

**Special Meeting and Community Forum
of the Governing Board of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District
September 21, 2006**

The Trustees listened to the school community's opinions and creative ideas with regard to the following:

- **How should the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District use its Bolinas and Stinson Beach campuses in the future?**
- **What are your thoughts about thresholds for making decisions?**

Responses:

- Suggestion: Move older students (Junior High) to the Stinson campus and have K-5 on Bolinas campus.
- Important to maintain stable and permanent facility. Temporary structures do not provide this.
- Concerns about mixing older students and primary students.
- Some indication that the enrollment trend may shift toward an increase in population.
- District is financially secure. There is no current fiscal crisis. Closure of Stinson campus is not a financially motivated decision.
- Closing schools in communities is detrimental to those communities.
- Closing the Stinson campus will take its toll on the community of Stinson Beach.
- Facilities report said, "Wait and see"... and we should!
- Moved to community partly because of the schools - especially the two campuses.
- New parents/community members: Love the current school configurations.
- There are a lot of new babies in our communities.
- As a former board member, we should recognize the upcoming importance of early childhood education and recognize that closing the Stinson campus may be short-sighted.
- 47 year resident of Bolinas, art instructor, community member, board member: Consider alternative use of Stinson campus for adult education courses to enhance our community.
- Parent, teacher at Stinson and Bolinas: Consolidation is the right thing to do. Takes a good school and makes it better.
- Loss of instructional time is a fact (as a result of having two campuses.)
- Critical mass of kids – feels better to kids and staff.
- School currently has an articulation problem – our students need a K-8 curriculum. Academically and professionally consolidation makes sense.
- Consolidation could be accomplished without new construction.
- Stinson-Bolinas consolidation does not have to mean that Stinson campus is closed.
- We have two wonderful spaces that we must make thrive. We must examine the facts and honestly examine how to utilize our existing facilities.
- Work to maintain both campuses – pull together to do this creatively.
- Primary teacher: We are rushing things. We need to analyze the school environments. Impacts of locating young students and older students.
- Need to gather information about how to create the best school environments for our students. We need to utilize experts and current research to apply criteria for establishing the best learning environment for all our children. **DON'T RUSH.**
- Staff member, parent, and community member, part of Pine Gulch: Appreciate the wonderful environment that Stinson offers our young children but miss the opportunity to easily interact with other aspects of the school community such as kitchen, arts shops

- Sentiment: Stinson campus is beautiful. Keep the tradition alive for the children.
- Pragmatic:
 - Less school time /more bus time if Stinson closes.
 - Expensive to build new structures at Bolinas campus.
 - Temporary buildings have a way of becoming permanent.
 - 102 enrolled students.
 - Fear that enrollment will drop.
 - Pre-school is packed.
 - Do not know what number should be used for predictions.
 - Letter, G. Woods: no pedagogical benefit to consolidate.
 - Bullying could be a problem for mixing the age groups.
 - Financial – no reason to close (not a money issue).
 - Heirs may want to get campus back; then Federal Government, GGNRA.
- Working Group Recommendation from April 18, 2006:
 - Staff time compromised.
 - Not ready to increase K-2 time.
 - Third bus and driver would be needed.
 - Limited availability of services for special needs students.
 - Harder to take care of lunch tickets.
 - Mixing all the ages on one campus is safe – debatable.
 - Concern: Group should not accept one view without factual information.
 - Propose limitations on playtime.
 - Cost is irresponsible for consolidation of two campuses.
 - Future enrollment will decrease before 2009 and increase after 2009. UC agrees.
 - Marin has low teen birth rate. Increases with age/education.
 - Step back and get all the facts – not consensus of opinion.
- Not taking a position; was on working group – did not cherry pick facts. Needs to be more information for pro's and con's. Need debate with fully informed facts – not sentiment – Need to get information out to the community, and then have informed discussion. Love the idea of daughter at Stinson campus but not sure about 3rd/4th grade with 50 kids.
- Have read recommendations of working group and facilities report.
 - Low enrollment (working group)
 - Slowdown and wait for natural attrition. (facilities report)
 - Use both recommendations and slow down.
 - How do we fit pre-school over at Bolinas; soccer fields, build green buildings if time vs. pre-fabricated.
 - Support vision of working group.
 - 102 students incoming = outgoing class. It will remain the same.
- Relieves feelings of hidden agenda; ask board for no decision for another year; do not agree with hidden agendas. Follow Best Practice guide in facilities report. Get/gather facts; have looked at by task group. Important that committee is objective/independent. The Superintendent and board members should not gather facts.
- Son went to Stinson schools then to Bolinas as Stinson School burned down – son was not harmed.
- No young children in school; a non-school group meets in art room – idea of having a facility for adult learning; do not want this to be in competition with what is needed.

- Natural fluctuation of population. Universal pre-school.
- Population fluctuates: 1975 Bolinas plan developed. Population increased to 236 students between 1965-1975. 160 students in 1975. 244 students in 1977. Stinson campus opened in 1981. Solutions to portables not yet found...
- Pig in a python = Baby Boomers. Will not be status quo. Think we will be re-populated with children. Pre-school is full.
- Universal pre-school lost in polls; support exists. Stinson/Bolinas is a model for school/pre-school model. Including pre-school is the wave of the future. We are doing it.
- Want to see a gymnasium built so students are not shocked when they go over the hill.
- Taught in woodshop for eighteen years; taught in Pine Gulch program. Can not find a more beautiful campus than Stinson/Bolinas. Children come from all around the Bay area to this environment. Multi aged is ideal. Good for young children to have a "Safe Space". Lucky to have both places and can also be together.
- As long as we can have a viable school with natural science and can come to Bolinas and be together. If all the students can fit at Bolinas' facilities without re-configuring– then time speaks.
- Care about education. Do not know why it would be good to close/consolidate.
- Is it bad to have a kindergartener with an eighth grader?
- Would be horrified if I was the eighth grader with a kindergarten student. Response: K-8 school has cross-age tutoring in Berkeley; community service is used; kindergartens get a role model, eighth graders get mentoring and grounding. Intersession for K-8 is/was successful. Influence of drugs - through the grapevine Bolinas has drugs (do not know if it is true). Do not want to expose kindergarteners.
- Love Stinson campus. Need to look at and pull off table: Older kids are a threat to the younger child. Talk of hidden agendas and trust. What is emotional about this? What is fact about the learning experience? Five weeks of instructional time lost on the bus is important and matters.
- Concern that we will rush into consolidation without enrichment programs being considered.
- Enrichment programs must be considered "core" programs and have facilities.