

# SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS

## OFFICE OF SCHOOL SITE SUPPORT Facilities Management

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF PROPOSITION MM NORMAL HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM REDUCTION

May 25, 2004

#### Introductory Statement

This report requests approval to reduce the number of classrooms slated for this new school, from 32 to 28. The reduction is proposed for four, 960 square foot, general education classrooms. No other space reduction is recommended. This reduction reduces the permanent classroom capacity of the school from 700 students to 600 students.

#### Background

On December 10, 2002, the Board of Education approved the site and scope of project at a student capacity of 700 based on demographic data available at that time.

On March 18, 2004, a community design task force meeting was held to discuss the progress of the project. District staff with support from Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects presented the revised population forecasts for Normal Heights and the surrounding area and a proposal to reduce the number of classrooms from 32 to 28.

A slight decline in the resident elementary population in the Adams/Franklin area (approximately 100 students) is forecasted over the next several years. This decline will be made up by the forecasted student generation from the initial residential redevelopment along El Cajon Boulevard, yielding an essentially stable population over the planning period.

The initial enrollment forecast for Normal Heights Elementary School is approximately 470 students, given a reasonable hypothetical attendance boundary and resident/non-resident enrollment trends. The school may attract additional non-resident students, but it is reasonable to assume that it will not need a permanent capacity greater than 600 students. The campus has space to expand classroom facilities should the need arise sometime in the future.

#### 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. District staff is proposing a reduction of four classrooms for the new Normal Heights Elementary School from the original program in Proposition MM. This proposal is based on the changing demographics in the Normal Heights area and the decline in enrollment at neighboring Adams and Franklin Elementary Schools since the planning of Proposition MM in 1997-98. It will not compromise

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PROPOSITION MM  
NORMAL HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM REDUCTION

Page 2

support of the educational program at Normal Heights Elementary School, or the existing schools (Adams and Franklin).

Facilities Implications

The reduction of four classrooms will allow for a larger outdoor teaching area and space, if needed, and for the addition of future classrooms.

Budget Implications

It is estimated that the savings from eliminating these four classrooms will be approximately \$700,000 in one-time costs.

Public Support and Engagement Implications

The proposed classroom reduction for the Normal Heights Elementary School has been discussed with community organizations and the Normal Heights Elementary School Design Task Force. The proposal was met with general acceptance by the members of the task force.

Policy Implications

Recommendations of this report are consistent with board policies E-2050, E-2100, and E-2400.

Recommendations

The superintendent recommends:

- That a reduction of four general education classrooms from the proposed Normal Heights Elementary School campus be accepted.

Report prepared by Robert F. Kiesling, Director, Acquisition & Asset Management;  
and Linda Clark, Project Manager, Facilities Management.