

Mandarin Immersion School

A strategy for Academic Achievement

Why Mandarin Dual Immersion

Parent Interest

A diverse offering for our families and the district

A research based way to improve the academic performance for all of our students. Research shows significant “closing the gap” academic achievement for English Language Learners as well as “closing the gap” benefits for African American students.

For this reason, our program is open to everyone and we will work diligently to ensure a diverse representation of students.

Review of Actions to Date

August to January-Information gathering through surveys, initial meeting with group of parents intent to start charter, discussion of wider immersion options

January 4-Approval of Mandarin Program (school)

January 18-Review of research and program and initial discussion about location. Board asks staff to complete staff meetings before voting for approval of the location. Board asked item be brought back as discussion

Today-Review of Community meetings and recommendation about location (non-action item)

Facilities - Objectives

We want to house students in a location that could accommodate annual enrollment increase

We want to take into consideration geographic locations of other proposed and/or existing language immersion programs (Washington, Stewart, Richmond/San Pablo corridor) to create a district-wide program

We need minimal upfront capital costs

We need to coordinate with Facilities Master Plan recommendations (housing the Wilson Elementary School at Portola site during reconstruction)

We do not want to displace existing programs

Community Meeting Review

Wilson Meeting

The community was very clear about their frustration in the delay of the school. The school community wanted a firm commitment from the district about project dates. The community is willing to move earlier. Parents wanted explanations as to why the delay.

Fairmont Meeting

Options Considered for Location of School

North Campus	Significant capital costs to ready for kindergarten and to become a school
DeJean Middle	Capacity available but grade levels not aligned
Kennedy HS	Capacity available but grade levels not aligned (Kennedy grew in enrollment this year)
Stege Elementary	Insufficient capacity to accommodate annual enrollment growth

Options Considered for Location of School

Crespi Middle School	Capacity available but grade levels not aligned
El Sobrante site	Displacement of current program and capital investment
Alvarado School	Displacement of current program and capital investment
Portola site	Has the capacity, potential for enrollment growth; grade levels aligned with Wilson during co-location.

Mandarin Immersion School at Portola site

Portola site meets the facilities objectives

There is no current long-term solution for the Portola site

Facilities Master Plan identifies Portola site as temporary site for Wilson ES

Wilson ES student enrollment is approximately 460

It is anticipated that Wilson ES would move to Portola campus during summer of 2018 subject to timing of code updates, incorporation of educational specification revisions, and Division of State Architect approval

Wilson students and staff will be able to fit on the Portola campus during the co-location based on estimated timelines for construction

Estimated Costs

Staffing costs would be the same regardless of location unless an “existing school” was converted to Mandarin (approximately \$600,000 from fund balance). **Actual cost of this is unclear due to lack of knowledge about where students would come from (new to the district or existing).**

Startup costs for supplies, instructional materials, etc. from one-time fund balance as approved in December (**approximately \$200,000 from fund balance**)

Playground and outdoor community space improvements would be paid through MRAD (**approximately \$200,000 from MRAD fund**)

Facilities costs at Portola are minimal. (**approx. \$200,000 from developer fees**)

Bond funds would NOT be used for this project with the exception of funds ultimately needed to co-locate Wilson ES, i.e. PGE service upgrades: replacing portables that