

LOMPOC UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
7-11 Committee Meeting
October 7, 2008

The second 7-11 Committee meeting was held from 5:00-6:30 p.m., in the Board Room on Tuesday, October 7, 2008.

Superintendent Frank Lynch welcomed members and introduced Patty Griggs who will be a valuable resource in discussions of enrollment trends and history. She will have CBED's data available.

Dr. Lynch told the group that our student population will be below 10,000 in this school year (2008-2009) for the first time in many years and the trend is continuing.

The idea of K-8 configuration was brought up at the previous meeting and was revisited. Dr. Lynch reminded the group that we just returned to the K-6 philosophy of the 1960's. Celeste Pico shared the results of data that she had been studying on the topic of K-8 configuration among other things, she found that smaller schools were best and that parent involvement was high in K-8 schools. She noted that there was higher academic achievement than in middle schools.

Kathi Froemming questioned the criteria for closing schools.

Carol Arnerich brought up credentialing which does not seem to be a problem. Questions arose about how to provide electives to 7th and 8th graders (and 6th?). Both Leslie Wagonseller and Carl Krugmeier agreed that "6th graders are where they need to be."

Carl added that we need a "huge planning lead-in" to add grades 7 and 8. Patty Griggs shared that 5th graders benefit from the association with older students.

The topic of a 4-day week was discussed. Dr. Lynch told the group that state mandated instructional minutes must be met - and that a waiver would be required. If test scores are not adequate, the program would be eliminated. The advantages of money saving in utilities and transportation - as well as the opportunity for staff development on the "off day" were brought up. The disadvantage(s) of a long day were brought up.

Various districts that have instituted a 4-day week were discussed. Leslie Wagonseller will bring data from a district in Oregon. Jeff Wagonseller cited 108 districts which have gone to a 4-day week; attendance has risen and scores have gone up. Day care, however, is an issue.

Other possible savings were cited. Multitrack year round schools were discussed. These are great for high school sports, according to Dry. Lynch. Mainly this is a system devised to accommodate rapid growth.

Steve Straight gave a historical account of LUSD's going to a 7-12 configuration when LVMS and CHS were combined due to declining enrollment. Pros and cons of 7-8th grades on campus were discussed. Schel Brown sees no disadvantage.

At our November meeting Dr. Lynch will bring a cost analysis of our current operations.

The specter of the Governor's \$7 Billion bail out request hangs over us. We face mid-year cuts. Gary Black informed the group that there will need to be \$2-\$3 million in cuts to open the doors next year.

We will look at high school and middle school enrollment. Our economic woes are very real.

All ideas in this group are valid - there are no sacred cows.

Jamie Burns questioned ways we could raise income (revenue).

Carl Krugmeier commented, "there's a sense of urgency - we need to come up with ideas soon."

Pros and cons of closing schools were raised.

Frank commented that under Proposition 39 we can/could open a charter school.

Jamie Burns and others brought up that we need to look at other schools and districts to see what they offer that draws students.

"We need to reach out" was stated more than once.

Andrea Lawrence explained that many new charter schools attract students with "bells, whistles and promises." We can reach out of town students with our Camino Real program.

Charter schools as a threat was discussed. They are small with a small school community. Carl brought up the idea of a school within a school. Patty Griggs commented that "all day kindergarten is attractive." Frank commented that we need to state the problem and resolve to solve it.

It was agreed that competition is not a bad thing.

Patty Griggs stated that "we need to maintain and/or increase enrollment with all day kindergarten, incentives and independent study for people who go to Mexico for long periods."