

**Saguaro Complex Community Forum**  
**April 21, 2008**  
**Community Discussion Groups**

1. IB program needed at Saguaro
    - a. For marketing purposes – market to the community!
  2. Sierra Vista successful based on parent experiences. Keep open!
    - a. Current Saguaro students opposed to it
  3. Increase magnet offerings
  4. Reduce administrators positions at the District level
  5. More marketing needed to a wider population. New image needed. Let us hear more success stories.
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- Make Cheyenne a school-within-a-school by relocating as traditional strands to schools that are under-utilized.
  - Sell Cheyenne building (or rent for income)
  - Keep gifted program at Zuni – better freeway accessibility than Cherokee
  - Don't close Sierra Vista – don't put kids back into a system they weren't successful in
  - Put Science/Math Academy at Saguaro but use existing Saguaro teachers
  - Put an additional IB program at Saguaro
  - Move Ed Center to Cheyenne -- dollars realized would be greater than at Cheyenne site (it would make Ed Center centrally located)
  - Zuni proposes to increase enrollment by expanding the preschool program, put an IB program (natural progression of gifted high achieving students), institute a Wellness Academy, K-6, offer an autism program (pay for IB by grants)
  - Bring in money by making Saguaro a performing arts magnet school
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Idea #1: Take/move children in a middle school (6-7-8 grade) and keep them at their elementary school (K-8) to increase number of students at low enrollment elementary schools. For example, Kiva has wanted to be through 8<sup>th</sup> grade for some time.

Idea #2: Add or move an IB program at Saguaro. This could relieve/lower the population at Desert Mountain and increase the numbers at Saguaro.

Idea #3: Leave the gifted program at Zuni! This campus allows easy access for all students.

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- In favor of bringing Science/Math Academy to Saguaro – more centrally located in SUSD – which might also encourage families to return to Saguaro neighborhood, increasing enrollment at all complex schools.
- Gifted program is doing well at Pima. Leave it alone. Leave it at Pima.
- Sell Ed Center – high value real estate. (Not in Scottsdale community.) Move Ed Center to Navajo, a school with corridors, conducive to a business.

- Navajo students would need to be shifted to Pueblo and other elementary schools.
  - How to save money:
    - Stop getting into lawsuits
    - Use community volunteers to tutor during school day, which could keep students in school, not dropping out
    - Contest on each campus to find ways to save money, notice ways to be environmentally efficient, save utility costs – monthly prizes
    - Beef up what each high school excels at, magnet school aspect, advertise to draw other students
    - More hands-on vocational training on each campus
    - Increase class sizes (consider this) by maximizing each class
    - Promote self-contained gifted program
    - Quit paying for all these studies by consultants; you don't seem to act on what you have learned – you take too long to make a decision and by the time you act, a new decision needs to be made
    - Explore value of disconnecting from EVIT
    - Sierra Vista to stay on SVA campus AND increase number of students served – many students need an alternate educational setting
    - IB program centrally located in district – Saguario – would be a great site
    - Bring more vocational programs to our high schools
    - Desert Canyon and Copper Ridge configured as one middle school, allowing one of those campuses/complexes to become another high school
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- IB program to Saguario
  - Traditional school-within-a-school
  - Math/Science Academy to Saguario. We need to boost enrollment of high achievers in order to fill upper level classes.
  - No Sierra Vista relocation – security issues!
  - Move district offices to Mohave – make Kiva, Navajo, and Pueblo K-8
  - Offer K-8 schools throughout the district
  - Do not balance boundaries that encourage social engineering (sep. wealthy and redeveloping areas)
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1. Fill enrollment vacancies with Copper Ridge Math/Science program
  2. Sierra Vista students should not fill vacancies because their needs will not be fulfilled in a mainstream school with high enrollment. Could result in lower academic standards and thus lower test scores.
  3. Intensify performing arts program to encourage crowded high schools' students (Desert Mountain) to enroll at Saguario
  4. Move IB program to Saguario to be taught by Saguario teachers
  5. Redistrict MMR to Desert Mountain as their home high school.
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- Have students in classroom longer during cold months.
- Implement solar – more “green” energy generated.
- Have schools slated for “rebuilt” simply built ↑ a second story.
- Utilize more ASU student teachers.
- Keep teachers happy so they stay longer, which keeps parents happy – “consistency”.

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Give people a reason to choose our schools:

- Self-contained gifted
- Before and after school program
- Only Excelling elementary in South Scottsdale

[www.protectpima.com](http://www.protectpima.com)

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1. Math/Science Academy to Saguaro campus
    - a. Don’t need separate staff – already at SHS
    - b. SHS in center of district
  2. To increase enrollment in SUSD vs. private school options, offer a K-8 school option or K-5 and 6-8. Many parents moving kids to K-8 due to middle schools having less community, momentum/runway to make impact.

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1. Math/Science Academy at Saguaro
  2. Keep Sierra Vista in present location
  3. Keep class sizes at current level
  4. K-8 schools (just south?) (optional MS @ Mohave?)
  5. IB program at Saguaro
  6. More AP & Honors classes at high school
  7. Move District office to central location at low enrollment schools
  8. Pima, Hohokam, Tonalea, and Yavapai convert to K-8
  9. Keep Pueblo increasing enrollment through Language Immersion
  10. Move Supai students to K-8
  11. Bring back technical ed and voc-tech programs
  12. Make Saguaro a performing arts magnet

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- Hohokam pre-K-8
  - Change/adjust all boundaries – even out facility usage across the district
  - Aztec – Zuni – Cheyenne – something has to give. K-8 or consolidate
  - Rent out district office – decentralize departments to under-utilized schools (like they already have begun – SVA, MDA)
  - Market the Granite Reef corridor. Aggressively market:
    - Pima – Excelling

- Pueblo – Immersion – Dual Language
  - Navajo – Math & Science
  - Hohokam – Traditional
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- Keep Sierra Vista in high school present location. It serves many students well and SUSD can't move it – Saguaro would not be a good fit!
  - Math/Science Academy to Saguaro campus!
  - Keep the middle schools open! We don't want to lose the middle school philosophy. Make all middle schools 6-7-8.
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Education administration building – has its usage been evaluated?

Love K-8 idea for the elementary schools. Important to emphasize special programs.

Market and promote before and after school programs to attract people who work in Scottsdale whose children could attend as out-of-district students.

Look at kindergarten enrollment to base future enrollment.

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- Stick with original plan – close Pima.
  - Extended school hours in winter
  - Partnership with SRP, APS for green technology (solar panels)
  - Stick with original plan to close school within the Granite Reef corridor
  - Move District offices on 44<sup>th</sup> Street to closed school or Paiute Center or an under-utilized school. (Lease the space.)
  - NO K-8. Don't believe the hype.
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Let's go K-8!

K-8 =

- Provides a true community – neighborhood school
  - Keeps students with the same friends, familiar teachers, and involved community
  - Have fewer discipline problems than middle schools/junior highs
  - Students have higher levels of achievement, better standardized test scores, increased self-esteem, leadership, and attitudes toward school
  - Students have more opportunities to play sports
  - Students avoid potentially difficult transitions during adolescence
  - ZERO student displacement
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- Look at using buses (routes) more effectively
  - Explain to people what “empty classroom” means. It is being used for:
    - Special ed programs
    - Reading programs
    - OT, speech
    - Etc.
  - If the classrooms are empty, tell the community before it reaches 40%
  - Why are double sets of textbooks acceptable?
  - Make SHS magnet school for Fine Arts program
  - Make sure special ed programs ARE NOT cut
  - Look at computer recycling for students that do not have a computer at home
  - What happened to looking at “private” sources for money to support the schools?
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- The Zuni self-contained program would like the opportunity to eventually double the program at Zuni.
  - The program has increased every year since 2005.
  - Our families with gifted children have many out-of-district school choices, i.e. BASIS, Sonoran Sky, Scottsdale Academy
  - Our families chose to relocate to the Zuni neighborhood/north Scottsdale knowing it would feed to the Desert Canyon MS self-contained program and to the Desert Mountain HS IB program.
  - Our program is working at Zuni, it doesn't need to change!
  - To fill one of the empty rooms at Zuni, relocate the district gifted department offices to Zuni
  - As the gifted program continues to grow, it will fill the few empty classrooms at Zuni with the gifted students and their siblings.
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#### “NO K-8”

- K-5, 6-8, HS is preferred
  - Schools can be better tailored to distinct age groups
  - Security is less of a concern
  - Changing schools exposes kids to different teachers/facilities/opportunities
  - Provides a gradual transition to HS
  - Don't expose kindergartners to 8<sup>th</sup> grade troubles!
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- Install solar power on schools to reduce utility bills and provide education opportunities. Can be used as a revenue stream during summertime.
- Students are attracted to Fine Arts program at Saguaro
- Do not combine Honors and AP classes. Keeps schools attractive.
- Keep foreign language classes separate, small. Students able to excel!
- Leave Sierra Vista alone – it works!

- These attract out-of-district enrollment. Power of 1%.
  - Reallocate the salaries
    - Cut at top
    - Give to teachers' salary
  - Science/Math Academy moved to Saguaro and IB program implemented at Saguaro also
  - Keep middle school education – NOT K-8
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- No K-8
  - Move Math/Science Academy to Saguaro
    - Reduce transportation costs
    - More centrally located in district
    - Move HS age kids out of elementary/middle school environment
  - Sierra Vista Academy
    - School and program built specifically for its students
    - SVA students doing well and happy where they are
    - SVA is a model program
  - Establish IB program at Saguaro
    - Increase enrollment
    - Less kids leaving district for private/charter schools
    - Central for all kids south of Shea
    - Builds on Saguaro's strong academic offerings
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- K-8 neighborhood schools
    - Encourages parents to keep their kids enrolled in SUSD elementary schools
    - Fewer discipline problems
    - Reinforces high school feeder patterns
    - Better test scores
  - Remodel SUSD elementary schools
    - Will make these schools more attractive to open enrollment families outside the district
  - Move Math/Science Academy to Saguaro
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K-8

[www.protectpima.com](http://www.protectpima.com) (We have our option input listed)

- K-8 configuration provides a true community—neighborhood school.
- K-8 schools keep students with the same friends, familiar teachers, and involved community.
- K-8 schools have fewer discipline problems than middle schools.
- K-8 students show higher levels of achievement in math and reading, better scores on standardized tests, and higher GPAs.

- K-8 students have higher attendance rates, display better self-esteem, leadership, and attitudes toward school.
  - K-8 - more students will have opportunities to play team sports.
  - K-8 students avoid potentially difficult transitions during adolescence.
  - K-8 - zero student displacement.
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- Provide more AP and Honors classes to attract outside enrollment and keep district students here
  - Desert Mountain HS not to exceed designed capacity
  - More K-8 schools
  - An IB program at Saguaro to increase enrollment
  - Move Math/Science Academy to Saguaro
    - More central access to all the district
    - Would increase open enrollment to Saguaro
    - Saguaro science teachers would support academy
    - Strong Science Department at Saguaro
    - Provide busing
  - Keep buses in MMR to Saguaro
  - Leave Sierra Vista where it is – it's doing so much good!
  - On a regular schedule, redraw boundary lines by number. It will be painful x1 year.
  - Our Board needs the intestinal fortitude to make the tough decisions.
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Tonalea:

- Education is very good
  - Excellent teachers
  - My children have attended this school for more than 20 years
  - Location is very safe. Children can walk to school without problems.
  - The special kids receive very good therapy and care
  - Teachers are very respectful
  - Teaching is excellent
  - They help the kids to do their homework after school
  - Parents are able to help the school; we volunteer to help in the school
  - We need all together to support Tonalea
  - We have very efficient teachers
  - Provide very good education
  - School close to our homes
  - There is not discrimination or racial issues
  - We have good transportation
  - Location is very safe for the students
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- Do not close Tonalea.
  - Please do not close Tonalea. This school is a good support for our children's education
  - Keep the school the way it is
  - Do not convert the school K-8
  - Kids in 7-8 grades have a different mentality; small kids will not be safe.
  - More sports programs
  - Better food in cafeteria
  - More education for the parents
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Tonalea:

- Happy children
  - Community help
  - Good formation for life
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- Please remodel Tonalea
  - Increase transportation services to bring more kids outside the District
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Tonalea:

- They have the best school of the Valley
- Good teachers
- Best school in the neighborhood
- Better goals for our children
- Good teaching
- Good services
- Good manners and morals