

SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS  
Office of the Superintendent

RECOMMENDATION OF PROPOSITION MM SECOND UNDESIGNATED MIDDLE  
SCHOOL TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING AT MEMORIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL  
August 5, 2003

Introductory Statement

Based on a review of current and projected enrollment in the San Diego Unified School District, District staff has determined that the best use for the second undesignated Proposition MM elementary school is as a middle school to relieve overcrowding at Memorial Middle School. Although not specifically listed in the Proposition MM ballot measure, this project would be consistent with the objectives of Proposition MM.

Background

On November 3, 1998, San Diego voters approved Proposition MM, which authorized the sale of up to \$1.51 billion in general obligation bonds to repair, renovate, upgrade and expand existing schools; and to acquire property and construct 13 new elementary schools, including two undesignated elementary schools. The purpose of the new schools was to relieve overcrowding in elementary schools and address growth. The construction of new high school facilities was to allow a K-5 configuration at a majority of the elementary schools and a 6-8 configuration at a majority of the middle schools.

To date sites for 10 of the 13 new schools, including one undesignated elementary school, have been approved by the Board of Education (Board). The advanced status of the site selection process for the new schools has led to an appropriate time to review the second undesignated elementary school.

To determine the highest and best use for the second undesignated elementary school staff reviewed past, current, and projected enrollment patterns. The review of the enrollment figures confirmed two key findings:

1. the District's elementary school population enrollments are lower than forecasted when Proposition MM was developed;
2. the District is currently forecasted to have rising secondary enrollment through 2008 – 2009.

The decline in projected elementary school enrollment is expected to allow the District to achieve its elementary school enrollment and grade configuration targets sooner than expected. A list of large elementary schools that will remain after Proposition MM is provided as a part of Attachment A. A review of each of these elementary schools has determined that they are

instructionally appropriate for the number of students to be served, with the potential exception of Zamorano. Zamorano will be the subject of a future recommendation to the Board. The result is that there is not a clear-cut need for a new elementary school, relative to the second undesignated elementary school.

In a similar fashion Proposition MM is expected to substantially accommodate the forecasted enrollment growth for the high school portion of the secondary enrollment projections. Proposition MM high school projects include growth/classroom addition projects at Mira Mesa High School, Scripps High School, and San Diego High School, and the rebuilding and significant expansion of Lincoln High School.

Proposition MM was not designed to alleviate the forecasted enrollment growth for middle schools. However, since the update of the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan and planning for Proposition MM in 1996-1998, Memorial Middle School has experienced significant increases in both its resident student population and actual enrollment. It is also impacted by a limited site size, and the current and projected need to cap enrollment.

The results of Proposition MM projects and changing elementary and secondary demographics suggest that a south San Diego area middle school, in particular one to relieve enrollment at Memorial Middle School, is the highest new school need within the timeframe of Proposition MM. Proposition MM elementary schools were designated by the name of the schools they will relieve until a specific site is selected. Consistent with this the proposed new middle school will be referred to as the Memorial Area New Middle School.

The Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC) voted on June 17, 2003 to support the staff recommendation to begin planning for a new middle school to relieve overcrowding at Memorial Middle School.

### Instructional Implications

Proposition MM was designed to improve classroom health, safety and instruction in every neighborhood school by various methods including the building of new schools. This included going to a Grade K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 configuration. Approval of the recommendation will allow District staff to begin the planning process for the new middle school that will support these objectives.

### Facilities Implications

The new Memorial Area Middle School would be consistent with the objectives of Proposition MM. The project would serve to provide enrollment relief to the existing Memorial Middle School and would also assist the District in achieving the standards contained in the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan (LRFMP).

### Budget Implications

Funding for the site acquisition and construction of the proposed Memorial Area Middle School will be developed as a part of the planning process and brought back to the Board. It is

anticipated that a combination of the Proposition MM funding for the second undesignated elementary school and other funding sources will be required.

### Public Support and Engagement Implications

Public engagement will begin once planning for the new middle school is approved. It is expected that the process used for the new Proposition MM elementary schools will be used for the new middle school as well. The ICOC has reviewed and supported the staff recommendation.

### Policy Implications

This report is consistent with board policies E-2050, E-2100, E-2250, E-2300, E-2350, E-2400, E-2500 and E-4000. No revision of administrative procedure is required.

### Recommendations

The superintendent recommends that the Board of Education direct staff to begin planning for a new middle school to relieve overcrowding at Memorial Middle School.

Report prepared by Louis M. Smith, Chief Operating Officer, Facilities Management; Jim Bray, Civil/Environmental Engineering Coordinator, Facilities Management.