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Alpine High School Citizens Committee

Greetings from the AHSCC and an UPDATE:

To all the supporters of an Alpine high school and to the supporters for the modernization of the entire Grossmont Union High School District! This is a somewhat belated report regarding the past June 12th GUHSD regular governing board meeting. There were several items of importance on the agenda regarding our AHSCC mission, "A 12th high school for Alpine as was promised in the Prop H bond measure... and secondly, A fully modernized GUHSD".

The two most important June 12th Agenda Items were presentations on the 1) new Bond Feasibility Survey results ... and then the 2) GUHSD commissioned district demographics student population projections for the fall of 2008 thru 2021. Both presentations were by the firms responsible for performing each data collection. As a brief summary...

- 1) Let me just say, "The Bond Feasibility Study exceeded all expectations and indicated that if the governing board does vote to put another bond on the November election ballot it is almost certain to pass if the voting electorate is well educated about its' intended uses, and the improvements and projects that it would fund... and
- 2) The Student Population Projection report was somewhat disappointing and based upon what we in Alpine know to be true, was misleading and could be used to argue against an Alpine High School."

Because the "Bond Feasibility Study" was so positive (even in regard to funding a 12th new high school) and the "Student Projection Study" (SPS) was so lack luster, it is essential that the July meeting of the GUHSD governing board be attended in-force by the people of this district wanting modernizations and the 12th Alpine H.S. to be completed as Superintendent Collins has proposed in his new Strategic Plan.

The "Student Projection Study" was performed and presented by Davis Demographics & Planning, Inc. of Riverside, CA. They claim to be currently serving 150 school districts in 20

different states of the U.S. in a similar reporting capacity. The projection goes through the year 2021. They started this study in March of 2008. The presenter of the PowerPoint seemed inadequately informed on many important facts, however, it was admitted that this report was “preliminary”, and the final report wouldn’t be available for a couple of more weeks.

It (The SPS report in final & complete version) will be discussed at the July 10th GUHSD governing board meeting, which has been dubbed by Superintendent Collins as a “Board Workshop”, regarding his preparing the board for a “Special Meeting” on July 31st, at which time the governing board will “Vote” on whether there WILL, or WILL NOT be a follow up bond to finish Prop H, including fully modernizing ALL non-modernized GUHSD facilities and classrooms, and the building of the 12th new high school in Alpine.

The demographics study in its’ June 12th preliminary form, could be used as the loophole that some anti-Alpine H.S. folks are looking for. It does appear that Superintendent Collins truly believes that Alpine has been underserved over the past years and believes that kids should not be driving so far to school through windy mountains and hilly roads, and will push for an Alpine and Blossom Valley area high school and (We believe) that Collins’ believes that it is warranted, regardless of the demographics. He knows that he needs the new bond to do this, and repair and renovate the existing GUHSD High Schools, as they deserve to be. He cannot justify a new 12th high school without a new bond.

The July 31 vote is a “Finish the Prop H job as it should be, or LEAVE THE GLASS ONLY HALF FULL, or half-empty... depends on your perspective – both the half-full or half-empty scenario would leave the entire district in a half-modernized (post-Prop H) state of continued ill-repair.”

It goes without saying, “Superintendent Collins has it right!” A new bond is needed... it should be sized large enough so as to complete all of Prop H, and go further to modernize all the classrooms and GUHSD facilities, and to provide an ongoing maintenance source of funds for POST-Proposition on-going maintenance, as Prop H also stipulated. The preliminary June 12th “Student Projection Study”, and Superintendent Collins, had both indicated that a high school of 800 students could be planned on for the Alpine area as a start, then grow it as needed. Many in Alpine do not agree with that number and make a strong case that the base number should be 1000 students, or even 1500 knowing that, “when we build it, more will come into our area because we have an exemplary local high school, and other factors indicating that the number “800”, is likely low!”

Our bottom-line for Alpiners interested in a great high school education in EAST COUNTY; The July 10th, and July 31st GUHSD Governing Bd meetings are MUST ATTEND events!

A new bond would be a GREAT investment in the future of education in our region, let us not “let our children down” on this important need.

A final note; Small schools are a trend to better education... Alpine H.S. might just start off with a wait list because of its smallness and excellence... see the below links from a GOOGLE using query; “gates foundation education schools”.

HOWEVER, without a 4 of 5 board members voting Yes, or better yet, a unanimous GUHSD Board vote placing a NEW BOND on the November ballot (A Prop 39 – 55% approving passes – greater oversight required school bond allowance initiative) ... WITHOUT THE PREVIOUS...

ALPINE HIGH SCHOOL IS IN DANGER, and THERE WILL NOT BE TOTALLY MODERNIZED & FIXED UP high schools at GUHSD!

Sincerely,

Bill Weaver, AHSCC Chair

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(IF THE LINKS DO NOT WORK IN YOUR BROWSER – THEN USE “CUT & PASTE” METHOD WITH THE WEB ADDRESS)

1. **[Education - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)**

Preparing All Students for College, Career, and Life Every young person in the U.S. needs—and deserves—the chance to attend strong **schools**. ...

www.gatesfoundation.org/Education

2. **[High Schools - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)**

The **foundation** ... Home > United States Program > **Education** > High **Schools**. **Education**. Early Learning. High **Schools** ... Melinda **Gates Foundation**. All Rights ...

www.gatesfoundation.org/UnitedStates/Education/TransformingHighSchools

3. **[The Gates Foundation and Small Schools - Rethinking Schools - Volume 19 ...](#)**

... **Gates** said in a speech before the National **Education** Summit on High **Schools** in ... In **education**, the **Gates foundation** focuses on small **schools** and research to

www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/19_04/gate194.shtml

4. [Rhode Island Schools to Receive \\$20 Million from the Bill & Melinda ...](#)

Foundation supports three **school** coalitions for continued **education** improvements ...
Director of **Education** for the Bill & Melinda **Gates Foundation**, at the event. ...

www.providenceri.com/education/gatesfoundation.html

5. [Gates Foundation Education Newsletter](#)

... the Bill & Melinda **Gates Foundation** provides all **education** grantees with a brief ...
ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural **Education** and Small **Schools**. ...

www.smallschoolsproject.org/gates_news/Gates_march.htm
