Franklin School PTA

A K-8 Core Knowledge® School

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https://franklin.csd509j.net

May 8, 2017

Franklin Families:

(Want to skip the details? Head straight to the bottom line at the end! ☺)

Some of you have been following what the Facilities Planning Committee has been discussing over the past few months. Here is a brief summary to catch everyone up. The FPC has been meeting to better understand current circumstances of our schools and come up with a detailed bond to add to the May 2018 ballot. Although that date is far off, the committee is only meeting two more times (May 10 and June 6), and will be presenting its proposed bond to the superintendent in June. Due to the age of our Franklin building and the amount and cost of needed repairs, the committee will need to make a recommendation to either close Franklin, repair Franklin, or relocate Franklin.

At the last meeting on April 25th, Superintendent Ryan Noss distributed a thick packet of about 45 letters from Franklin families devoted to Franklin (thank you to everyone who contributed!!). After this, the meeting outlined several options for the committee to explore. The plans included details for many other schools as well, but as pertains to us:

Plan 1: Traditional: Keep Franklin in its current location, address critical upgrades
Plan 2: New Elementary Schools: Move Franklin to Mountain View
Plan 3: Grade Reconfiguration: Keep Franklin at its location, address critical upgrades

The FPC leaned heavily toward Plan 2, which builds a new elementary school for Mountain View next to Cheldelin and moves Franklin to the former Mountain View site. It seems to come from the perspective that the Franklin building is old and eventually, even if it received critical repairs now, that the problem of an old building would need to be addressed in the future (10 years from now is what was said), and that by moving us to Mountain View at least the Franklin program would be preserved. There is also a strong pull to use the Franklin land for CHS field use, which is the plan if Franklin is closed/relocated.

Several parents have been considering the effects of such a dramatic change in location, including:

- Distance from where most students live. Inconvenient commute for parents for drop off/pick up assuming no bus system.
- Exclusion of families who do not have the flexibility or resources to drive their kids to Mountain View campus from the Corvallis core area and south Corvallis, attendance areas with higher numbers of economically disadvantaged families.
- Likely loss of parent volunteers due to inconvenient commute. Franklin parents have volunteered over 1,600 hours during the 2016-2017 school year.
- Loss of 8th graders' access to CHS higher level math instruction

A parent has compiled data and graphs arguing for the continuation of Franklin due to its excellence and arguing for either retaining Franklin at its current location or if relocation is unavoidable to relocate it to a more central location, such as the Harding site.

This letter will be presented and distributed to the members of the FPC near the beginning of their May 10th meeting this week. **If you would like to add your name in support of this letter, please email Laura Peterson (Lpeterson27@icloud.com) by Tuesday, 12:00 pm to add your name.** In addition, if you would like to add your name to a list serve dedicated to information regarding facilities updates, please add your email address. You do not have to include your email address in order to add your name in support of the letter. If you would like to receive an email copy of the letter being submitted, please send your request to Laura Peterson at Lpeterson27@icloud.com.

Bottom Line:

If you are concerned about the potential relocation of Franklin to Mountain View and would like to add your name in support of a letter expressing specific concerns, please email Lpeterson27@icloud.com by Tuesday, 5/9, before noon.

Very warm regards,

Laura Peterson
Franklin PTA President
Lpeterson27@icloud.com