

TASK FORCE TO STUDY CONSOLIDATION OF
KEANAE AND HANA SCHOOLS

Minutes of Meeting
August 27, 2009

Task Force Members Present

Bob Carroll, Chair
Kehau Kimokeo
Gary Davidson, Vice-Principal, Hana School
April Pettit, ASA, Hana School
Marilyn Tau`a

Member Absent

Terry Akuna

Department of Education Staff Present

Lindsay Ball, Complex Area Superintendent
Randy Moore, Assistant Superintendent
Judy Tanaka, Private Secretary

Community Members Present

Geraldine Carroll, Walter Pacheco, Wesley Ah Koi, Constance Lee, Ohia-Lehua Crozier,
Aileen Lee, Sari Powell Redo, Elaine Wender, Anuheia Sylva, Janet Redo, Heaven Pua,
Shana Kaikala

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Carroll at 5:00 pm with a 15 minute recess to allow more community members to be present. The meeting resumed at 5:15 pm.

Introduction of Task Force Members

Chair Carroll introduced Gary Davidson, replacing Rick Paul, and new task force member April Pettit. Members present introduced themselves.

Public Testimony

Chair Carroll afforded the opportunity for public testimony before and after the committee report on the social impact on the children, schools, community and those involved in the consolidation.

Social impact on possible closure of Keanae School as reported by Kehau Kimokeo.

1. Safety of unsupervised bus from Keanae to Hana School. Driver's limited ability to regulate children's actions and behavior. Inappropriate language by older children coupled with sexual and verbal harassment of younger children.
2. Hazardous road conditions include rock and land slides, boulders and trees on road while compromising the many turns, traffic and limited visual distance.
3. Children experiencing motion sickness are affected the rest of the day. Unable to eat breakfast, fatigued, unwilling to participate in class. Not willing to ride bus. Attitude affected.
4. No cell phone reception in case of an emergency concerning bus.
5. The speed of bus driver and oncoming vehicle is another safety concern. Tend to be comfortable driving the narrow winding roads and often end up speeding.
6. No bathroom on bus. Young children subjected to teasing and harassment if accident occurs.
7. Drop out rate from high school connected with elementary experience.
8. Length of time for parents to pick up children from school should they receive a call.
9. Limited family time. Children often too exhausted.
10. Children's mental health affected. Community lacking bond and unity the school provides, children feel not worthy of deserving a school. Feelings of being an outcast. Young children are taught inappropriate behavior by older children on the bus. Damaging self-image, self-confidence and goals.
11. Less parental involvement due to distance.
12. Continuing to take away from this community will lead to people moving out; disbanding the community until nothing is left.
13. Lack of community participation in activities, programs, sports and general community involvement a school provides.
14. Smaller community and smaller school – children get more attention.

15. Will lose ability to instill community's positive family, cultural and educational values and tradition.

16. Consideration of needs of school due to future growth of Hawaiian Homelands and families moving back to Keanae.

Chair Carroll commended the members of the committee for researching and submitting an excellent report. It will be part of the final report and recommendation. Copies will be distributed to the community members prior to the next meeting.

Elaine Wender questioned if this was a decision-making meeting. Chair Carroll answered "No." Testimony given at the meeting will be considered in the final report.

Aileen Lee requested information on how many students living in Keanae are going to Hana School and why is it so hard to obtain information? Chair Carroll cited confidentiality of students having rights to privacy; school cannot disclose such information. Rick Paul mentioned some withdraw and are home-schooled while others transfer out on geographic exceptions.

Discussion/Action on the Proposed Draft Report of the Task Force

Chair Carroll reported that the Task Force Committee will be making a final draft report and submitting it to CAS Lindsay Ball, Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto and the Board of Education who makes the final decision. He was not sure of the process of the final decision.

Mr. Moore confirmed that the Board of Education makes the final decision. The process is that the task force completes the report and puts it out for public hearing. It then makes its final recommendation to CAS Lindsay Ball. He in turn makes his recommendation and forwards the task force report to the Superintendent. She submits her recommendation to the Board of Education together with the task force report, the task force recommendation, and CAS Ball's recommendation.

Chair Carroll was hopeful that the school, district and state will support the decision that comes from Keanae. He also encouraged community members to actively lobby the Superintendent and members of the Board of Education.

Question: Will public testimony go into the recommendation of the task force?
Chair Carroll replied, "Yes, it will be part of the final report."

Kehau Kimokeo: Questions on:

1. Who determines the adequacy of facilities, equipment, programs, transportation service and other support service at the school, if it closes, and the school to which students may transfer?
2. The net financial savings that may be realized from consolidation, including projections of additional expenditures at the school which may receive transferred students.
3. Potential new residential developments, projected changes in enrollment, and other relevant demographic considerations.

Chair Carroll stated that committee needs to work with school staff.

Mr. Moore stated that he will provide whatever information the committee requests and is appropriate to put in the report. It'll be the committee's decision on what goes in the report.

Question: Can the report include the community's input on how to save the DOE money, eg. school lunches vs. home lunches?

Mr. Moore: The six member Task Force will decide on what will be included in the report.

Janet Redo: Mentioned she brought this up at the last meeting that the community is willing to cut back on costs of not providing hot lunches, no bus and custodial service. Community can all help to maintain facility.

Aileen Lee: If they are on a non-profit 501c status they can umbrella under, are they charged a fee for use of the classroom or not? She was told by Gary Davidson that the usage fee will be \$75 a day.

Mr. Moore: Chapter 39 – DOE Use of Facilities categorizes usage into three categories:

1. Type I - DOE school sponsored and school related activity.
2. Type II - Government agencies, youth clubs, non-profit service clubs
3. Type III - Church, labor unions or organizations that charge others a fee.

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Aileen Lee: Which is the free one?

Mr. Moore:

Type I – Only if no additional electricity or custodial services needed on campus.

Type II – Non-profit pay pro-rated share, no rental but recovery costs of electricity, refuse collection and custodial services.

Type III - In addition to Type II, rent is added.

Sari Powell Redo: Would home-schooled kids using the classroom be free?

April Pettit: Would need to purchase liability insurance. Exceeding 12 months would need the Superintendent's approval.

Mr. Moore: Approval needed by DLNR; not Superintendent.

Gary Davidson: Rental of facility would be determined by island and size.

Aileen Lee: What is the cost of rental of this classroom?

Gary Davidson: Type II - \$76 a day less \$44 = \$32 for 4 hours.

Meling Akuna: Keanae School, oldest grammar school west of the Mississippi, was built in 1915. Fourteen siblings attended the K-8 school consisting of 2-3 classrooms. She feels that closing of the school violates the constitutional rights of children. Children don't want to stand in the rain at 4:30 in the morning to travel on the unsafe highway to get to Hana School. Is this fair? Strongly feels an infringement of educational rights of the children.

Janet Redo: For the past 20 years, fought to have Keanae School remain open. Feels that the State of Hawaii violated children's right to education. Her granddaughter does not want to go to school. Many coming home at 4:00 pm are tired and sometimes stay up till 10:00 pm to do homework. Many parents feel the same way. Why can't they get the \$7,500 allocation for each child?

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Aileen Lee: Questioned presence of Lindsay Ball.

CAS Ball: I'm here to explain the process, listen and be objective on providing the best education for the Keanae students by considering all factors. Not here to influence the Task Force's decision.

Questions: Keanae School still open? Part of Hana? Why can't we have a teacher? Why do we have to convince the State to keep it open?

Chair Carroll: We can make recommendations to Lindsay Ball.

Elaine Wender: Former District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsay emphasized how children will benefit from the closure. She took away few grades at a time. Hawaiian Homes has 234 acres. Need to remain open for the future. Bring Hana to Keanae since more resources offered. She used to substitute teach and will volunteer to read to kids.

Chair Carroll: The next meeting is the final meeting prior to going to public hearing. Written testimonies will be added to the report.

Elaine Wender: What is the process of getting written reports together?

Mr. Moore: Will write, edit and submit report after approval by task force. Report will reflect various sides and is not a recommendation. After the public hearing, the Task Force makes a recommendation.

Date, time and location of next task force meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2009 at 4:00 pm at Keanae School. The first hour of the meeting will be a discussion among task force members of the draft task force report; it is open to the public. Participation will begin at 5:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Judy Tanaka
Private Secretary