

Kohala Complex Consolidation Meeting

June 26, 2009

Kohala Middle School Cafeteria

Meeting Minutes

Present: Randy Moore, Art Souza, Janette Snelling, Sunny Bratt, Eleanor Lazlo, Kate Tolentino, Duncan Anderson, Jean DeMercer-Breese, Randee Golden, Joleen Soares, Peter Clapp (see sign in sheet)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Introductions of task force members
2. Randee Golden-Chairperson
 - a. Purpose of the process: Is it viable or feasible to consolidate our schools?
 - b. Schools working together to better utilize resources
 - c. Make this a beneficial and positive process for the community
3. Art Souza
 - a. This is not a “slam dunk” either way
 - b. This process is an opportunity to study what our kids need
 - c. We can make informed decisions about what is best for our schools/kids
4. Randy Moore
 - a. Why consolidation studies?
 - i. Part of Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) for a long time
 - ii. Prior to Wailupe’s most recent consolidation study, they studied consolidation 20 years ago
 - iii. Hawaii Business Round Table discussion regarding the building of new schools and not closing the old ones.
 - iv. Legislature has introduced bills in recent years to create panels to consider school closing much like base closure process used for military.
 - v. Long term decline in student enrollment statewide, numbers of schools rising
 - vi. The Legislature pushed the BOE to implement Chapter 38
 - vii. Now State’s budget situation is very serious. This is another issue that has arisen that has renewed looking at consolidation
 - viii. Kaaawa, Keanai, Molokai elementary schools are also engaging in consolidation studies.
 - ix. New rules state that there is no consolidation study, Kohala is under the old rule, where consolidation task forces are convened to study
 - x. Sunshine Laws apply to task forces
 - xi. Study groups are not subject to the Sunshine Law, but will meet in public, the new rules call for study groups, not task forces
 - xii. Future study groups will be comprised of more DOE people

- xiii. Changes were made for ease of operation
- xiv. Link on DOE website for each consolidation task force
- xv. Why Kohala?
 1. Budget list of fewer than 400 students was the first list
 2. Is it conceivable that there is a neighboring school to take the students?
 3. The middle school was at the high school before
 4. Consolidation could mean closure of a facility or elementary-middle-high model
 5. Could mean changes in grade configuration in a building, if feasible in a complex (not necessarily in Kohala)
 6. We are studying the closure of the campus is where we start. As the study continues, discussion about sharing of resources may arise
 7. The purpose of the task force is not to close the school, it is to study the feasibility of consolidation
- xvi. Sunny Bratt: Totals of data at the high school do not include the SPED eligible students

Art Souza

The task force needs to make sense of what is true and what is not. Things such as the error that Sunny found

There is not a stance that schools must have 400 kids to stay open. Enrollment got us on the list.

The DOE does not see Kohala without K-12 education

Randee Golden: Is it all about money? Are we supposed to figure out how to help the DOE figure out financial issues?

Randy Moore (RM): no

Is there a way for the team to get accurate, up-to-date information? RM: Yes

SB: Mr. Watanabe was a great supporter of opening Halaula. Separating the schools was in part to get the middle schoolers away from the high school. The DOE was going to have to build 2 8-classroom buildings. Opening Halaula took that off the grid. Many repairs have been made. It is a leap backward to move the middle school back to the high school.

RM: Chapter 8-38 (see attached)

Criteria for consolidation study (no change from slide #2 for new rules)
 Kohala falls under criteria #1: regarding improvements

Required elements for a consolidation study (no change from slide #3 with new rules)

Study steps (no change for Kohala for slide #4)

Change in the rule affected the study steps for other schools. Takes out Sunshine Law provision for future consolidation studies.

Kohala is still part of the Chapter 38

Sunshine Law-Chapter 92 HRS (see attached)

Applies to task forces created by Administrative Rule (Kohala)

Task force had advisory capacity

Meetings are open to the public

Agenda posted and mailed to those who request it

Can do site visitations, but the visitation is public

No provision for phone participation

Must have an opt for public testimony

Written testimony must be distributed to all task force members

May limit oral testimony

Discussion outside the task force meetings among members is not allowed

Can talk to observers, but should not get around the Sunshine Law by talking to an observer and then asking that observer to talk to another task force member

Purpose of Sunshine Law is to avoid making decisions outside of public meetings and then bringing the decisions to the public forum *pro forma*

If the chair of the task force appoints someone to conduct an investigation, they can talk

Example of investigation: if we put the ms at the high school, will the locker/shower room handle that. Chair sends three people to look at that. Called a Permitted Interaction Group-PIG, an ad hoc committee

Suggestion: Public testimony at the beginning and at the end of the meeting to accommodate new information

Public testimony at beginning and end and limited to three minutes person Anderson moved, Clapp seconded. Unanimous approval.

Draft #2 Template-RM (draft 1 had no numbers, draft 2 has numbers included (see attached)

Suggestion that this template be used for discussion and task force work

What does the final report need to say? (see paragraph 2)

8 factors that must be included

Advantages: suggestion that SCCs and/or groups of teachers come up with a list

This list is not intended to be exhaustive (list on page 2)

Student achievement data needs to be gathered by principals

Free and reduced lunch: relevance is that if schools combined, they may lose Title I money

Major discussion: numbers of students at each school and can they be accommodated at other facilities.

Highly Qualified Teacher data: Art and principals can get this data (p 4 and 5)

Classroom space: from a facilities standpoint, if you have x number of students, you need x number of classroom. AS: A challenge that the task force has is the difference between how facilities views schools and how schools really work.

CUR reports will be provided to the task force members

Meals served: all share the same kitchen, but elementary and high share the café. On high school inventory

?Table replaced by Janette

Busing implications need to be confirmed

Social impact is an area for much discussion, include if appropriate

Financial calculations have not been started. School list (pg 9) and if payment is included in WSF

WSF allocations need to be updated

Non-payroll costs will be calculated when school begins

Cost of maintaining facilities: same numbers statewide: \$2.35 per year per square foot of building area

DOE building and request costs: needs to be edited and updated school-by-school

Savings that could be realized if middle school is consolidated (p. 16)

WSF impact, what would happen if consolidation happened and the small school allocation changed?

Official enrollment: did not include SPED students for recent years. Was right until what date? Randy will get the available data and correct the numbers.

GE data...is it relevant? Kohala gets many GEs.

6 year projections do not include pre-K. Enrollments projections may not be correct and do not make sense for the high school.

If students are moved, what are the facilities implications? State owns the land. There is no reversionary language.

Halaula opened in fall of 1992-93, as a middle school

Closed from 1978, and functioned as a community center and various other DOE capacities

What would happen if it closed? What else would be done with the facility?

Timetable for consolidation, if recommended

Other issues: Title I, etc.

Next steps: determine what other data is not included in Randy's template.

Chapter 19

Pregnancy rates

Descriptions of what 6-8 kids had prior to Halaula opening

High school graduation rates pre and post split

Ready for college data...graduation rate

51% of kids going to post-high school settings

AS: David Myklebust can serve as a resource for the task force. Community data to consider during the consolidation:

Middle school philosophy

Can compare Kohala schools to other schools, but be fair and compare to schools of the same size.

SB: Discipline data- numbers are multiplied by x to be able to compare data across settings. We need the correct data.

RG: Next steps-when to meet, get correct data, kids need to be involved in this process, suggestions about how we go from here.

Other task forces have used the SCCs or ad hoc groups to gather data.

AS: This could be great work for SCCs.

JS: Timeline for other schools. How many meetings? How many months?

RM: Up to you. Wailupe took 4 meetings before the report to go to public meeting. Met every three weeks. Ka'aawa is on their fourth meeting and they have long way to go. Need to be mindful of timeline and consider implications for teachers, students and staff. Suggestion: finish by Thanksgiving. That will allow time for staffing issues to be dealt with.

JS: Is the basis for the decision: to look at what is good for kids? Or look at budget and do what is adequate for kids?

RM: no single answer. If you have x dollars per student, what is the best way to do it. This is a challenge with no answer.

AS: How do you feel at this point?

JS: we cannot proceed until we get accurate data.

JDB: Administrators have the accurate data...it depends on how much time you need

SB: There are some technical challenges (eCSSS not up to date yet)

RG: Indicate what you think are critical areas to discuss.

JS: Can we take July to gather data? Randee will be gone in July, too.

Middle school philosophy, extent to how you implement it here and how it would be implemented at the high school.

JDB: Elementary SCC will not meet until August.

Next task force meeting: mid August.

Randy Moore will post the corrected and updated data on the DOE website.

SQS data is important along with any student surveys the schools conduct

AS: Task force could begin by sorting out and sifting data

Current data to Randy Moore via LN by the end of July.

Need a proposed list of meetings.

Art cannot attend the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.

Task force meetings first and third Wednesdays.

Third week in August 19, 2009. 5:00-7:00 in the high school library.

Desiree to call people missing today and find out if they need hard copies of the documents.

Kate will send minutes to Randee and Art. Send approved minutes to Randy Moore and he will have them posted on the DOE website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

