

RINCON VALLEY UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Study Session/Discussion
District Office, 1000 Yulupa Avenue
October 30, 2019

AGENDA

The Rincon Valley Union School District complies with ADA requirements and upon request, will attempt to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in appropriate alternative formats (pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.2). Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact the Rincon Valley Union School District at 542-7375, 48 hours prior to the meeting.

1. OPEN SESSION/CALL TO ORDER **2:30 p.m.**

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

3. PUBLIC AND EMPLOYEE REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

This time is reserved for citizens, employees, and representatives of school groups to address the Board on items that are not on the agenda. By law, the Board cannot take action upon or discuss items that are not on the approved agenda, but welcomes your comments. Persons addressing the Board are requested to state their names and whether or not they are a resident of the district. The Board President reserves the right to limit comments from the public as well as limit the total number of minutes used on any one topic.

If you wish to address the Board on any item on the agenda, please make your request at the time the item is being discussed. Persons wanting to address the Board will be recognized and requested to state their name and whether or not they are a resident of the district. The Board President will also reserve the right to limit comments as well as limit the total number of minutes used on any agenda item

4. INFORMATION

4.1 Board Governance

The Board will continue discussion regarding Board Governance with consultant, Babs Kavanaugh.

--Ms. Babs Kavanaugh

4.2 Superintendent Evaluation Process

The Board will review the process for the Superintendent's Evaluation led by consultant, Babs Kavanaugh.

--Ms. Babs Kavanaugh

5. ACTION

4:30 p.m.

5.1 California Dashboard Local Indicators

Board of Trustees will discuss the California Dashboard local indicators to be reported to the state.

--Mr. Mike Herfurth

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Rincon Valley Charter School and Spring Creek Matanzas Reconfiguration

The Board will review all information to date including the data from the October 10 community meeting regarding the possible reconfiguration of RVCS and Spring Creek Matanzas.

--Ms. Tracy Smith

7. ADJOURN

***Rincon Valley Union School District
Board of Trustees
Agenda Item Summary***

Meeting Date: **October 30, 2019**

Agenda Item: **Action Item 5.1**

Subject: **California Dashboard Local Indicators**

Submitter: **Mr. Mike Herfurth, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction**

The California Dashboard system measures both status and change in each of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) priority areas, which are each addressed in our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The updated California School Dashboard is scheduled to be released to the public in December, 2019 and will include the local indicators.

The submission of our local indicators is still in progress and will be reported during the meeting.

Attachments: *None*

Fiscal Impact: None

Recommendation: For approval

RVCS Staff Input Reconfiguration

September 2019

Questions/Thoughts

- Will we have a remodel so the facilities are appropriate for the size of our students and will they accommodate a larger population? \$
- Are the resources available to repurpose/create a “true” middle school campus? Or will we have to use elementary school supplies—desks, chairs, etc.?
- What will happen if we end up overstaffed after we merge? Will we have to teach elementary? Eek!
- How many staff members would be let go/relocated due to the merge, and who would most likely be moved?
- What happens when/if we merge—do Sequoia teachers move into the elementary classrooms?
- Before RVCS Matanzas opened, there were “Phase 1 -3” blueprints of our campus. They showed a multi-media space. Is this still a viable plan if we expand?
(Same with Matanzas...facility on field behind office)
- Will teachers/staff have to reapply for their jobs?
- How will staffing decisions be made?
- currently one office staff reconciling up to 9 periods a day per student. What would office/support staff look like?
- Has a decision already been made? It feels like it has already been decided.
- Adding 6th grade?
- Need large staff for large campus—not just deleting duplicates
- What about changes in population and impact on staff?
-duplicate positions
- Marketing? \$\$available to market current model?
- Why can't we send out a poll? Why did you send your student here?
- What are the expected changes/shifts for support staff (RSP, speech, counselors, office staff, etc.)?
- How/who will make curriculum decisions (projects) for each department?
- Some people will not be for or against it until things like facilities, staffing, size... are decided.
- Will we still teach multi-subject or will we need single subject credential? If so, will RVUSD sponsor schooling?

What are the cons?

- Some families and students like smaller campuses, feel more comfortable.
- Loss of small school feel
- Loss of identity
- Loss of strong culture built at each site
- K-8 niche
- Not knowing all the kids But we will!
- We will no longer be small and able to develop relationships with every student.
- Some people will lose jobs
- Farther away for some students
- Families may not travel from Sequoia side to Matanzas –RVMS an attractive easy option
- Lose my classroom
- Matanzas – lose Strawberry/Bennett Valley enrollment if add grade 6 – they may not want to be pulled from K-6 school.
- The demographics of both schools are so different there is no guarantee we would fill a combined school. The parent community should have input.
- A larger school would change the culture and mission of what we have already established.
- “Top heavy admin or office staff”
- Weaker ability to be flexible with curriculum decisions
- Feeling of one campus being more important than other
- Loss of staff-loss of community
- Departmentalize with wildly different materials, resources and curriculum
- Lose what makes up unique
- How will be any different from other options in the area?

What are the pros of combining campuses?

- More collaboration opportunities between staff (actual departments)
- New staff relationships and opportunities
- Can offer more, diverse options for electives and extra-curriculars
- More scheduling options
- Could departmentalize (ex. Humanities)
- If we have 5 sections, each teacher can handle 1 class
- Better resources—pool monies—combined resources
- Easier facilities use – don’t have to share/schedule around elementary
- More student for clubs/sports, etc
- If we combined with current number of students, we could maintain a “small school feel” compared to most surrounding middle schools.
- Create a new, stronger identity—change name

Pros continued...

- Middle school sized facilities, if built
- More space
- Bringing more students together across the community
- Maybe more students from SRFACS if combined at Matanzas
- Combined resources
- More staff allows more subject area specialization

The history of your school campuses

- Grassroots need for alternative middle school
- Need for small school
- Started by RVUSD 6th grade teachers/families
- Enrollment up and down for multiple years
- Each campus has a unique culture that draws different students with different needs/expectations
- Sequoia has been here for 15 years-well established in the community.
- Sequoia and Matanzas draws students who want an alternative to the larger anonymous middle school (small is key)
- Matanzas draws students looking to avoid some of the negative rep of Slater
- Matanzas has now built its reputation with staff based marketing, PBL, GRIT
- One year of increased interest=start Matanzas led to one year of decreased enrollment at Sequoia, then leveled out.
- First year of October open enrollment at RVCS Matanzas only 72 kids applied. 36 families turned away because of decision for 2 – 7th grade sections. Previous enrollment in January.
- This year 7th enrollment dropped drastically because of no after school program and 2 year fire anniversary. Families moved out of state.
- Once on a wait list, most families find an alternative
- Admin changes at Sequoia=uncertainty
- RVCS Matanzas had admin part-time first year/teachers (3) created the pieces we still use today: (GRIT)
- A lot of change in leadership at Sequoia--needs stability

RVCS Potential Campus Combining Input Parking Lot

All comments, questions, concerns welcome!

What about putting both of the middle schools at Spring Creek and making Matanzas a k-5 or k-6? Wouldn't the Spring Creek campus be a better size (rather than Matanzas) for the middle school, considering there will be a larger number of students at the elementary level? The middle school portables are perfect for K & 1.

What about selling the Oak Park property? Is there a planned future for this property? Rather than as an expensive storage facility?

The district should think about how this is potentially going to impact MANY schools and employees, not just Matanzas and RVCS. What about our RSP and SDC teachers? It is already extremely frustrating for SDC parents to constantly be moving their children around. This will likely affect classified staff as well. Our classified staff are the backbone of our schools. I agree! Matanzas is an amazing school which provides so many wonderful programs that help our kids understand how to be inclusive to ALL students on our campus.

It's important the district provide regular communication about anything happening around this subject. Already there are so many theories out there that instill fear around job and program security.

What is the future of RVP within the Matanzas/RVUSD community? This has been a tremendous addition to our Matanzas community. RVP students have to move around enough as it is. They are constantly being forced into transition. These students are the most negatively impacted by constant transition.

Would there be childcare? I know that both RVCS-M and Matanzas lost students due to the lack of affordable and on-site childcare.

Many students have come to the RVCS Middle Schools because of the small school environment and the tech based focus. How would this impact enrollment if the schools combined? The small, and intimate, atmosphere is what drew us to the Matanzas Middle School. If we had wanted a larger campus, we would have attended RVMS.

Location is also important. If we combined both RVCS Middle Schools onto either the Matanzas or Spring Creek Campuses as discussed, would families who live closer to Sequoia choose to leave RVUSD and send their children to Santa Rosa City Schools RVMS instead of driving them across town? *The partial answer to this is YES, the majority of students that feed into RVCS-Sq would choose RVMS over RVCS-Mt, sorry but that is the reality.*

What is the plan for funding for the necessary infrastructure of more classrooms, a dedicated middle school MPR?

On the RVCS-M site, the Main Office has no running water to wash hands or clean up after sick students come in, and does not have a bathroom. Are there plans to build a proper Main Office?

Wondering what staffing would look like? Would one office manager, one campus supervisor, one resource aid, one VP as well as other double staff be let go? How will the counseling program be impacted by this?

Resource Program: Would one RSP teacher be in charge of 7th Gr, and one 8th Gr, or would one RSP teacher be let go? Would the current push-in model continue with RSP Boost to handle Executive Function Needs and support with assignments?

If we become a 6th-8th School as a suggested option, would it be all grades switching classes and taught by core subject teachers or 6th as self-contained rooms, and 7th/8th moving from class to class? Will this impact all the 6th grade classrooms in our district?

Plans for necessary infrastructure and how to fund?

With teacher morale at an ***all time low***, I find it frustrating that the DO would choose to make a decision that impacts so many staff in a negative way. Matanzas is a very special community and it is heartbreaking to think that it will be destroyed because of a fiscal impact - especially when the district is doing so well and has ample reserves. It seems that Matanzas and Spring Creek are **ALWAYS** the 2 sites who are impacted the most when change "needs" to happen. YES. YES!!!!

If this change is going to happen, will the district announce what year they plan to start all 7th and 8th graders at the Matanzas Campus? Parents will want to know if they are enrolling a 7th grade student at Sequoia, if they will be able to graduate at that school as an 8th grader.

If this does indeed happen, there will be a lot of classified and certified employees bumping for positions in the district.

If this is happening, you have to have a gym/auditorium for these sized students. We can't play home matches for basketball now, as the size of the gym is too small. And the field will need a lot of work, as it is unsafe to play any outdoor sports. The 7th and 8th grade football team can't even play a home game the past two years, as it is unsafe to play.

RVP classes are very comfortable where they are, they should not be moved. This is an excellent point. RVP classrooms need to be on a campus with inclusive staff, empathetic administration, SAFETY (ex: the gate enclosure), and SPACE. As much as we want to believe

that all schools possess these traits, unfortunately they do not. Matanzas Elementary is an IDEAL spot for these children. YES!

The bathrooms would have to be completely remodeled. As I don't know how they operate now at Matanzas with 170 plus 7th and 8th graders - with bathrooms originally used for 2 to 3 kindergarten classes.

What will happen if/when enrollment goes up and how will this impact the schools that are going to be impacted the most? Enrollment is low throughout our county, however why aren't other districts closing any schools? In fact, Rohnert Park closed a few schools, put in other programs, and have since had to reopen those exact schools, displacing the other programs.

Is this a done deal, like all other proposed "Potential" ideas that have been presented in the past? My thoughts exactly. This is what happened when the music program was implemented. It was done very hastily with no regard for staff input. **Does Hannah being hired as principal for TWO schools mean that the decision is already made?** There is nothing worse than the district "pretending" that the stakeholders have a voice when the decision is already made. It is condescending not to treat us as professionals and tell us EXACTLY what is going on. We need time to prepare far in advance for the changes.

Matanzas WORKS! Why change something that is working? There are many campuses out there that aren't "working". We have a loving and supportive staff. There is no bickering, backstabbing, or one-upping. How many campuses can say that? Exactly. Matanzas is an exemplar school that many other schools should learn from. We have an inclusive staff. We have tremendously supportive/patient administration. Other schools DO NOT HAVE THIS. We need to stick together and serve as a model for other campuses. YES! I agree!! Why change a school that is working so well. The culture of our school is diverse and complex which has given our students insight and rich experiences that will carry over to the "real world." Changing this is NOT in the best interest of our students and their families.

IF these changes are being made the impact on staff will be huge. Morale was very low last year(s) and frustration and anxiety was high with months of staff not knowing what their jobs, positions and hours would be the following year. We are coming off of last year with lots of classified reductions in hours, PE Para's losing positions, and computer techs losing hours and being split. IF this happens I encourage the district to not have employees wait for months on end regarding decisions about what their jobs will be, the hours they will have, where they will work etc. and saying the jobs will remain the same isn't possible when you are looking at combining school and changing enrollment numbers. I don't think there is enough thought being put into what is honestly in the best interest of staff (ALL staff), students and their families. Parents make educational decisions based on many things, such as the size of the school, trusted staff members and their previous experiences and/or reputation of the school. Money \$\$\$ should not be the first priority when making this decision.

We were presented with data the enrollment was declining several years ago, yet, Oak Park was purchased, and it may always be a dark cloud over decision-making. This remains a thorn in the side of teachers and other community members. It seems very quick to move from purchasing Oak Park to consolidation of campuses to save money due to declining enrollment.

Input and feedback historically has felt like a "going through the motions activity" rather than true input. This has promoted distrust.

Scared to move to a different staff that is less harmonious.

Will the RVCS move result in decreasing enrollment at RVCS from Seq families? Would bussing be time-effective or efficient? Would middle school parents be willing to put their kids on a very early bus (7:00 am) to get to RVCS Matanzas?

Feels out of the blue that SC and M would be affected by this.

Could the money be spent on upgrading RVCS-M to house both RVCS and Matanzas?

Is the fact that we have increased K enrollment to 24 and have a full day decreased out enrollment?

Is it possible to move RVCS to the Spring Creek campus and make Matanzas the K-6?

Classified staff across the district will be greatly affected by this regarding bumping rights and so on. As soon as any decisions are made classified staff need to know how this will affect their jobs.

Staffing? How will this be resolved.

Should we be visioning when we don't know what the final decision is? Might be better for all to wait until the time comes.

Is the board putting fiscal needs above the needs of the specific students we serve at Matanzas? Matanzas does a great job of serving a challenging population. Is that recognized or appreciated by the board?

Will the district suffer with public if they are seen as putting money over people? Do we value fiscal responsibility over experienced teachers and staff? Are we supporting teachers and students in the way they need?

When morale is down, it will spread like a virus, and this decision if it goes forward will likely deplete morale farther.

My name is Erin Conrad. I have been a teacher in the district for 15 years, all of them at RVCS Sequoia. I was a teacher at RVCS before the designation "Sequoia" was necessary.

I come to you today to talk about the concept of combining the campuses to create one larger campus. I am not one to shy away from a challenge. I don't need things to stay the way they are because that's the way it's always been done. I enjoy facing new problems and engineering new solutions. That being said, I have some serious reservations and concerns about this decision.

I understand the fiscal necessity of reducing our overhead. For 15 years, I have heard reports about how much we spend and economy of scale. When the decision was made to open the Matanzas campus, the staff worried about how it would affect the Sequoia campus. We were told that it wouldn't have an effect, that it would only grow the program and draw more students to our schools. Now, we find that we rarely fill both campuses and are struggling to make ends meet.

I have been on every committee that this district has called to discuss the future of RVCS. We called it RVCS 2.0. We called it the RVCS refresh. Now, it's the RVCS merge. But I challenge the notion that we are truly "merging" because the perception at Sequoia is that the district is closing the Sequoia campus of RVCS to make room for expansion of the Sequoia Elementary School and the teachers and students will be moved to the classrooms of Matanzas.

We have heard no plans about creating a middle school appropriate setting in the existing Matanzas Elementary School classrooms. How is it equitable that the teachers who have been at Matanzas have classrooms that were furnished and built for middle school students while teachers who have been displaced from Sequoia are going to inhabit elementary school classrooms that clearly don't fit middle school needs? Unless thoughtful decisions are made about the classrooms, the staff will be divided, where the existing Matanzas teachers are still in "their" rooms and the Sequoia staff is placed in "those" rooms.

We have heard no plans about creating middle school appropriate facilities. Currently, the gymnasium facilities are too small by league standards to play basketball games in. Therefore, none of our basketball games are played "at home." If the schools merge into one school, the number of students who can participate in sports will be reduced greatly. We pride ourselves on inviting many students to play on our sports teams but if we merge and can only present one team per grade level, only the talented students will be able to play. The students who are just learning about the sport or want to try it out to see if they like won't have a chance to make it on the team.

We have heard no plans about staffing. With only a couple of exceptions, our teachers hold multiple subject credentials. Over the years, they have developed specializations in subject areas. When the schools merge together, how will the teachers be assigned to subjects? Will tenure and years of service be considered? Will we have to "apply" for our own jobs?

We have heard no plans about curriculum. We have spent the last two years working on developing engaging, cross-curricular projects. The projects at each site are unique and vastly different. When we merge, how will decisions about curriculum be made? What reassurances can we be given that the teachers from both campuses will have an equal voice in the decisions and not just forced to adopt what is already in place at Matanzas? How will the district provide time and space to allow the teachers to thoughtfully construct curriculum before the school opens? How will the district provide support to our teachers? District decisions are often made to suit the needs of the elementary grades with the

From: Jeff Gospe jgospe@rvusd.org

Subject: Fwd: RVCS Board Meeting

Date: October 8, 2019 at 7:40 AM

To: Tracy Smith tsmith@rvusd.org, Mike Cook mcook@rvusd.org, Hannah Bates hbates@rvusd.org, Kate Westrich kwestrich@rvusd.org, Shawne Kearney skearney@rvusd.org

JG

Hi all,

My daughter, Natalie, sent me the email below early this morning without any prompting from me. She would like it shared with the rest of the board, and for it to be included in our public process of evaluating the future of RVCS. Natalie will be 20 in January, finished a year early at Santa Rosa High School (ArtQuest) and has been attending the Santa Rosa Junior College. As we continue this process it would be helpful to find a way to involve former students/parents of RVCS and incorporate their feedback.

Thanks,
Jeff

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Natalie Gospe <nataliegospe@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 8, 2019 at 1:02 AM

Subject: RVCS Board Meeting

To: Jeff Gospe <jeffgospe@gmail.com>

Hey Dad,

Since I know you will be having board meetings with the RVUSD board to discuss future arrangements for the RVCS campuses—soon to possibly be one campus—I thought it would be good to write down a bit of my experience there, what things worked for me and what things I feel like could have been improved upon (which is very little, if anything). That might be a valuable perspective to have, especially now that I'm of college age and beginning to use those skills I gained there in further educational settings beyond the high school level.

Pros:

- Project-based learning
- Technology
- Presentation skills
- Group skills
- A diversity of subjects

Cons:

- Peer dynamics
- A weaker foundation in critical thinking skills

Project-Based Learning

The biggest asset RVCS gave me as a student and an individual was the ability to be comfortable with projects. Project-based learning allowed me to develop skills in time management, presentation, ingenuity, and learning that goes deeper than the recitation of facts. Upon entering high school, I had an advantage over my peers in that I could not only successfully complete projects with little to no stress, but they could be projects that went beyond surface level analysis. I learned how to ask questions I was interested in and answer them creatively in ways I had never thought of presenting them. In college, that skill has once again proved vital. It has allowed me to retain knowledge on a deeper level, ask more of myself in a way that is beneficial to myself as a student, and excel beyond what I thought I could in college.

I strongly believe that RVCS should continue to integrate project-based learning into all of its classes and allow for a freedom of creativity within those projects. The times where I did best at RVCS were when I could take the structure of an assignment and create a myriad of projects out of it—whether that be a presentation, a model, a video, a song, an art piece, or an essay. Keeping the spirit of ingenuity alive is something that I find really enhances the whole of the learning process. Students are able to then take information and find out how it pertains to them—what do they want to create with it? That method of learning alone, project-based or not, has been the secret to my success as a student beyond middle school.

Technology

Before RVCS I had very little experience when it came to computers. Today in a digital age where basic computer skills are needed to do nearly everything, those skills are vital. I am so unbelievably thankful that I had the opportunity at RVCS

to begin practicing these skills. While at RVCS I learned how to use video editing programs, presentation programs, music programs, word processing programs, spreadsheet programs, and photo programs. I gained a general sense of comfort with using a computer that I don't think I would have had the opportunity to develop anywhere else. To this day I still spend a majority of my day on a computer, using the same programs (or more advanced versions of them) that I did at RVCS. If it were not for technology use at RVCS, I never would have attended the ArtQuest program at Santa Rosa High School and produced award-winning videos for organizations like the Russian River Watershed Association or the California Mental Health Services Authority. I would not at all be where I am today without the skills I gained by using technology at RVCS.

Technology use should most definitely continue at RVCS and I recommend that students be given the opportunity to develop various technological skills throughout each of their courses. I was introduced to stop-motion animation programs, coding programs, video programs, word processing programs, dvd producing programs, photo editing programs, spreadsheet programs, presentation programs, concept-map making programs, and music editing programs during my time at RVCS. I know that with chrome books there may not be the ability to use such a diversity of programs, but it is still something to consider keeping as a tool within the curriculum. Skills I learned using those programs has often times transferred over into either real-life situations or other computer programs I use today.

Presentation Skills

RVCS's project-based learning curricula enabled me to develop presentation skills that not only have benefited me as a student in my educational career, but will help me life-long in the professional world. Specifically for me, those skills were best harnessed in being a part of the marketing team, joining drama, presenting projects in class, and being a part of student council. Before RVCS I was slightly nervous about public speaking and it affected my success as a student—both in class and socially. Through my time at RVCS I was able to develop public speaking skills and actually develop a love for it. Public speaking is one of the skills I am very proud to have honed in. When I stand in front of groups, I am able to speak clearly and with confidence, no matter the subject I am speaking on or the group I am talking to. I was able to learn how to communicate more concisely and taught how to visually present information with clarity—both visually and conceptually. A lot of my success in high school and college has come from having this skill. In fact, my future profession will demand such abilities, and because of RVCS, I feel confident in knowing I will be competent in such skills.

Student presentations should definitely continue at RVCS, and I think it's important that presentations be done in a variety of fashions. I only gained my presentation skills because of the various ways I developed them. Powerpoint presentations, in-class participation, parent-student conferences, portfolio projects, and opportunities such as joining student council, drama, RVCS live, or the marketing team should continue to be offered. It's important to learn how to speak to a variety of audiences, be it one-on-one, groups, adults, peers, or teachers.

Group Skills

The ability to work well in groups is something that is vital to the success of any individual throughout their life. At RVCS I was able to cultivate such skills and use them throughout my time in high school and in college. While at RVCS I was paired with varied numbers of students as well as different types of students. It was important that there be a variance in the times where I could choose who to work on a group project with and times where I had no choice in the matter. It taught me how to communicate better with my peers and also how to work with people who I otherwise would not have considered working with. When I reached high school, this skill became important to my success in academics and was a large part of my curriculum being in ArtQuest video arts.

Group projects should continue to be encouraged at RVCS and should come in various forms. I gained the most skills by having a variety of people to work with. There were times I had to learn the hard way what wasn't good communication and how to accomplish goals that utilized the unique skills of everyone available. There were times where some of these group projects didn't always work out well, but those became learning experiences. One thing in particular that I liked about RVCS's style of group projects were that we were able to write up on the experience of working with the group after completing the project. This allowed for fairer grading, a self reflection on the skills learned, and for thinking more in-depth about the way a group works. That style of group project and reflection being paired together should most definitely continue on.

A Diversity of Subjects

One thing that stood out to me so profoundly as a unique experience that RVCS had to offer me was the diversity of subjects were introduced to in each of our classes. Besides the varied styles of projects and presentation, RVCS introduced new, immersive ways of teaching standard learning material. In history courses, for example, we had an Islamic Feast Day, a pumpkin catapult contest, projects were we pretended to be historical figures, projects were we made West African instruments, projects were we made historical scrapbooks, and more! Each class had its own special days and projects that made it unique—not just unique as compared to other schools, but each class was unique to any other. Some classes found ways to combine projects with one another, such as health combining with science to learn about the ways eating healthy impacts your body on a muscular and chemical level. Having those experiences broadened not only my view of the world, but my understanding of how learning could work. That skill alone has become one of the most integral to my growth as a student and a person through life.

What made RVCS unique was this ability to always be diverse and fresh with every subject. The same learning skills could be practiced in new ways and there was always something to be interested in for everyone. Really showcasing

projects and events would be an asset to both the growth of students and the community of RVCS. RVCS made learning exciting, and I hope that it will continue to for generations of students to come.

Peer Dynamics

A more negative aspect to my experience at RVCS was the way my peers and I worked together. Team building exercises and events like the Four-Winds trip, camp sea lab, spirit competitions, school dances, and game nights were great for shaping the bonds between students—I really enjoyed those. But I felt like there was a negative consequence to specifically my generation of students that attended RVCS. When I enrolled at RVCS there was an impacted admission and the determining factor for attending the school was a lottery. The consequence of this was that students who didn't want to actually be at a project-based, technology school—but who's parents wanted them to—were being paired up on projects with students who genuinely wanted to be there. Sometimes this caused no problem at all, the students I went to class with all became great friends of mine and I believe I worked on a project with at least half of my class. What could be a problem was motivation for wanting to succeed. I felt that a lot of students in my class just simply didn't want to be in a school like RVCS. Some eventually transferred to Rincon Valley Middle School, but a majority stayed and filled their time with not wanting to participate. There's nothing wrong with such a diversity of student types—the engaged and the not engaged—but I have the slightest feeling that this is why opportunities began to lessen. After my 7th grade trip to camp sea lab, it was my understanding that RVCS was no longer welcome back there. There were times when I could notice teachers were visibly frustrated with the lack of care people had for working on projects and learning in the RVCS style. I remember being paired with people on group projects where they flat out told me they didn't want to do the work because they were tired of being in a school that always assigned projects. For the people like myself, who loved the project-based learning assignments, our RVCS years were some of the best. But for many others, I don't believe they hold their time at the school in the same high regard.

What could be done about this is making sure that students who attend RVCS really do want to attend. I remember before the lottery happened that there was an interview process and I completed an application that asked about why I wanted to be a student at the school. Back then I thought to myself, "Finally a school that's offering exactly what I want to do!". I'm not sure what the application process today entails, but I think it's of some significance to make sure people who want to go to RVCS genuinely want to go there. I had an excellent experience of the school regardless, this matter is just something to note for any possible future reference.

Critical Thinking Skills

During my time at RVCS, I felt that foundations in critical thinking were something that was very much encouraged in all classes. Many of our writing assignments involved thinking about our thinking and why we came to the conclusions we did. It was an excellent thing to have as a part of the curriculum, but I often times thought it felt short. I was asked to be analyzing myself and my work, but I never understood what thinking about one's own thinking entailed. Metacognition was lost on me, and even though it was also a theme of high school writing, I didn't actually learn how to think critically until I reached college. At RVCS we had assignments such as "aha connections" essays and self-reflection essays often in courses like science. I completed these projects and did reasonably well, but their importance and purpose was completely lost on me. I felt as though I was just writing a summary of what I had completed rather than discussing the ways in which I learned and what was of significance in each assignment.

Teaching critical thinking a bit more in RVCS might be a very valuable thing to future students. I know it would've helped me to do better in high school english and other courses that required deeper thought. RVCS was excellent at deeper thoughts being given to the learning process, my only feeling is that the reflection process of learning also be more in depth.

Hope this helps you get a sense of my experience at RVCS and how it could help others! I absolutely loved being a student there, and although I know I sound like a bit of a brown-noser when I say this, but I find myself thinking about my time at RVCS at least once a day to this day. It really was that influential on my life. And that's why I adamantly care about making sure other students also get to have the same experience I did, or better.

Regards,

Natalie Gospe

From: Mike Cook mcook@rvusd.org
Subject: Fwd: Spring Creek Meet and Greet - Friday, October 18 at 7:45 am
Date: October 22, 2019 at 6:42 AM
To: Tracy Smith tsmith@rvusd.org, Jeff Gospe jgospe@rvusd.org



Thoughts from Libby Dalton on transition idea. Please put into the record of comments.

Mike Cook, Trustee
Rincon Valley Union School District
mcook@rvusd.org
707-545-5235 home

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Libby Dalton <daltonfamilyof5@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 21, 2019 at 10:03 AM
Subject: Re: Spring Creek Meet and Greet - Friday, October 18 at 7:45 am
To: Mike Cook <mcook@rvusd.org>

I've been thinking a lot about the reconfiguration and I'm very concerned about the current fourth graders and how this will effect them in 2 years when they will be in sixth grade. How will these children feel? Isolated from their peers with just two classes of 6th grade left at Matanzas. No doubt the campus will have very little staff left to support them. One of those children is my cousin who has blossomed so much since moving here.

On Sun, Oct 13, 2019 at 11:35 PM Mike Cook <mcook@rvusd.org> wrote:

This has been calendared by the District, Principal Kearney should be sending this out ASAP....

Mike Cook, Trustee
Rincon Valley Union School District
MCook@rvusd.org
707-545-5235 home

Oct 17 2019

To

To Mrs. Westrick,
I do not want 4-6 grade
at Matanzas to move
to Spring Creek. The
reasons for this are:
the Spring Creek campus
is too small for seven
different grades. Some
teachers will lose their jobs.
Some Matanzas students
are looking forward to seeing
younger siblings at
Matanzas. Some third
grade students at Spring
Creek are looking forward
to Dolphin D's at Matanzas.
And finally, the cafeteria
people won't be able to
serve lunch for all the
students.

Sincerely,
(4th grade)

Student signature page was
included with this letter.

IDEA SOLUTIONS

- BETTER MARKETING!
- CONNECTION TO PRESCHOOLS!
- PREPARED TO PAY EXTRA
- CONSIDER BONDS TO HELP CLOSE FISCAL GAP
- KEEP SMALL ENVIRONMENT
- DISRUPTING IS ^{SCARY} CULTURES!
- CONSIDER "NO ACTION"
 - ↳ IMPROVING current facilities
- PRE. K IS GREAT! EXPAND IT!
- K-5; 6-8?
- ~~TEACHER-LEAD~~ PREVENTION!
- IMPACT ON PEDIATRIC CENTER!
 - ... neighboring facilities
- BVP: ECO ARE ESSENTIAL
- ~~PREPARED~~

■ HOW WOULD RGS GET STUDENTS GET TO MATRINAS?

MORE INFO

- ▶ WHAT WOULD REVENUED SPRING CREEK CAMPUS LOOK LIKE?
- ▶ WHAT IS TIMELINE FOR DECISION?
- ▶ 4-6 GO TO MATRINAS!
- ▶ RESOLVE DON'T APPRECIATE HOW SPECIAL SC + MATR ARE...
 - ↳ There are reasons parents want to be part of these school communities

RINCON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING

October 15, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Prepared by: M I G



Cindy Mendenhall <cmendenhall@rvusd.org>

Fwd: RVCS notes

1 message

Tracy Smith <tsmith@rvusd.org>
 To: Cindy Mendenhall <cmendenhall@rvusd.org>

Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 9:14 PM

----- Forwarded message -----
 From: Mike Cook <mcook@rvusd.org>
 Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 4:43 PM
 Subject: RVCS notes
 To: Tracy Smith <tsmith@rvusd.org>

RVCS Reconfiguration - Community Engagement Meeting

MIG

Meeting Agreements

Mikes thoughts:

Why aren't we thinking about how to get more students?

Advertising, charter schools

Reconfiguration of academics, curriculum

QUESTIONS

Special Day classes?

How many students transfer out of District?

Max capacity of each facility

Top priorities for Campus Reconfiguration

IEP, special needs - only think of fiscal impact

Small schools help, this environment is what is important

Taking small school environment away, most kids gravitate here for environment

Only thinking fiscally on our decisions

Homogenizing the public schools in our area by making bigger schools

Familiar setting at Sequoia for Sequoia Elementary students

Convenience of older children picking up elementary students

RVMS is a huge school

Small environment better

EIR and traffic (change in traffic patterns of all major)

Consider Spring Creek as Middle School

RVMS would be detrimental

Fiscal problems: cut or make things better

What are we doing with the attractors (gardens, pe, science, curriculum)

K-3 and 4-6 is an attraction, lose if changes made at SCM

Attracting people, not losing

French opportunities

Lose people to Yulupa/Strawberry, have 7 kindergartens

RVCS is diverse, undo good things we're doing

Location, location, location

Preservation and growth of French curriculum

New Size would give more offerings

How would this impact travel distance

(ERIN) people who know of school, love the school.

Flaw in marketing the school, teachers marketing? Hire a professional firm do our marketing....can't do by word of mouth

Traffic at SC so bad now

Really special thing at Matanzas: buddies, SDC, teachers love Matanzas

Leave 4-6 at Matanzas

Know all students and teachers, easier to ask for help

After care is huge for RVCS

Class size improvements

Other ways to expand Matanzas and RVCS?

Park behind Matanzas? Purchase Park.

Spring Creek needs major improvement, leaking

Needs track, field full of holes

Can't hold at Spring Creek, major upgrades

Have to be building improvements

ADVERTISING!

Where is money coming from for Facility upgrades at SC

Class sizes as low as possible, classrooms need to be available

What is cost savings of reconfiguration?

What money do we have to improve our Facilities

What facilities are at larger middle school that aren't at the smaller middle school?

Want choices, best opportunities for children?

Other Considerations

Traffic consideration

K-3 and six graders can't play together, not enough space at Spring Creek

Safety

1 noon duty at middle school

Teachers, how are teachers going to be able to talk to kids that need it

What does this mean for teachers, existing staff?

Academics! Students need safe environment to thrive in education

Can have 1 on 1 relationships.

TK at Spring Creek?

Have we studied the districts demographics? Lots of new young families in district boundaries, need to market to them

Choice between BV and RVUSD

Tax bill: losing value on house that is near Matanzas middle school?

K-6 increases educational outcomes, how is this more advantageous, improve over K-3, 4-6

IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS

Adding TK to SC?

Different mascots, curriculums, etc. how will they merge?

Outreach!!! Marketing

Preschools and District connection? Bridge them into our District?

Bond

Smaller classes!!!

Charter school visions developed over many years, and we're tearing it apart?

No action! Spring Creek is a great school

10/23/2019

Rincon Valley Union School District Mail - Fwd: RVCS notes

What is it that makes our school special? Speak in front of crowd! Teachers are the ones that draw out the special characteristics of students

Get more people at Spring Creek

6-8 and K-5

Staff and teachers, indecision

Talk to Friedman Center?

Transportation to Matanzas....a lot of students walk to campus

LEARN MORE ABOUT?

Configuration of school at SC - designs and layout

More detailed timeline

Matanzas is big enough for both middle schools and 4-6

At Matanzas for a reason, changes will change that.

Mike Cook, Trustee
Rincon Valley Union School District
MCook@rvusd.org
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--
Tracy Smith
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Rincon Valley Union School District
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Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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Fwd: RVCS Notes, 10/7/2019

1 message

Tracy Smith <tsmith@rvusd.org>
To: Cindy Mendenhall <cmendenhall@rvusd.org>

Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 9:13 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Cook** <mcook@rvusd.org>
Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 4:45 PM
Subject: RVCS Notes, 10/7/2019
To: Tracy Smith <tsmith@rvusd.org>

RVCS Reconfiguration Meetings

10/7/2019 RVCS M & Matanzas

2 sections mandatory only (36 families turned away), Joe didn't want to do 3 sections

Strawberry and Matanzas big turn always

RVCS M is a different demographic than RVCS S (Ashland trip 100% paid for by Sequoia and 60% paid for by Matanzas)

Aftercare not available at M, lost a lot of students

Parents just drop off kids in morning

15-20 RVCS kids were participating in aftercare

Matanzas Elementary kids left and followed BGC program

7:45 - 8:30 am Homework Club (Rebecca)

Wouldn't necessarily have student here if larger school, band teacher relationship, closeness of school campus is a factor

One on One aides for visually impaired, autism, social anxiety

Students like to PLAY

Notification is mis-leading due to technology and facilities statement

How much money are we spending on reconfiguration:

Spring Creek K-6

Matanzas 7-8

Sequoia K-6

Constantly making changes instead of just "riding the wave"

Hope is that library remains library for fringe kids and break

Kate is very supportive and is best principal they've seen in 13 years

Built something really good here!

The people here at Matanzas are special, culture here is special

Parents like the K-3 and 4-6 on 7-8 campus

Parents feel like we are going backwards

Classified staff are all going to be affected with reconfiguration

Just started marketing efforts on RVCS

Does not just impact the 5 schools....Classified staff will be retained based on majority

Academics here are life-changing - easier time here in High School

High School fair here on Thursday (High Schools love RVCS kids)

8:00 - 9:15 am Thursday am

Will this affect

Pay attention to their Classified (little hours that they all work), CUTS lingered for 5 months, nit picky things that reduce hours, less and less students in this model.

What staff will wait around for 2-3 years??

Elementary and Middle School work seamlessly together

Site tech/computer lab can't be open on lunches/beginning of the day.

RVCS Marketing is non-existent this year (office manager at Matanzas)

MORE MARKETING NEEDED!!!!

Elementary School closure?

Need for counselors and RVP, special ed is huge, inclusiveness is huge for everyone

Restorative justice, not just suspending kids

Inclusiveness is really good for everyone

10/7/2019 Spring Creek Elementary

Decline in enrollment over the last few years

SDC has young kids, different needs - bathroom in classroom is essential, go to the bathroom a lot, will take away from instruction

Need more lunch tables, need more room to have outdoor space

Would have to adjust lunch times don't have room, only have 5 classrooms enough tables

Be cool to have older classrooms

Here during first reconfiguration, process was not open or transparent, as an employee and a parent (kids most important thing here) - 12 years ago....decision had been made, input wasn't received

Put out the true reason, if it has to happen, it has to happen...felt marginalized

12 years ago 2 classrooms at each level K-6

PROMISES MADE, NOT KEPT (music, science, PE, etc.)

Suggested K-3 and nobody listened to them

All resigned to the fact that it is going to happen, Special Ed always gets bounced

Idea behind middle school was having smaller groups

Strange location at Matanzas for everyone to come this side, when more middle location would be better because they all would come in one direction

Think we should consolidate schools

Four pillars of how to make the best middle school

Last year at end of year, Tracy was doing Principal search -

Spring Creek says that having the three grade school is SO special, didn't want to lose such a special little place...

Will lose classroom (IEP/Intervention) if consolidated, can't do anywhere else but classroom

Concerned about kids...don't want to eat in sun, want space for freedom, need shade for outdoor eating

Interesting group of children, different from everyone else, being K-3 allows staff to work with younger kids to resolve some of the behaviors that are problems - there aren't older students influence...

K-6 buddies

Population now was totally different from when Spring Creek was K-6

Having K in young school is good

Spring Creek competes with Bennett Valley. (Smaller number of students is GOOD)

Allow us to breathe a couple of years and then maybe move forward...

Are kids too young to be transferred to older school?

Have 3rd grader, planning on going to Matanzas, excited to go to Matanzas, hasn't told them that he might not go...

3rd graders should go over to Matanzas more often

Facilities: Field is in horrible shape, bored because they don't have enough space

Need to water field, irrigation is manual

Yard duty needs more help? Intervention specialist?

Are we going to lose jobs? Low man on totem pole? Where do they go?

Lunch count numbers are way down, being told to feed more kids - not lose money, need to get kids into cafeteria

Only school K-5 would be really weird, where would 6th graders go? Would they have to move twice?

Matanzas isn't the best location for a middle school...can we be more centrally located in district?

Why isn't school year round?

Need to do a better job of the reasons why

Oak Park two years ago - and now we're closing a school???



Cindy Mendenhall <cmendenhall@rvusd.org>

Fwd: RVCS 9/26/19

1 message

Tracy Smith <tsmith@rvusd.org>
 To: Cindy Mendenhall <cmendenhall@rvusd.org>

Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 9:13 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike Cook** <mcook@rvusd.org>
 Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 4:46 PM
 Subject: RVCS 9/26/19
 To: Tracy Smith <tsmith@rvusd.org>

RVCS: Consolidation Meeting

9/26/2019 - 5:30 pm

Tracy, Hannah, Amanda Dalton, Libby Dalton (7th Matanzas), Sheila Edwards (7th Sequoia), Debra Bowl (8th grader Matanzas), Rachel Duedel (7th grader Matanzas)

Enrollment

Marketing was different from 2 years ago to this year....

Shadow for all day is a good thing

Is there a long term trajectory study?

Environment

(Sheila) Totally different at each school, flavor of teachers

Same number of teachers

Understands the reasoning behind the merger

What types of resources are we looking to add if we take over all of Matanzas?

-Science lab, science facility

-Tech resources

-Technology elective

-Gym

-Library

(Sheila) Lives on Sonoma and would reconsider taking her kid to RVCS at Matanzas (she goes to Sequoia)

(Rachel) Matanzas has a heterogenous mixture of students

(Rachel) really concerned about the merger and changing the demographic of Matanzas

(Rachel) Spring Creek small school, not the facilities to do a K-5 or K-6

(Rachel/Sheila) Sequoia/Matanzas teachers are just amazing

(Libby) Been waiting to pull kids out of District for 4 years, kept kids in District because we hired Tracy

Small

Safe, mixing together

Inclusion of special needs students

Learning what is best for individual learning

Projects and technology

Confidence (1 of 180)

Independence and growth

Block scheduling, working together and collaboratively

(Libby) Son feels so much better in 1 month going from Matanzas (250 students) to RVCS M (180 students)

Hannah:

Could get classroom size down to 25 students, if we're at 300

Mike Cook, Trustee
Rincon Valley Union School District
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Tracy Smith
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Santa Rosa, CA 95405

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Cindy Mendenhall <cmendenhall@rvusd.org>

Fwd: Notes from this morning 10/23/2019 at Spring Creek

1 message

Tracy Smith <tsmith@rvusd.org>
 To: Cindy Mendenhall <cmendenhall@rvusd.org>

Wed, Oct 23, 2019 at 5:44 PM

Let's take a look at all of this tomorrow.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mike Cook <mcook@rvusd.org>
 Date: Wed, Oct 23, 2019 at 5:37 PM
 Subject: Notes from this morning 10/23/2019 at Spring Creek
 To: Tracy Smith <tsmith@rvusd.org>

RVCS Reconfiguration - SCM Parents

10/23/2019 8:30 am

Enrollment history is very shorter, would like to see longer than that, look at 10-15 years of history

Disruption of 5 campuses, how is that better than disrupting only one - fundamentally changing the way that they work

In order to make educated suggestions, need information/data

What are expected savings

UPdated website with updated information? Hasn't been updated with answers

K-3 option available where else?

Positive impact on academics at RVCS - yes!

Academic performance in our elementary schools versus SRCS?

What facility upgrades will SC get in this?

InterDistrict transfer be asked to leave when sections get reduced?

Expand campus at Matanzas

Speak to Friedman Center and adjacent residents to SC and M

Update website

Minutes not on RVUSD website

Traffic congestion/study

Move RVCS to SC?

Need to do a better job marketing schools

Need to know what detailed issue is we're trying to solve and the data-backed solution we're going to use to solve it

What about RVCS to Whited?

Survey of all existing parents about:

Academics?

Facilities?

Social?

Fiscal?

Stop writing everything like the proposal is a feasibility solution, it's not well thought out K-3 families will exit.

Need granular detail:

What does it mean for:

Class sizes

Library

Staff

Facilities

Schedule

10/24/2019

Rincon Valley Union School District Mail - Fwd: Notes from this morning 10/23/2019 at Spring Creek

Send paper home with all students to alert them of proposal and meeting dates.

Make it public information.

Mike Cook, Trustee
Rincon Valley Union School District
MCook@rvusd.org
707-545-5235 home

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Tracy Smith
Superintendent
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October SSAC- Superintendent Student Advisory Council

Why RVMS?

Siblings went there
Electives: drama and leadership
Bigger campus gets you ready for high school
Closer to my house
Go with his friends
Campus to do more stuff
Lockers- gets you ready for high school
Study Hall

Why Slater?

Close to my house
More electives
More sports
Big campus
Most of his friends go there
Offers more
Industrial Arts elective

Why RVCS?

Electives- coding, lego robotics
Family tradition
Smaller campus
Paperless
Starts a little bit later
Campus is great

What do you want your learning to be like?

Challenging
Likes the computers and allows for make up work
New learning
Hands-on
Difficult, challenging work so they are ready for high school
Extra curricular activities balanced with HW
Recommendation: add a coding club afterschool
Challenge math group
How much hw will they have?

Your Name	Your Best Contact Email Addr.	A Little About Me	My Questions or Comments
Mike Cook	ma_cook@sonic.net	RVUSD school parent	<p>I have the following comments... These are my comments</p> <p>If the charter 7-8 moves to Matanzas, my child will not attend RVUSD for middle school (even with busing), but will go on to SRCS @ Rincon Valley Middle. I know there are many other reasons for this change, but I hope you also consider those who will not apply simply because of geography. Good luck with your decision!</p> <p>As a single parent my single greatest question I have is when does the final bell ring? It may seem obvious to families that are intact but it's easy to overlook all the parents that are working or single who aren't in contact with the school every day.</p> <p>From this 1st reconfiguration suggestion, I'm thrilled to see what future conversations will be had surrounding this. Makes sense to me. I appreciate the forward thinking and transparency involved.</p> <p>I think that changes are good, but you should consider teachers and making sure that they are adequately paid. They sacrifice so much to teach our children every day and help them to grow and succeed. It is imperative that they make more money so that they can survive in this terribly expensive community we all live in. Also think about how these changes affect communities and how hard it is to pay as many taxes as we already do. Changing things can impact families financially and kick middle class families out of their homes, disrupting children and their routines which we all know is how kids grow best is with consistency.</p> <p>Moving forward the RVUSD district is very good and I am very happy having my two children in these schools. I work very hard so I can Keep my kids here so we hope these changes will also benefit our kids.</p>
Jeff Caldwell	jeff_caldwell@hotmail.com	RVUSD school parent	
Angie Caster	angelia1phillips@yahoo.com	RVUSD school parent	
Vanessa Smith	blondie0114@hotmail.com	RVUSD school parent	

Suzanne Wheeler	smwheeler73@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I am 100% opposed to the reconfiguration of Spring Creek to a K-6 school. Our current campus is special because of the diversity of the campus which includes multiple special day / RVP classes. My understanding is these programs will have to move from our campus with this reconfiguration. The separation of the older grades is a draw for many parents (myself included), and I anticipate a large number of parents would choose to send their children to Yulupa / Strawberry for this reason. SC currently has three classes per grade level, and this would go down to 2 per grade, so how many teachers lose their jobs? I assume this also means class sizes go up significantly. Which one of our 2 amazing principals gets to keep her job? I believe the proposed reconfiguration would have a profoundly negative impact on the Spring Creek community. The conversation is especially frustrating, given the recent purchase of the former Oak Park property which will sit vacant for many years, in anticipation of future need for a new school campus.</p> <p>I love this idea for RVCS. We are new to RVCS-Sequoia (from SRFACS) and find it to be the most remarkable school! Our only complaint is that it feels a bit small socially. I think the consolidation would create the perfectly-sized middle school. As long as you keep the French option! I also LOVE the idea of the campus being at Matanzas...Sequoia is a bit far for us (we live in Windsor). Merci!</p> <p>We have a current 6th grader and are considering RVMS Matanzas specifically because it is a small middle school. The idea of charter schools is to differentiate and give families more choices. On first blush, it does seem that a merge makes the middle school more similar to other offerings. Thanks for the communication and please listen to parents and teachers on this decision, and not let fiscal interests be the primary driver.</p>
Sarah Abbott	sarahandnickabbott@gmail.co	RVUSD school parent	<p>How would this consolidation affect the Spacial Day programs and other services for students with special needs and is this being taken into consideration.</p> <p>I am in the initial stages of digesting this information but it is misleading to say that this idea has been a discussion over the last few years. That is inaccurate. It may have been a discussion at the district level but it has never been a discussion that included parents/staff until September of 2019.</p>
Mike Persinger	mpersingerssu@yahoo.com	RVUSD school parent	
Amanda Kovelant	akovelant@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	
Suzanne Chrisler	saje_66@yahoo.com		

Erin Shea	erinmshea@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>What benefits are there to these changes? We have students in 3rd and 5th grades and planned to send both of them to RVCS Middle school. This has been presented as a change that would ultimately benefit the community financially as a response to low enrollment, but with all of the infrastructure changes, I wonder how much will be left in the budget to improve the quality of the education? Concrete numbers would be helpful.</p> <p>Also, what happens to office and teaching staff? How do you decide who stays and who goes when positions are redundant?</p>
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			<p>There are pros and cons to both options. I am a mom of a both a class of 2016 and 2020 Matanzas campus kids. Both my kids were from the Bennett Valley Union school district and thrived or are currently thriving at Matanzas Middle school! I had to really be proactive and seek out this option especially for the 2016 kid who is now a senior at Credo HS. We were looking for a smaller school with high academic standards with amazing caring teacher and staff that know each child. Teachers who are all in with project based learning and apply evidence based approaches to education best for middle schoolers. I love the no phone policy as well! I would just hate to see some of the small school community lost if the schools were combined.</p> <p>That being noted, I do see the benefit of combining resources and kids would have options to choose different teachers instead of just one choice. Teachers are people too and sometimes a child and teacher just don't click.</p>
Beth Ryan	petebeth_3@yahoo.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>Just bring out in the Bennett Valley community, I feel both schools are almost a secret. Teachers and districts need to communicate more. I wish a teacher at Strawberry said "hey check out Matanzas middle school for Dan. It might be a good fit for him" I am always recommending the school for kids who would just do better in a smaller school without sacrificing any academics! Maybe a bit more "marketing" of the schools. Have 6 grade teachers in RVUSD and other districts get a short online inservice about the school and who it may be good for to just get it on a parents radar. I really feel it is a fabulous underutilized asset of your school district. An option many others in Sonoma County and Marin do not have.</p> <p>Sincerely, Beth Ryan Mom of Dan Salazar (graduated Matanzas Middle 2016) and Grace Salazar(8th grade at Matanzas Middle)</p>

			<p>My concerns as the following- the hole purpose of choosing RVCS is that it's smaller than the traditional middle school and parents have more input/closer relationships with staff and what goes into the campuses (Charter schools). I can tell you that combining Matanzas/Sequoia campus will not work. Parent will not drive to the middle of Santa Rosa or vs. verse if you combine the schools. You've already had a reduction in your schools as Santa Rosa has gone through a lot over the past 2 year and to mention this change on the anniversary of people still rebuilding their lives seems pre mature. I believe there are other elementary schools that could be combined as well in your district or configured differently. How about doing 6th-8th on both sides of Santa Rosa. Combining matanzas/spring creek k-5. Or combining other schools on the Rincon valley side of Santa Rosa. I know no one is going to travel over the Matanzas campus that lives in Rincon Valley. You will lose quite a bit more students to other districts as your've already have. Santa Rosa is a working class community with most parents if not both work FT. You lost students this year when the daycare was cut and the price per child/family skyrocketed by 150% of cost. Most parents in these schools can't afford the cost of daycare that was proposed as Santa Rosa cost of living continues to rise.</p> <p>Question for you team? What's the benefit to our children and parents? All I'm hearing is cutting jobs!</p> <p>What are your really saving by the cuts and can you promise all that money will be put back in for the students education?</p> <p>Is any other RVUSD elementary's being combined with another elementary school as well?</p> <p>Why now change what has worked for several years?</p> <p>I am curious how these changes will affect the two RVP classes on the Matanzas campus. We have been blessed with such an inclusive group of leaders, teachers and students. What will this look like with this big change? How will this affect our students with moderate/severe special needs? How will RVUSD ensure our students are being considered in this process?</p>
Karen Shatara	kshatara@yahoo.com	RVUSD school parent	
Steven Wilson	steven.w19733@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	
Stephanie Curry	scurry@rvusd.org	RVUSD teacher	

Jennifer Tuell	tuellkids@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	I support this idea. I would recomend a few things but I am unable to go to the meetings though I think this is an interesting idea even though the matanzas campus functions fine as is and the one that will be k-6 may be to small so it seems like it would be harder. A quiet room (even closet) besides the office, office isnt always suitable. An animal on campus to help the students who need it. A vending machine with healthy snacks so that way students can have better nutrition and therefore function better. The 8th grade history teacher at matanzas may have more info on school systems from other countries that ideas could be taken from (only ones that dont involve curriculum I presume)
Miabella Davis	miabelladavis@gmail.com	Resident of Santa Rosa	I dont think merging the school elementary schools is in the best interest of students, their families and/or staff members. I'm very concerned about losing enrollment if this happens. I think it makes sense to merge the 2 middle schools by adding portables to the Matanzas campus and leaving the elementary schools the same as they are right now.
Krista Boud	kboyd@rvusd.org	RVUSD staff member	I SAY CONSOLIDATE!..BETTER for the kids, keeps them in an environment they are already familiar with, my wife and i love the faculty at spring creek, they are committed, hard working men and women. No point in keeping classes with unfilled seats at the other matanzas campus, do it..
Aaron Ekbatani	ekbataniaaron@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	I like the proposed plan. I have middle school child and elementary grade child. Middle schooler is in 8 grade so it won't affect him. But elementary grader is in his 5 th grade and will benefit with having middle school in one location as it will provide for better unified campus but also promoting diversity of school body. I strongly support the proposed solution.
Natasha O'keeffe	bnata@me.com	RVUSD school parent	What about adding some Special Day Classes to the middle schools of the district, current configuration and future one!
Caroline Ackroyd	cdenim@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	I think combining the 2 RVCS campuses is a great idea and would provide for space and combined resources to offer more programs and better opportunities for the middle school students.
Cassie Voit	cassievoit@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	

Kristel England-Keefe Keri Vellis	kengland@sonoma4cs.org keriv7@me.com	RVUSD school parent Resident of Santa Rosa	<p>I really like the current school arrangement. I specifically chose to send my child to Spring Creek, although it's a more cumbersome drive, because I prefer the smaller school setting that I believe my son benefits from. Also, I like the idea of having the charter middle schools spread out on different campuses. It makes it easier to get children to schools in their own neighborhood and creates less traffic than trying to get one's middle schooler to the other side of the district...especially for families who have children in across the age brackets.</p> <p>Looks like a great idea to me !</p> <p>My son attends the SDC class at Spring Creek. He is in grade 2, and we were told that since our home school is Austin Creek, I'm 3rd grade, he will have to move to Matanzas for grades 3-4. We would like for him to continue at Spring Creek, he has been there since Kindergarten and is quite happy with the campus, teachers and overall experience.</p> <p>Is there a way that kids who are enrolled in the SDC class 2-3 at Spring Creek, get to stay and complete atleast 3rd grade with the same teacher rather than moving to a different school all together. Any feedback would be much appreciated</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Avinash & Rima Ramchandani</p>
Rima Ramchandani	dravi@me.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I would like to see the existing program at their respective schools stay the same in the future. I like the smaller class sizes, that is why we will be going to RVCS at Matanzas next year for 7-8 grade. If that changes to we will look at other options for our son.</p>
Marie Clay	marie.h.clay@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	
Andrea Jereb	arodriguezjereb@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>Would like to a cost analysis of proposed plan and benefits to students/ families.</p>

Anthony Martin	tonymartin314@yahoo.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>My child is a seventh-grader at the matanzas campus for the middle School.</p> <p>While I appreciate that the middle school is small and supports individualized attention in the current configuration, I do not think combining the two campuses will make it so large a group that the smallness value will be lost. In fact, I think that the matanzas campus is a little bit too small and if there was a larger population I think it would hit a better critical mass and could offer more enrichment and added features that a divided School cannot.</p> <p>If the 2 campuses are combined, it is still way way smaller than the other middle School options. There is an economy of scale that combining the schools would provide a benefit. I do not see any downside. Perhaps a combined school can support differentiation in education, as my kid reads at college level and is ahead in math, more kids mean there might be enough for advanced math? I do agree it is a change that some will not like either because of geography change or because they want the extremely small middle School instead of pretty small middle School. Good luck!</p> <p>2 of my children had a great time in middle School at the rvcs-Sequoia campus. It says a lot if a middle schooler can actually enjoy those years. I have two more kids I hope to put through the school. I will be very sad if the campus leaves Sequoia. Moving to matanzas campus would change our mind and I would send the kids to the rvms and would be sad about it. I'm guessing there is a strong reason for combining campuses, it's just sad that it is not that matanzas would come here, but I'm guessing it has logistics like the elementary needs the extra classrooms or matanzas has a better campus for middle schoolers.</p>
Jenny Cole	rossandjenny@yahoo.com	RVUSD school parent	

Thank you for requesting parental and student input. Most parents and kids chose RVCS middle schools for the small, intimate middle school experience for one reason or another. The transition from elementary school to a large middle school can be very challenging at this age when there are so many changes going on physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially. Then add to that the complexity of multiple classes, multiple teachers, hundreds of kids, homework and class work requiring planning and organizational skills, and extra curricular activities and you can have a recipe for failure for some of our children. Many of us have children that can best be served by smaller class sizes and teachers who teach multiple subjects, understand and know our children well, and are available to assist them in developing into the scholars that they are capable of becoming. RVCS has provided my son with the environment and attention that he needs to succeed that would not be offered in a large middle school. He is currently getting special services for a disability and is getting his and my needs met to a more than satisfactory level. I am confident that he would not be doing as well at Slater or RVMS because they simply have too many children. My son and his two best friends stated that they like the school environment as it is and would not welcome the change of doubling the student body. I also would not opt to drive across town to take him to school in the event that the schools merged, and I know other parents who feel the same way. We are currently at Matanzas but I am responding according to what I would do if the plan was reversed. We love having a small middle school "in our back yard" where our kids are able to safely walk to and from school. If not, I would likely opt to find a way to home school to have his needs met instead. I think enrollment would not be sustained if the schools merged due to the distance people would have to travel. Additionally, a lot of money would have to be spent to make the respective schools suitable for the changes proposed. If declining enrollment in the elementary schools is an issue have you considered merging Matanzas, Spring Creek and Village elementary schools to create separate K-3 and 4-6 schools? That might make for a more meaningful elementary school experience for the younger kids and broaden opportunities for tailoring school-wide education, activities, and social development.

Kim Van de Wetering kimwetering@yahoo.com

RVUSD school parent

Vanessa Ruiz	vlokenruiz@outlook.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>The reconfiguration diagram is very well done and helpful. I think the possible scenario makes a lot of sense in being able to offer more programs and consolidating services at one 7-8 site, while still maintaining the neighborhood feel of the elementary sites. We love our Sequoia campus and staff! I know it's impossible to please everyone and no matter what ends up happening in the future, our family appreciates this district's heart and drive to providing our children with the best possible education. Thank you all for your dedication.</p> <p>Question re: Matanzas Charter Middle. I assume that Matanzas Charter Middle would be an alternative to Slater. Would enrollment decrease for Matanzas Middle due to space? On a side note, how would I get my 3rd grader on track to attend a RVUSD charter middle school rather than Slater?</p>
Sean Ramsey	ramseylaw@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>Thanks Sean Ramsey 707-280-7434 Cell</p> <p>I feel that if you combine the RVCS Sequoia and Matanzas campuses then you make it so many people would have transportation to Matanzas. I personally bike to school every day because my parents couldn't drive me to school. and we moved to that I could bike to RVCS Sequoia. You would also make it so fewer students could do sports since you can only have a certain number of students on the team. One reason many people went to an RVCS campus was that it was a small school. If you combine the campuses then you could be taking away that privileges. If you combine campus, you may have to find more teachers, which there aren't very many currently. I feel that it could negatively affect many people.</p>
Sophia Arnold	sophiaaarnold@gmail.com	Resident of the RVUSD	

Julia VanderVennet	juliaschnack@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I think that the simplification of the structure of the schools within the district allows for more flexibility in programming and opportunity for the students within the district. Combining the middle school campuses may allow for more middle school options for students that could serve the range of needs. As a sequoia parent, I love that RVUSD provides an alternative middle school option to the feeder middle. My concerns of the current structure (2 small campuses) are that a more narrow range of students can be served due to the size and capacity. The size and capacity of the current structure may inadvertently limit the middle school options for students with alternative learning styles or special education needs. I have children in our family who want to continue to attend RVUSD middle school programs but worry the capacity for meeting their needs is limited.</p> <p>Pooling resources by restructuring and combining like programs allows for more flexibility in the ability to serve all of the students in our community better. I love the innovative thinking and encourage the district staff and board of trustees to continue to expand the potential opportunities for all of our students in the most fiscally responsible manner.</p>
Sheila Edwards	towchick24@yahoo.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I have a new 7th grader at RVCS-S and my daughter chose this school site over the Matanzas and RVMS campus due to the small size and student inclusion/connection/culture on Sequoia campus and community feel. S and M campuses are very different in student population/neighborhood. I actually live closer to M campus but prefer S campus. Teachers here are AMAZING! Will you lose enrollment numbers from Sequoia neighborhood if you merge both campuses's? Those students may opt for RVMS or other option. I do wish there was a science lab, gym and lockers for students.</p>
JENNY MERCADO	epijen@hotmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I think moving both RVCS to one campus would be a wonderful way to improve the school experience. The campus would be limited to 7-8 graders enriching the middle school experience. Hopefully additional resources directed at this specific age group would be provided (for instance, lockers). I fully support combining both RVCS into one at the Matanzas campus.</p>

			<p>One of my major concerns I have for RVUSD schools (Spring Creek & Matanzas) is how many families we loose to Bennett Valley School District. Has anyone at the D.O. followed and looked at how many families fill out an out of district form for Bennett Valley School District? We don't want to loose these families because of the popularity of B.V.</p> <p>Another concern is how traffic is going to be handled on Mayatte ave. There needs to be a working light for families to safely cross the street and possible speed bumps put in.</p> <p>Finally, Spring Creek needs some investment structurally. What are the plans to update the school on the outside and inside? Hopefully the grass area can be addressed so kids can actually play on the grass.</p>
Kristi Myers	kristiward6@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>Please remove my phone number from your notifications 707-331-2623. I live in Upper Lake and came fro Cotati. Neither my children or myself have ever been part of the Rincon Valley School District.</p>
Jeff Radigue	jradigue@gmail.com	RVUSD teacher	<p>dddd</p>

			<p>I am an RVUSD teacher, parent, and resident.</p> <p>There is an old saying, "If it ain't broke; don't fix it." Our schools were divided into K-3 and 4-6 to compete with the Strawberry and Yulupa Schools. The administration, teachers, and staff at Matanzas have made an incredible, and special, learning environment. We are a diverse campus, with many different kinds of students, including the RVP and SCOE classrooms. All the students participate, all the students feel supported, and all the students are learning.</p> <p>Since the student population district-wide is experiencing declining enrollment, as a resident of RVUSD, it is very clear to me that the Sequoia parents are not going to want to travel to our campus, nor will they wish for their students to take an hour long bus ride. Our student population will decline due to your action. We already have parents on our campus who have had their names placed on the Bennett Vally waiting list because of your decision to close our school. Again, population decline through the District's action. Traffic at Spring Creek is already a mess, and will become much worse. Residents of the neighborhood are unhappy. Families are unhappy. Students are unhappy.</p>
Elizabeth Hendrickson	ehendrickson@rvusd.org	RVUSD teacher	<p>I worry that the Board does not understand the ramifications of its decision, including the bumping of classified staff throughout the district, the loss of students, and the increased demoralization of our teachers. It is very difficult to have something wonderful, at which you have worked so hard, be taken away for no good reason.</p>
all Nonymous		RVUSD teacher	<p>meetings optional!</p> <p>We would LOVE it if Rincon valley charter middle school was relocated to yulupa campus. It would be perfect for our daughter who we are planning to have enroll at this program next year. She has been at SRFACS and we would like to continue her French language education.</p>
eric Williams	edublives@yahoo.com	Resident of Santa Rosa	<p>I would be glad to have all the Middle School kids at Matanzas as long as they are still able to have the higher levels of French to accommodate the SRFACS students. It is close to the bus line for us parents who can't pick up right after school. Even better would be to offer a Boys n Girls Club type program, of after school clubs. We still have a few years to get there, but always need to plan ahead.</p>
Lisa McKee	lisammckee@aol.com	Resident of Santa Rosa	

			RVUSD school parent	I think the potential reconfiguration looks like a great plan. I think it would be better to have the two middle schools together on one campus (@ Matanzas) rather than having them on elementary campuses. I don't think the sharing of campus space between middle school and elementary school is optimal.
Laura Westerling	Inwesterling@yahoo.com		Resident of Santa Rosa	Hi, my daughter is in the 6th grade at SRFACS and we are very interested in having her attend the Rincon valley charter middle school with the advanced French teacher. The Yulupa campus is much more convenient for us as it is closer to our house, but it is also closer to SRFACS, where our younger son goes and would facilitate pickup and drop off for our family.
				Hello, My two children currently attend the French American Charter School. We would love for them both to attend a consolidated middle school on the Matanzas Campus with a French elective option similar to that currently at the Sequoia campus. We would like to do an inter district transfer if we are not able to move into the district within the next year and a half.
Andrea Van Tuyl	ajluma2002@yahoo.com		Resident of Santa Rosa	Thank you for your consideration regarding this campus change, Andrea
				One of the reasons we like and chose Spring Creek Elementary, was because it only went up through 3rd grade. Having K thru 6 on the same campus is too big of an age span. I would Only be supportive of it, if 1-3 were separated from 4-6 at lunch and recesses, as well as in the morning for the 15-30 minutes before school when the kids are dropped off and milling about or playing on the playground. It's not ok to have 1st graders playing with 6th graders for multiple reasons.
Tara Norman	tnorman@srcity.org		RVUSD school parent	I have a 5th Grader at Sequoia Elementary School and he wants to go to RVCS. We live close by and it's really convenient for us if he will go to RVCS. Thank you.
Lila Moyles	lilaviray@yahoo.com		RVUSD school parent	

Marcia Hampshire	mhamshire@rvusd.org	RVUSD teacher	<p>I personally love working at this type of school model because it gives the students more opportunities on our campus. We have so many wonderful programs that enriches the students' lives and we are very fortunate to be able to have three teachers at each grade level. Having three teachers are each grade level also gives the students more of a variety for teachers. We are such a special staff and EVERYONE who is on campus sees how much the teachers and staff truly love our school and don't want things to change. Why try to fix something that is already working so well?</p>
Erika Alexander	eja313@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I say the reconfigurations make more sense, and that consolidation would be best. The way the schools are presented on the model seem a little disorganized. Consolidating would use each site to its full potential and be better for the students.</p>
Jodi Guntle	jodismith23@aol.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I think this is a great idea to get all the grade 7-8 kids on one campus.</p>
		Resident of Santa Rosa	<p>We are hoping to keep French at Matanzas if SRFACS students are still going there. These students will be able to continue their French at Montgomery High School as well. I would also like to see a free after school program for all the kids. This age needs homework help and something to do.</p>
		Resident of Santa Rosa	<p>My children attend French American Charter School and would be going to the Matanzas campus if you continue to have higher levels of French. A program for kids after school such as tutoring, enrichment, etc would be good to have also.</p>
			<p>Our child attends SRFACS and is currently in 2nd grade. We would like him to continue with his classmates into middle school where French will be offered, Is this something included with the plans when the campuses merge to Matanzas?</p>
Lisa McKee	lisammckee@aol.com	Resident of Santa Rosa	<p>Also is there any free after school tutoring or clubs, etc at Matanzas?</p>

		RVUSD school parent	<p>I am concerned about class sizes, teachers losing their jobs, lack of details being communicated to families, combining younger and older kids, and many other things. I want to send my child to Matanzas Charter for 7th and 8th, but not if it's going to lose the "smallness". I don't think enough is being done to give families the full picture of how the proposed changes will work and what the downsides are.</p> <p>Please keep the French going for SRFACS kids. Those kids lost their middle school opportunity with SRCS when SRCS took away 7th and 8th grade from their campus. Their campus has since outgrown the ability to have a 7th/8th grade. These kids will feed into Montgomery High School same as your kids. We are all one community - let's keep the kids together.</p> <p>Offering an after school program (for free) or clubs would be helpful also. It is hard for working parents of middle school kids. Better to have supervision than being left home alone at that age.</p>
		Resident of Santa Rosa	Thank-you!
		Resident of Santa Rosa	Will there be a option to continue French studies for the students promoted from SRFACS?
Peter Young	j.peter.young@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	please STOP TEXTING ME ABOUT THIS RECONFIGURATION. It is an inappropriate use of the texting system. Once was more than enough!
Amanda Risley	arisley89@live.com	RVUSD school parent	I am in favor of the merger.

Chris Guenther	chguenther@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>My son hopes to attend RVCS on the Matanzas campus beginning next year. Overall, I am supportive of the stated goals – particularly enabling each campus and program to evolve in the best possible way – and I have no objections to the proposed plan.</p> <p>I do hope that, if the RVCS programs are merged into a single campus, care will be taken to maintain their unique experience and intimacy, despite the increased number of students and staff, and the need to spread activities across the whole campus, rather than just a subset.</p> <p>Finally, I am certainly sympathetic with families who will possibly face added burden if their students' programs are shifted to other campuses. We already planned to be at Matanzas, so this is status quo, but I can imagine the potential disruption for anyone in closer proximity to Sequoia, particularly if they'd hoped for their child to be able to walk or bike to school.</p>
Lauren Miller	morandimiller@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I have been a parent at Spring Creek and Matanzas for 7 years. I love both schools so much. I currently have a 5th grader, a 3rd grader and next fall I will have a kindergartner. My concerns have always been low enrollment. This is my neighborhood home school and the sad fact is that most families in my neighborhood do not attend SCMC. I wish we made it harder for incoming families to transfer out of district. Some don't even tour the school or give it a chance. All of the teachers my boys have had, have been amazing! I would hate to lose one teacher per grade:(. Not to mention the wonderful office staff and principals we would lose. It seems from what I've heard from the teachers and what I've seen at school, Spring Creek needs some major improvements, especially if we are going to have the big kids on campus. I hope we are really looking into an upgrade to the school and that Spring Creek would become a priority in the district if this combination happens.</p>

Elizabeth Livingston	livingston322@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I do not like this configuration. I would like to keep my child attending sequoia campus continuously. He has anxiety about moving and switching school and this is a school he enjoys and looks forward to attending the same campus. This campus is a local to us and helps me to my child to school on time and to work on time. Having to attend another campus would make me late for work and not able to work at my current job.! I am against the reconfiguration.</p> <p>My older child attended RVCS when there was only the Sequoia branch. It was her best two years of public school, without question. My younger child attends now. I don't have any other children, so the changes won't affect our family directly, but I would be sorry to see the schools consolidated into one large program. The small school setting was really important for my kids. I will also say that the location was a key factor in favor of my kids enrolling at RVCS. I would probably not have gone to the trouble to take them to Matanzas., particularly if it had been a larger program. At that point, they might as well go to RVMS. I do understand that the district needs to make sound financial decisions for the near and distant future.</p>
		RVUSD school parent	<p>I think that merging the middle schools is a good idea. My children attend RVUSD schools, but I am also a high school teacher. I feel that pooling the resources and the teachers if a good idea and best for the students. At the high school I teach at, we can see a significant difference in the high school readiness of the students in a certain subject area when they come to the high school. Merging the schools would strengthen both programs. Also, it would be good to see the students be able to have an advanced math option so that they can enter into Math 2 in 9th grade.</p>

			<p>Hello!! I was present at the meeting at Village Elementary last night and thought the discussion was a great one. Some really valid concerns were brought up, as well as good ideas for consideration by the board/district.</p> <p>I am closely following this discussion, as I'm a parent of 3 RVUSD students, my oldest currently at RVCS-Matanzas, and two younger children who I HOPE will also attend RVCS in the future. I also happen to be a district employee AND a RVUSD resident.</p> <p>I know that many parents are unable to attend the meetings, but would also like to follow this discussion. There were some great notes taken on that giant board last night, so I am requesting that the notes of all the meetings be posted on this website so that ALL parents may be able to follow the discussion.</p> <p>I also happen to know MANY families in my neighborhood (RVUSD area) who have removed their students from RVUSD and enrolled them in Bennett Valley USD and other schools. Please--we need to understand WHY our local families are leaving or not even entering the district!! If the reconfiguration progress goes through, we will continue to have a declining enrollment problem if we do not ATTRACT and RETAIN our neighborhood families!! We need to advertise our district (on the radio!!) and define for the community what it is we do best. We talk about attracting and retaining valuable teachers all the time....now let's also do it for our families in this community.</p> <p>Again, PLEASE take the time to copy the meeting notes onto this website for good follow-up and community PR. Thank you!</p>
Allison Stuck	allison.stuck@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	
Christina Ayton	christinaayton707@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I think this realignment makes sense. Having kids lumped by age is preferable to having kindergartners with middle-schoolers. Pooling resources (teachers, facilities, enrichment, etc) for the middle school is a good idea. However, the small size of RVCS is part of its appeal and if you toss 300 kids together in one campus, that will be lost.</p>

While the prospect of combining the RVCS campuses is compelling, without a concrete financial commitment from the district to guarantee that the goals of "improving RVUSD facilities, updating technology, expanding course offerings and meeting the social and emotional needs of students with vibrant campus environments," it is hard to support this merger. We can't just promise our community that we will offer program and facility improvements to get them on board with a merger, and then not follow through. We can't simply move a group of middle school size students onto an elementary campus and call it an improvement.

Too often our community has gotten on board to support initiatives like the bond measure-working phone banks and bolstering community support- because we were told that the money would be used to upgrade facilities and provide funding to build a full-size gym/performing arts center. Yet, the bond got passed and many of our facilities are still not upgraded and there is no plan (or money left) to build that gym/performing arts center.

If the district wants a commitment from the community, the community needs to see plans, money, and commitment from the district to ensure that our students get the programs, facilities, and teachers that they need.

Resident of the RVUSD

I am truly sorry to hear that this closure is going to happen. I was really looking forward to sending my daughter to the Sequoia campus as I hear it has a fabulous reputation. I will not be sending her to Matanzas as it is across town and I am not too thrilled with my options over there. It is a shame that having an option of a small middle school on this side of town will no longer be an option. To go from a small middle school to a medium school will lose the charm and attractiveness of the school and if I had to choose between a medium school and a large school with higher test scores, I will choose the larger school. The reason I would have chosen Sequoia is because of the attention and connection with the teachers that I know she would have gotten, the strong projects and high standards I hear they hold their students to, and the fact that she will be recognized as a student not just a number at a huge school. Now she will just be a number at a larger school. What a shame. Moving the school so Sequoia Elementary could just take over RVCS instead of figuring out another way to expand Sequoia makes no sense to me. RVCS-Sequoia has been on that site for fifteen year and is well establish in the community, has won distinguished school awards, and was a school that other districts modeled their small middle schools after. Closing the school that is so well established, so the music department and daycare have a room, makes it seem like your priorities are out of place. If anything, close the other school as it was opened second, and keep Sequoia's campus open. I really hope you take these surveys seriously and are not just going through the motions to make it seem like you want to hear from the community. If the decision has already been made, grow up and tell the community that you are closing the school do make room for more Sequoia kids since that's who you seem to care about. From what I hear, most do not want the school to close because of what RVCS-Sequoia offers to the community, and if that is what the feed back is telling you, I hope you take it seriously, BECAUSE that is what the community, and your constituents want! They are not being difficult because it isn't what you want. They are being passionate because they see how valuable this school is for their children.

RVUSD school parent

What a shame.

	April Ritts	AprilRitts1977@gmail.com	RVUSD school parent	<p>I support offering a dedicated space for the Middle School, but why must the elementary school kids be penalized? Find a NEW space for the Middle School.</p> <p>Class sizes at Spring Creek are relatively small, WHICH IS A GOOD THING. Increasing class sizes to accommodate an increased student population is NOT acceptable. We moved to this neighborhood for this very reason.</p> <p>Has a study been done on the impact to traffic around Spring Creek and Matanzas? Has the wider community been notified and asked for input? There are tons of new families in the neighborhood, with babies and toddlers.</p> <p>Realtor.com ranks Spring Creek/Matanzas a 4 out of 10; now is not the time to offer FEWER resources to students. Comparatively, nearby Strawberry/Yulupa is ranked an 8 out of 10. Many parents have said if this plan goes through they will transfer their children to alternate schools.</p> <p>A major concern that I have not yet been able to express is the budget (or lack thereof) that will be available to support the renovations that will be necessary to make the middle school an attractive space for students and families. We cannot expect families to send their students to a redecorated elementary school that has had no updates to meet the needs of middle school students. We need to make this space something that makes our school a destination for students around the city, not just Rincon Valley. If the district is so strapped for cash, how can we possibly expect that money will be available for improvements that will be necessary for the middle school to draw the students necessary to keep the school open? We also need to secure the services of a professional marketing firm that can help us determine the best strategies for publicizing our school and district.</p>
Erin Conrad	econrad@rvusd.org	RVUSD teacher		

Amber Greer	amber.greer@sonomaacadem	RVUSD school parent	<p>Please, please, please don't do this! I am a high school teacher and I know the importance on kids going through the very difficult middle school years to get noticed and seen. That is where students first start experimenting with sex and drugs. Also, discovering their identities. I was so happy that a school district finally did it right...small classes, small communities where students are noticed and develop strong relationship with their teachers. Quiet kids like my daughter could get lost in the shuffle. She feels safe and happy at RVCS-Sequoia. It is walking distance from my house. My son will be there in two years. He is extremely shy and would thrive in a small community like RVCS-Sequoia. You will be making a mistake-like so many other public middle schools with overcrowded classes and students slipping through the cracks. Can we please keep these middle school communities small and a safe place for these students to take risks and find their true selves? Where they have a chance to be good role models for the little ones on campus? Also, my daughter is in the french program. RVCS Sequoia will have a steady stream of students from SRFACS.</p>
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Sequoia Valley USD: Visioning for the Future
Community Engagement Meeting
Registration Form

Optional Contact Information:

Name Herrault

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

Please keep the 4-6 at Matanzas

- Real track (expensive, new) in field
- More room for those big kids
- Great layout for independent kids

2. Please share any **additional comments**.

Spring Creek is too small for all of those kids

- No running track
- Not big enough jungle gym for big kids
- Campus is not kept up very well, can't handle all those extra kids
- No parking, too congested.



Sequoia Valley USD: Visioning for the Future
Community Engagement Meeting
Registration Form

Optional Contact Information:

Name

Angel

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

It is not fair to the 3rd Graders
who want to come to matanzas

2. Please share any **additional comments**.

There will be too little room.

Matanzas.

10.23.19



Sequoia Valley USD: Visioning for the Future
Community Engagement Meeting
Feedback Form

Optional Contact Information:

Name Carlos

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

could we do more marketing to
improve our enrollment

2. Please share any **additional comments**.

Matanzas

10.23.19



Sequoia Valley USD: Visioning for the Future
Community Engagement Meeting
Registration Form

Optional Contact Information:

Name Dave Schaefer

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

Quality of education w/crowded schools?

fairly spread out now.

Is the cost savings worth it?

2. Please share any **additional comments**.



Lincoln Valley USD: Visioning for the Future
Community Engagement Meeting
Feedback Form

Optional Contact Information:

Name _____

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

*RUCS
current
paint*

*good for older kids (7-8)
to be around younger
kids. (4-6)*

2. Please share any **additional comments**.



Sequoia Valley USD: Visioning for the Future
Community Engagement Meeting
Feedback Form

Optional Contact Information:

Name

Amanda Dalton

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

IF THIS RECONFIGURATION GOES THROUGH, THE
CURRENT 4th GRADERS WILL BE ALONE FOR
6th GRADE. I THINK THIS ISOLATION WILL
EFFECT THEM EMOTIONALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY.

2. Please share any **additional comments**.



Lincoln Valley USD: Visioning for the Future
Community Engagement Meeting
Comment Form

Optional Contact Information:

Name _____

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

Support the idea

let 6th grade be big kids

not an emotional decision
see benefits to the combined middle schools

2. Please share any **additional comments**.



Sequoia Valley USD: Visioning for the Future

Community Engagement Meeting

Feedback Form

Optional Contact Information:

Name Jaime Batt

Ja

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

I support the move
middle schools at one campus
redundant
fantastic idea!

2. Please share any **additional comments**.



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the potential reconfiguration at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

- Feels counterintuitive to move a Rincon Valley Middle School option out of R.V. It puts a burden on Rincon Valley families to get kids to school. I fear RV families will ^{look at} ~~not~~ other options if they need to get in their cars.
- Reconfiguration may be the best option. Since it seems this is predominantly low enrollment motivated... can we consider a robust marketing effort first?

2. Please share any additional comments.

- Do we know why enrollment is declining?
- What do the facilities currently offer? What is determined as a need? I would like to know more about what kids stand to gain from the reconfiguration.

Thank you!

Optional Contact Information:

Name Allison Budlong

Email/Phone: thebudlongs@gmail.com



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

* smaller environment = safer, more provision (1 on 1), easier environment to thrive socially and academically
* less room for kids to get into trouble
* less room = they interact with a group they normally wouldn't
* Gives a better chance for the kids to be supervised
↳ less chance for fights, Drugs, Sexual Acts, all things happening on larger campuses (as well as severe bullying)
* ~~the~~ health mentally, and physically is important
their
* you think about Academics, but if they are not flourishing

as a Person what's the point? (Talk to the kids see what they want)

2. Please share any additional comments

- I am a parent

- I am a 7 year Employee

- I am one of the original graduates from Sequoia
RVCS

(I've worked with kids since age 12 }
And the experiences between
the Charter are right and
day

Optional Contact Information:

Name Jada (Alyssa) Holiday

Email/Phone: Jholiday@rvusd.org



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

Combining the 2 middle schools would still result in a small school compared to 1100 RVMS. A slightly larger campus would allow more programs while still providing a personal, small environment.

Please keep the French program option available. We live in Rincon Valley + are looking forward to sending our French speaking kids to Rincon Valley schools.

2. Please share any **additional comments**.

Optional Contact Information:

Name Jennifer + Bruce Marinace

Email/Phone: jmarinace@gmail.com
707 479-4646



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

- My primary concern is class room size. My daughter is a 1st grader and I'm worried that in 2 to 3 years, she will go ~~from~~ from a class of 22 to 30 or more. We will move her to another school district or pay for private if this happens. We hate to uproot her from a school, teachers, and friends that she loves. Can you make guarantees this won't happen?
- How many students are zoned in our Spring Creek/Matanzas that opt out to Bennett Valley, private or other? What options do we have for retaining these students and increasing our enrollment/funding?
- What are the class room sizes at each RVUSD elementary campus?

2. Please share any **additional comments**.

- Please, if you consolidate to Spring Creek, keep things like the science lab, on-site after school care, upgrade athletic facilities to allow us to have sports teams, continue after school enrichment programs and allot space for the 3 tier K-2 classes to continue thru 6 @ current class sizes.
- Improving stage/video/audio
- Please get these kids some shade when they eat!!

Optional Contact Information: - Yes, please contact me

Name Beth Huang

Email/Phone: bethhuanghr@gmail.com, 707-975-3630.



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the potential reconfiguration at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

I feel that moving Sequoia will cause enrollment to drop from the schools on the east side. There are many students from Sequoia, Whited, Binkley, and Austin Creek. I would not have sent my children a larger distance. RVMS is a huge school and those are such transitional years. The smaller school has been a great option (on that side of RV).

2. Please share any additional comments.

I have a current + former child that have gone to RVCS - Sequoia. My older child had a great education that prepared him for the rigor + academics for Maria Carrillo.

Optional Contact Information:

Name _____

Email/Phone: _____



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the potential reconfiguration at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

I'm very concerned Sm. Classes are proven to be successful. By merging both schools there is chance teachers will have to bid for their jobs. Wasn't the purpose of opening RVCS in the first place to offer a Sm. Community type option for kids entering middle school? Do we no longer care about that.

2. Please share any additional comments.

~~Commented out~~

Optional Contact Information:

Name _____

Email/Phone: _____



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

Keeping small middle schools
as an option in the district
attracts families, ~~differentiates~~
differentiates
RVUSD.
Keep it small, diverse, human.

2. Please share any **additional comments**.

thanks for partnering with
community; please continue
and be transparent about
trade-offs and processes
for reconfiguration.

Optional Contact Information:

Name Mike Persinger

Email/Phone: mpersinger@rsu@yahoo.com



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

- ① I believe that combining the RVCS campuses will create opportunity for more dynamic curriculum offerings. I think that 300-350 is a nice size without being too large or too small - nice middle ground.
- ② Consider very strongly how ~~the~~ moving the RVCS campuses together will impact RV families & their willingness to commute to Matanzas.

2. Please share any **additional** comments.

Marketing, marketing, marketing!!!
This district needs to work on this area.

Optional Contact Information:

Name Ann Gospe

Email/Phone: angospe@gmail.com



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

- what does this mean ~~of~~ for the SDC's, for staff, for transfers?
- The main attraction of S.C. + Mat is that they are split with the littles separated from the bigs, and smaller sizes.
- I like the idea of possibly merging the RVCS's on Matanzas' campus.
- Better marketing.
- what does this mean for TK?

2. Please share any **additional comments**.

Optional Contact Information:

Name Nikki Rutland

Email/Phone: nikkirutland@yahoo.com / 707-206-2669



**Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future
Community Engagement Meeting
Comment Form**

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the potential reconfiguration at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

- ① Keep the Middle Schools Small ✓
⊗ This is why we stayed
in RVUSD/RVCS vs. going to Slater/RVMS. ✓
- ② Let's talk about creative ways to attract families vs. letting them leave to Bennett Valley
- programming languages, 2nd language classes (Spanish immersion ??)
- ③ Let's talk about creative ways to increase revenue for the district before we make this huge change (Talk to Sarah Herrera! ")

2. Please share any additional comments.

- ④ Hire professional marketing company to advertise the wonderful merits of our district (again: see #2 above - we need to make our district visibly attractive to local families! ✓)
- ⑤ Expand on the TK/Pre-K programs to attract families + KEEP them.
- ⑥ Imperative to keep + retain our beloved teachers - don't rock this boat ✓

Optional Contact Information:

Name Allison Stuck, parent of 3, + district employee

Email/Phone: allison.stuck@gmail.com

Best solution/compromise: Move RVCS - Sequoia to RVCS - Matanzas campus, but keep Matanzas 4-6th gr. @ Matanzas



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

- * I transfer in from BVUSD to go to smaller campuses and get special education services
- * great idea to keep SC K-3 Mat 4-6 and bring RVCS Sequoia to Matanzas
- * great idea to advertise the benefits of RVUSD
- * Spring Creek facilities will need major renovations to accommodate additional students from Matanzas

* have we considered an additional property tax?

2. Please share any **additional** comments.

- * have we considered "taking back" the SCOE classroom on Matanzas campus and servicing those students with RVC

Optional Contact Information:

Name _____

Email/Phone: _____



Rincon Valley USD: Visioning for the Future Community Engagement Meeting Comment Form

1. Please provide your comments and ideas regarding the **potential reconfiguration** at Sequoia, Matanzas and Spring Creek Campuses.

Where is the money coming from to provide the facilities we would need.

2. Please share any **additional comments**.

What would make you send your child to our schools?

Optional Contact Information:

Name _____

Email/Phone: _____