

SAN DIEGO CITY SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF TWO SMALL SCHOOLS
WITHIN THE KEARNY AND CRAWFORD EDUCATIONAL COMPLEXES

September 14, 2004

Introductory Statement

Due to input from parents, students, teachers, and community members, a request has been made to change the name of two of the new small high schools within the Kearny and Crawford Educational Complexes. The schools are currently referred to as “The School of Health and Environmental Science at the Kearny Educational Complex” and “The School of Fitness, Health, and Medical Science at the Crawford Educational Complex.”

Background

On February 10, 2004 the Board of Education approved the opening of fourteen new small high schools on the campuses of Kearny, Crawford, and San Diego High Schools. The small schools’ themes and their representative school names were developed through a process that included research and planning by teachers, student interest surveys, and discussions with parents and business/community partners.

Following board approval, the school communities expanded their design teams to further engage the students, parents, and community members in the design work. As the teams each developed their school identity and curricular framework, the design teams from “The School of Health and Environmental Science at the Kearny Educational Complex” and “The School of Fitness, Health, and Medical Science at the Crawford Educational Complex” each began to envision their school as having a broader academic theme. The name changes requested in this report more accurately reflect the new instructional identity and curricular themes that have evolved.

The School Names Committee, chaired by community member Sandra Arkin and staffed by the Director of Community Relation, has been informed of this recommendation. It was also agreed that as a courtesy to the School Names Committee, the Office of Secondary School Innovation would continue to apprise the committee of any changes regarding future naming needs.

A. Kearny Educational Complex: The School of Health and Environmental Science

The School of Health and Environmental Science evolved out of early focus groups with teachers, student surveys, and discussions with parents and community members. After receiving Board approval, the design groups were significantly expanded to include greater numbers of parents, community/business members, and students. It was then agreed that there needed to be a more prominent use of the word “science” in the naming of the school because “science” rather than “health” conveyed a more rigorous academic and college-preparatory message.

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Teachers and school staff also agreed with this recommendation and supported the change. This new, broader name, **“The School of Science, Connections, and Technology (SCT)”** would allow more options for selecting course topics that would be relevant and appealing to high school students.

B. Crawford Educational Complex: The School of Fitness, Health, and Medical Science

On February 10, 2004, the board approved the creation of four small schools at Crawford. There were originally five small schools planned, but due to budget limitations, only four were brought forward for board action. The fifth school under consideration by staff was tentatively called "The School of Leadership." Following board action on February 10, 2004 staff at Crawford moved forward with the development of “The School of Fitness, Health, and Medical Science,” with the intention of incorporating many of the elements originally developed within “The School of Leadership.” Members from the design teams of “The School of Fitness, Health, and Medical Science” and “The School of Leadership” agreed to merge together to develop a rigorous instructional program that combined the strongest academic elements from both schools. Through this process the design team, which included teachers, parents, students, business/community partners, unanimously agreed that the new school would be best represented by the name, “The School of Community Health and Medical Practices (CHAMPS).” It should also be noted that Crawford parents, community members, and students felt that the word “fitness” did not adequately convey a rigorous curriculum and college-preparatory identity so therefore, was removed from the proposed name.

Instructional Implications

The name changes recommended within this report better represent the broader curriculum and instructional plans that have been developed in each of these small schools.

Facilities Implications

The approval of this report has no facilities implications.

Budget Implications

The approval of this report requires no additional expenditures.

Public Support and Engagement Implications

As previously stated in this report, there was widespread advocacy and community support for these proposed name changes.

Policy Implications

This board report complies with existing Board Policy E-5000 and K-2000.

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Recommendation

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education:

1) Approve a change in the name of the two small schools as follows:

- A. From the previously named, “The School of Health and Environmental Science at the Kearny Educational Complex” to “The School of Science, Connections, and Technology (SCT) at the Kearny Educational Complex.”
- B. From the previously named, “The School of Fitness, Health, and Medical Science at the Crawford Educational Complex” to “The School of Community Health and Medical Practices (CHAMPS) at the Crawford Educational Complex.”

2) Direct staff to prepare and submit all necessary paperwork with the California State Department of Education related to the renaming of these schools.

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