



DUSD: Addressing the Questions of Our Community

As we work to successfully manage challenges related to the rapid growth of our community, we know there are a number of issues of concern in our community. We have heard some frequently asked questions and would like to provide some answers here:

1. Are Dublin Schools overcrowded?

To make an official statement that the entire district is overcrowded is inaccurate. Although many of our schools in the east side of our community are full, and we have expanded capacity at sites with portables, we have available seats in our district at the middle and elementary schools west of Hacienda. We also have an empty school site on the west side of our community. The school board believes in neighborhood schools, and chose at this time not to change boundaries and/or divert many students to available seats. We recognize that we must add significant capacity to our district, preferably through neighborhood schools, in order to keep up with growth in our city. We continue to work through the Facilities Master Plan Committee and process to plan for those additions.

2. Has the district ever considered a second high school?

The district has never owned land for a second high school. Examination of historic documents over the last 15 years indicates the district was focusing its attention on acquiring land for and building a second middle school (Fallon Middle School). The best information available at the time showed there was sufficient capacity at Dublin High School to handle the high school needs in our district.

We understand the desire to know when and why this decision was made, but the bottom line is that today we must focus our attention and resources on high school options that meet our students' future needs while being fiscally responsible.

3. Why aren't we charging higher developer fees?

A review of surrounding school districts, including Fremont, Pleasanton, San Ramon, Castro Valley and Livermore all indicate that Dublin developer fees are in line with what is charged in those communities.

Fees assessed to developers are not set arbitrarily. They are determined based on legally established formulas, referred to as Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3. The district is charging the maximum amount of developer fees allowed by law, which is currently Level 2.

We are moving ahead with a new School Facilities Needs Analysis (SFNA), and anticipate that the district's Level 2 fees may increase as a result.

We are also reaching out to the State Allocation Board (SAB), the state agency that approves the level of developer fees. We are requesting that the issue of developer fees be agendaized at their next meeting. Our aim is to request that the SAB raise fees to Level 3, a decision that has heretofore not been made by that agency.

4. Is the district open to building a new high school now?

Absolutely. Updated demographic data shows the need for a second high school on the east side of our community, and we all agree that thoroughly exploring that option is of paramount importance. That is the process taking place in the Facilities Master Plan Committee.

We hear the strong voices advocating for a comprehensive high school on the east side. Facts may bear out that this is the best solution. We want to explore all possibilities and make a decision that is best for students, today and tomorrow.

Examining innovative solutions does not mean we are dismissing the possibility of a comprehensive campus. It simply means we do not want to miss the opportunity to be forward-thinking and look beyond the traditional model we all know. Our students are worth a deep examination of options that might further expand our programmatic offerings and enhance 21st-Century learning.

5. Is it true the district is hiring a new demographer?

Yes. Per the Superintendent's recommendation and direction of the Board, the district has completed interviews for a new company to provide demographic services to the district. The contract for the new demographer will be brought to the January 26 Board meeting. Once approved, the successful company will begin work right away.