus services to a choice school. Treat as open enrollment and have parents drive.

Decentralize district staff by selling SUSD Ed building and having staff occupy campus locations that have underutilized space.

Benefits

- District administrators would be on campus actually seeing what life is like for students, teachers, and parents. *Saves on utilities and upkeep and utilizes unused space. *Gives principals and teachers access to district administration on a daily basis.
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DCMS/DCES = K-8 @ DCES

- Cheyenne → DCMS campus
- Aztec and Zuni both K-8 (on existing campuses)
- Cheyenne and Desert Canyon both K-8 – share gym = \$3 mil savings for district

Review ALL SUSD facilities

- Use
- Sales/lease options

Allow each complex to decide its own middle school strategies

SUSD to immediately provide methodologies and assumptions used for capacity calculations to the entire community to ensure fact-based decision making

Convert some elementary school to K-8

Make Pima traditional

Closing an Excelling school will decrease enrollment

Look for more ways to increase enrollment; increase class size by one student district-wide = \$1 mil (approximately) = fewer teachers

Consider K-8 before renovating schools

Review philosophies for education to determine if program working for the community. Do you need to change or replicate a philosophy?!

Review how facility utilization is calculated. Define how the calculation is done!

Will there be special use classrooms left with the school consolidations? i.e. music, computers, art, gym, library, etc.

District partnerships with corporations and companies. Use roof space as revenue generator
“going green” solar panels.

Eliminate Galileo

- Saving SUSD \$1 mil +/-year

Decentralize SUSD administration and Ed Center to under-utilized buildings

Solutions/Suggestions/Ideas

Boundary adjustments

- Back utilities bill

Lease extra space to other school programs

- State-funded special needs

Move district offices to central unused Scottsdale location

Lease out current district offices

Sell all real estate and lease back

Short term solutions may cause long-term problems

- \$ value
- Potential increased N. Scottsdale enrollment

Consolidate some schools

- Aztec/Zuni K-8/DC/Copper Ridge

Revenue generating ideas

- Increase CTS (Cheyenne) capacity to accommodate wait list
 - Capitalize on what works – don’t let wait list go unfilled
- Change school calendar
- Open traditional HS – take from private schools
- More Community Schools programs

Cheyenne specific

- Maintain integrity of highly successful program → traditional, K-8
- Permanent SAFE buildings
- Remodel for size
- Keep in N. Scottsdale
- Traditional HS

Programs

- Keep option of different programs in Scottsdale
 - Aztec – school of choice???
- Maintain self-contained gifted
- Spanish in MS 6th-7th-8th

Share the hurt – not just elementary schools

1. Find alternate use for SUSD offices in Phoenix Ed Building. Move offices to fill local under-utilized space in schools where they could be more convenient and accessible.
 2. Sell Phoenix property and building or rent to generate income.
 3. Consider other uses for Bus Parking Lot (park buses on campuses) and for storage facility.
 4. Original 4 proposals disrupt entire community when there are other money-making options to consider first!
 5. Full capacity Aztec/Zuni merge will not support “ITI” philosophy and not allow for open enrollment.
Solution: Aztec and Zuni K-6 (DCES → fill Aztec and Zuni), Cheyenne → DCES & DCMS (has gym and lab space)
OR all schools K-8
OR middle school 7-9 and high school 10-12 (allows for open enrollment and reduces overcrowding)
 6. Detrimental to move Special Ed children!!
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1. Merging Aztec and Zuni would be filled to capacity which would not allow for open enrollment. No open enrollment = no additional money for SUSD
 2. Can all elementary schools become K-6?
 3. Are you reconfiguring grade levels at the school? i.e. 7 + 8 + 9 for middle school
 4. Generate revenue from private industry
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Public Comments

What do you value most about Scottsdale schools?

- Quality of teachers
 - Small class sizes
 - Art/music/PE etc. opportunities
 - Strong academic programs and test scores
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The education my child receives, including curriculum and class ratios.

ITI, gifted strategies used for many different types of students

- Programs, i.e. music, sports, art, specials, etc.
 - Teachers
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I value the level of quality education, teacher experience/dedication, safe environment, staff care, and learning processes and methods. More schools should be trained – if Cheyenne's at capacity, obviously there's a demand!

Teachers and Lois Healey's staff (Special Ed)

Teachers/class size/counselors

Respect of various school philosophies

The teachers and competent school administrators

- Open enrollment
 - Traditional school K-8 (Cheyenne) located nearby my house
 - Excelling schools
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Choice! ITI philosophy (brain compatible learning). I moved to the district in 1994 for Aztec's philosophy and am still involved in the community at Aztec with a 1st grader.

Very happy with ITI

The ability to attend a traditional school of choice which focuses on academics

What recommendation(s) do you suggest?

Whatever you do, please consider funding to rebuild Cocopah Middle School at some point soon. It is just as decrepit as Cheyenne!

- Close Zuni. Zuni students attend Laguna, Anasazi, Aztec, etc.
 - Move self-contained gifted to Aztec.
 - Move district office to Zuni
 - Sell land where current Ed Center sits
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- I'm OK with being on the Zuni campus as long as it's not too crowded and we can keep ITI, gifted services.
 - In one plan, middle school students would be moved to elementary campuses. Given that library funds are being cut across the state, what plans does the district have to update library and fitness resources for those students?
 - What happens to the preschools on these elementary campuses? Are we OK with losing that money?
 - If Anasazi is full and considering moving their preschool to a portable, why does an open enrollment banner hang in front of the school? Why was Aztec's open enrollment shut down for a couple of weeks recently?
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Without repeating – all of us have to keep our children's best education in mind – we all have to make a sacrifice.

If Cheyenne were to physically move, it HAS to maintain the traditional model AND have room for K-8 – no exceptions! If it were not to happen, I'd withdraw my child from SUSD. Cheyenne's doing it right!

1. Give Cheyenne room for K-8 and with a gym
 2. Combo Zuni and Aztec, if needed
 3. Look at adding more at Laguna as they have lots of room
 4. Consider capacities and needs at Desert Canyon MS and ES, and move/combo one K-8 there, if needed
 5. Do not jeopardize anything at Cheyenne as it's working right!
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The Board's highest priority should be preserving the strengths of Scottsdale School District by focusing on keeping the following schools open:

1. Highest Performing (Excelling) – Highest Priority. Should receive the most support.
 2. Highest number of students compared to capacity.
 3. Those that bring in the most open enrollment students. (To keep numbers high and make up for district residential losses.)
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Close the 8/7 grade middle schools. Move Kiva to Mohave (Kiva does not have enough room for 6th and 7th.) Close Cheyenne (it's not a neighborhood school) and send them back to their home schools.

Schools should not accept students under open enrollment if they will exceed facility capacity. What about double sessions for overcrowded schools?

Leave Cheyenne as is for now and address in future bonds for Cheyenne's specific needs.

Do not close Pima Elementary, which is an Excelling Title I school.

If the SUSD consolidates Zuni and Aztec, will there be enough room/space for the combined enrollment?

If the SUSD moves Cheyenne to either Zuni or Aztec's current space, will the new location be able to sufficiently accommodate Cheyenne's enrollment?

I think it would have been helpful had Dr. Baracy reviewed the Blue Ribbon Committee's recommendations at the Chaparral Complex meeting. There is a significant number of families that cannot receive the Scottsdale Republic due to the newspaper's circulation guidelines. Therefore, we are not fully aware of the plan.

- Rebuild Cheyenne to accommodate current students and wait list students
 - Make Cheyenne K-12
 - Share the hurt with the middle schools and high schools. Why are there just a few elementary schools being targeted?
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- Beware of moving Special Ed programs. Children will suffer!
 - Cheyenne move to DCES and DCMS – already has a gym and science labs. Filter DCES into Zuni and Aztec. Make Zuni and Aztec K-6, if necessary.
 - All elementary schools K-6, MS 7-9, HS 10-12.
 - Zuni and Aztec K-8 to fill space.
 - Other money from Ed building in Phoenix or storage facility or bus parking area.
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Almost went to a private school but chose Aztec. We don't want to lose any more students to private schools.

- How about moving Zuni students to Aztec and making Zuni an additional traditional school (since Cheyenne seems to be very popular). Maybe that could pull additional students into the Scottsdale public school system.
- Why sell property (Cheyenne) if another high school is so desperately needed, especially when real estate is in a slump?

As much as I don't want to move schools, I want a long term solution because we don't want to move/close again.

- Consider calendar change to decrease energy costs
 - Consolidate schools if it would be cost effective
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