

School Closure

The Board of Education (“Board”) recognizes its responsibility to ensure fiscal solvency and utilize Mt. Diablo Unified School District (“District”) resources to ensure highest quality education for students. Any decision to close a school will affect parents, neighborhoods, communities, District personnel, and, of course, students. It will also affect relationships, routines, and cherished traditions. In short, it alters not only District operations but also stakeholders’ lives. The District believes that although the process of closing a school is difficult, if done systematically and with thorough planning, it becomes less difficult.

The District is committed to ensuring that, if it becomes necessary to close one or more schools, then the process used and the decisions made regarding closure will not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin. The Superintendent shall ensure the following process is implemented prior to a recommendation to the Board to close a school. In the event of an emergency, the Board shall meet to consider suspending the policy.

1. When the Board seeks to explore the possibility of closing one or more schools, it shall appoint a School Closure Advisory Committee (“Committee”) to make a recommendation about which, if any, District school(s) should be considered for closure.
2. In order to assist the Committee in its work, the Board shall commission a report on the demographics of District schools.

Role of School Closure Advisory Committee

3. The Board shall develop objective criteria for the Committee to consider in determining the school(s) to be closed as applicable including, but not limited to, school capacity and enrollment, transportation and safety concerns, facility condition, etc.
4. The Committee’s charge shall be to complete a detailed evaluation based on District criteria and to make an impartial, fact-based recommendation for closure to the Board. The Committee shall not advocate for any school(s) or cost-savings to avoid closure as that is the exclusive province of the Board.
5. The Committee shall be comprised of a cross section of the District community with representatives from each feeder pattern. Some or all of the following stakeholder groups shall be represented:
 - a. School administrators;
 - b. Teachers;
 - c. Parents;
 - d. Employees of the Maintenance & Operations Department;
 - e. Employees of the Fiscal Department;
 - f. District English Language Advisory Committee;
 - g. Community Advisory Committee;

- h. Parent Advisory Council;
 - i. Equity Advisory Committee; and
 - j. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
6. The Committee shall ensure that the recommended closure will not have a significant disproportionate adverse impact on students on the basis of race or ethnicity unless the Committee has demonstrated that:
- a. The closure is necessary to achieve one or more District goals; and
 - b. There are no alternatives with less disproportionate impact that would be comparably effective in meeting the goal.
7. The Committee also shall, among other things:
- a. Convene community meetings at sites within each District feeder pattern;
 - b. Ensure that its recommendation include consideration of Boundary changes;
 - c. Consider the equity and hardship to families of closing multiple schools in the same feeder pattern or geographic location;
 - d. Provide progress reports at duly noticed public meetings of the Board; and
 - e. Make a final recommendation to the Board of what school(s) should be closed.
8. The Committee's analysis and conclusion will be presented to the Superintendent who will review the Committee's work. The Committee's recommendation may be modified based upon input from the Superintendent, legal mandates or other information. The Superintendent will then present recommendations to the Board in a public meeting.
9. The Superintendent shall confirm that: (A) in selecting a school for closure, the factors and criteria to be considered under this policy have been applied consistently; and, (B) any school selections having a significant disproportionate adverse impact on students based on race or ethnicity are necessary to achieve one or more important District goals, and there are no alternatives with a less disproportionate impact that would be comparably effective in meeting the goal(s).

Board Action on the School Closure Advisory Committee's Recommendation

10. The Board shall review the Committee's recommendation at general session at a duly noticed public meeting.
11. Once the recommendation has been presented to the Board, the Superintendent or Designee will conduct community forums at each potential site that may be affected by the closure, to include those sites designated to receive a substantial increase in enrollment. These forums will enable the community at large to address concerns, ask questions, and to understand the District's plan and rationale. The community forums will be conducted by the Superintendent and the President of the Board.

12. The community forums will be conducted by the President of the Board, the Superintendent and at least one member of the Committee. The site principal, as well as the principal(s) that will receive the students from the closing school(s) and at least one member of the school-closure committee will be required to attend.
13. After the conclusion of the community forum process, the Board will consider, as an action item, a Board resolution based upon the Superintendent's recommendation to close a specific school(s). The Superintendent's recommendation will have been based upon the Committee's findings and other relevant information, which may or may not have been modified after the community forums.
14. The Superintendent and/or President of the Board will state the facts behind the decision for school closure.
15. In making a final determination about closing schools, the Board shall ensure that such closure does not have a significant disproportionate adverse impact on students on the basis of race or ethnicity unless the Committee has demonstrated that:
 - a. The closure is necessary to achieve one or more District goals; and
 - b. There are no alternatives with less disproportionate impact that would be comparably effective in meeting the goal.

School Closure Transition Team

16. Within ten days of the Board's vote to close a school, it shall appoint a School Closure Transition Team ("Team"). The Team will address issues including, but not limited to, boundary changes, transportation, services for relocated students, District-to-parent communication, seamless incorporation of students from closing school(s), and personnel changes necessitated by the closure.

Legal References:

EDUCATION CODE

17387 -17391 Advisory Committees

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

90-101 Plans to Alleviate Racial and Ethnic Segregation of Minority Students

Policy MT. DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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