

NAPA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**7-11 District Advisory Committee
Report on Recommendations
Regarding Small School Closures and Consolidations**

**Presented to the Board of Trustees
on
October 15, 2019
Postponed and Rescheduled from
October 10, 2019**

NAPA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (“NVUSD”)

7-11 District Advisory Committee Report on Findings and Recommendations

On August 8, 2019, the Napa Valley Unified School District’s Board of Trustees (“Board”) convened a 7-11 District Advisory Committee to advise the Board on potential school closures and/or consolidations and on the use of real property no longer needed for school purposes. The Committee was formed pursuant to California Education Code Sections 17387-17391, and consists of the following members:

Barbara L. Franco, Chairperson
Arik Housley, Vice-Chairperson
Andrew Damron
Arvind Nischal
Eric E. Knight
Jamie Magana
Katie Garibaldi
Kay Vang
Laura R. Miller
Whitney Farris
Wendi Piscia

These members met the requirements stated in California Education Code Section 17389. The Board also selected the following alternate members: Emmett M. “Skip” Keyser III, J. Rangel Gonzales, Kerri Dorman, and Ted Ward.

Although the Alternates were invited to attend and observe the meetings, they did not participate in Committee discussion or deliberation. No Alternate was asked to stand in for a Committee member and, therefore, no Alternate cast a vote on the matters contained in this report.

The role of the Committee includes the following duties and tasks:

- Make a formal recommendation to the Board regarding potential small school closures/consolidations and possible uses for the property if any schools are closed. The four elementary school sites discussed by the Committee for potential closure included: Alta Heights Elementary School, Mt. George Elementary School, West Park Elementary School, and Yountville Elementary School.
- Consist of between 7 to 11 members, and be representative of the stakeholder community, including parents, teachers, District administrators, the business community, and those with expertise in environmental issues, land use law and land use planning.
- Receive and review attendance projections and school site capacity.

- Work with real property consultants retained by the District to identify potential uses of vacant campuses.
- Review and consider legal constraints on the use of the properties, as described in the California Education Code.
- Hold an initial organizing meeting on August 20, 2019, and then meet at least 3 additional times, or until the business of the Committee is completed.

The Committee met on August 20, September 3, September 17, and October 1, and allowed for public comment and input at each meeting. During these meetings, District staff presented information regarding the District's budget, financial status, historical enrollment analysis, projected enrollment trends, facilities capacity, and other policy considerations.

Based upon the information presented to the 7-11 District Advisory Committee, including public input received, the following recommendations are presented to the Board.

Committee Recommendations:

Yountville Elementary School (6554 Yount Street, Yountville, CA 94599)

The Committee recommends closure of this school. The Committee also recommends that Yountville Elementary School be consolidated with Willow Elementary Magnet School through an appropriate boundary adjustment to be approved by the District's Board and consistent with the following:

The community has expressed the desire to keep students together as much as possible and attempt to limit the impacts. The district will recommend consolidation of Yountville with Willow. The term Consolidation 2020-2021 will be used going forward. The term Consolidation 2020-2021 means that students who currently attend Yountville will be moved in our databases to Willow in one group regardless of if they attend Yountville as a resident of the Yountville boundary or attend via the open enrollment or intra district transfer process. If families don't want to attend Willow, they will need to participate in the Open Enrollment Process or opt to attend their home school. While students will be moved in a group, the assigned school based on a parent's physical address will only be changed for families that live in the current Yountville boundary. When students transition to Middle School, they will attend based on their residence address, but can change middle schools based on the open enrollment process. This plan is subject to board approval on October 24, 2019.

Mt. George Elementary School (1019 Second Avenue, Napa, CA 94558)

The Committee recommends closure of this school. The Committee also recommends that Mt. George Elementary School be consolidated with Alta Heights Elementary School through an appropriate boundary adjustment to be approved by the District's Board and consistent with the following:

The community has expressed the desire to keep students together as much as possible and attempt to limit the impacts. The district will recommend the consolidation of Mt. George with Alta Heights. We are going to use the term Consolidation 2020-2021 going forward. The term Consolidation 2020-2021 means that students who currently attend Mt. George will be moved in our databases to Alta Heights in one group regardless of if they attend Mt. George as a resident of the Mt. George boundary or attend via the open enrollment or intra district transfer process. If families don't want to attend Alta Heights, they will need to participate in the Open Enrollment Process or opt to attend their home school. While students will be moved in a group, the assigned school based on a parent's physical address will only be changed for families that live in the current Mt. George boundary. When students transition to Middle School, they will attend based on their residence address, but can change middle schools based on the open enrollment process. This plan is subject to board approval on October 24, 2019.

In addition to the above, the Committee recommends the following implementation measures related to school closure and consolidation:

- The Committee recommends that the Board of Education revise its Open Enrollment Policy to provide priority for students affected by school closures:
 - Original Language presented to the Committee by District staff: Students residing in the attendance area of a school that has been designated by the Board to close at the end of the current school year; and who either: (a) are currently attending the school designated for closure, or (b) in the following school year will be entering the earliest grade level of the school designated for closure.
 - Revised Language following feedback from the Committee: Students attending a school that has been designated by the Board to close at the end of the current school year; and who either: (a) are currently attending the school designated for closure, or (b) in the following school year will be entering the earliest grade level of the school designated for closure.
 - Additional recommendation: the Committee also recommends that District staff and/or transition teams associated with school closures and consolidations provide clear scenarios of how the Open Enrollment policy priorities will play out for students currently attending a school designated for closure versus students that would have attended such a school in the following school year.
- The Committee recommends that the Board of Education review the before and after school programs that support the additional students that will be coming to them via Mt. George and Yountville Elementary School. The Committee values the afterschool programs and strongly recommends that the Napa Valley Unified School District staff work with community agencies and work to ensure that the programs continue, because of the value of these programs to the students. The Committee also recommends that each program at Alta Heights and Willow Elementary School are able to absorb the increase of the programs due to the

increase in enrollment.

- The Committee recommends that the Board of Education have staff develop and facilitate a process for the consolidated school at Alta Heights to determine the instructional program, to include consideration of the International Baccalaureate Program.
- The Committee recommends that transportation be provided to resident students of Yountville Elementary School to and from Willow Elementary School.
- The Committee recommends that transportation be provided to resident students of Mt. George Elementary School to and from Alta Heights Elementary School.

The Committee is not recommending closure of either Alta Heights Elementary School or West Park Elementary School at this time.

This report contains recommendations related to potential closure and/or consolidation of small schools, only. The Committee has not yet had the opportunity review and consider all relevant information regarding possible uses of property for the schools that may be closed. Any such recommendations will be presented to the Board in a separate report at a future date.

We, the members of the committee, appreciate the opportunity to serve the Board in this important activity. We hope this report will assist the Board with its decisions regarding the District.

Respectfully submitted,
Napa Valley Unified School District 7-11 Advisory Committee