

Citrus community meeting
1-27-14

General comments and questions taken throughout presentation
(NOTE: This is a bulleted topic list and not a direct meeting transcript)

- Transportation of students to and from school who currently walk
 - Esplanade & Mangrove
 - Nord and railroad tracks
 - Other main streets
- Students who bike or walk to Citrus currently
- Parents that have no access to vehicle
- Staff and teachers at Citrus
- Distribution of Loma Vista students in lieu of one school
- City Involvement
- After school programs, will they continue and will they be free
- History of Citrus school
- Not every student learns the same
- What about the impact on the kids that move
- Impact special needs of kids
- Space and program changes
- Other options considered
- Kids need to be focus
- Look at all costs
- Use existing vacant building in Chico or site (knocking down)
- Citrus location for elementary school to other community resources
- Small school is better
- The best solution District wide for ALL kids of the community should be the priority
- Citrus teachers are great resources for kids
- Give the community more time and a better hearing
- The human value for the community
- “We don’t want to lose our school and its great teachers?”
- “Why has only one proposal been made to the Board and not a second that doesn’t involve the closing of a school?”
- “Ditto”
- “What about building 2nd stories at Loma Vista and/or Marigold? (like Shasta)”
- “Doesn’t this seem a little much? Because to me this makes a more crowded situation. Have you checked the student’s opinion? Phase 2 is perfectly fine to me but, the rest seems like it will put too much pressure on the Chico Ca. Education system. Is the situation being check for any problems? All the people representing this seem to be unsure. This plan has already failed.”
- “1) Is there a plan B? What is it? 2) Is it possible to move a charter school to empty classrooms at Citrus and then move Loma Vista students to the charter school campus? 3) Or are other buildings in town available to house Loma Vista? 4) The staff at Citrus is doing remarkably well to work the students here – many disadvantaged kids. It will pull these students back if they are moved.”

- “Why would you close Citrus, teachers are dedicated to our children, and the neighborhood needs Citrus. Whatever needs to be fixed the city can fix it. So—why can’t Loma Vista build extra trailer spaces, “modulators”?? And all the kids at Loma Vista, they can be all dispersed out to the community—why ruin Citrus family school your not being fair.”
- “1) What are the costs to each of the alternatives? 2) So if developing Henshaw is always going to be a large cost, why don’t we sell it? 3) How big are you going to allow our elementary schools to get that do not interfere with a proper education? Can the Loma kids be integrated with the TK classes? The education in this school has greatly improved with the present administration. How can you justify ending that growth for our students?”
- “Please don’t close this school. My children have progressed here. The teachers take the time to know each child. Putting them in a school with more kids to teacher they won’t get what they need. This school is also reachable by many children of this neighborhood. Where will they go? The Bond money is to improve schools not move them. Marigold is too far away for us.”
- “We need to look at the children physically and mental needs too. Bussing children out would cost too. No Child Left Behind Act—Bussing kids out”
- “How do working parents whose kids walk or ride bikes to school get to their new school?”
- “How was it or how did it come about that Citrus was the chosen site to be closed down?”
- “The decision of closing Citrus Elementary or doing further plans, who made the decision or who chose Citrus?”
- “How can we keep Citrus open?”
- “What about children in the after school program and how they will get home?”
- “Is this a for sure thing”
- “Citrus is a historical landmark and it is very unique. Citrus has so much to offer. Don’t take Citrus!!”

My concerns at Citrus:

Due to the expansion of Enloe the neighborhood around Enloe and Citrus School has been impacted. Traffic has increased many times over 5 years ago, emergency vehicles go by on W 4th 8, 10 sometimes 15 times a day. Arcadian Ave has become a heavy truck route.

1. Due to the special needs of the proposed new campus how many extra buses will be delivering students. Where will the drop off be, what will be their traffic pattern in and out of the campus?
2. Due to the type of students and the teacher to student ratio what will be the new number of employees vs the old.
3. If a parking lot is built how much green area will that take out! Every weekend kid and adults use the playground for activities. The West Side Avenues does not have much in the way of green areas for recreation.
4. If the change takes place what type new construction will be needed now and in the future? Will the School District repair and replace the broken sidewalks. What kind of beautification projects will it take to make Citrus more appealing to the neighborhood?
5. If a parking lot is built what will the School District do to make their employees use it and not park in the neighborhood anyway. At nights and on weekends what kind of security will be in place to prevent the new parking lot from becoming a gathering place.

JUST A FEW IDEAS!

Man

