

Kohala Schools Consolidation Task Force
 Meeting Minutes - December 2, 2009
 5-7 pm – Kohala High School Home Ec. Room

Present: Randee Golden, Joleen Soares, Peter Clapp, Jean DeMercer-Breese, Margaret Hoy, Eleanor Laszlo, Carol Yurth, Duncan Anderson, Janette Snelling, Josiah Ddams, Koa Bartsch, Daylen Higa, Kahuliau Ka'ai

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
Meeting opening	<p>-The meeting was called to order and participants were thanked for their attendance. Appreciation was also extended to the school administrators working on the report to revise narratives and complete data.</p> <p><i>-Please note – as students were waiting to testify, the chair forgot to approve last meeting minutes. Please send any revisions via email or call Randee with any corrections.</i></p>
Public Testimony	<p>The following Boy Scouts came to testify: They shared orally with the Task Force, and turned in notes as written documentation, which follows:</p> <p><u>Koa Bartsch</u>: “I, Koa Bartsch, as a 6th grader at Kohala Middle School, disagree strongly with consolidating Kohala Middle and High School. I have many reasons why I disagree. First of all, I think that the classrooms will be an unpleasant environment for studying because there will be an extra 200 students jam packed into a rather small high school campus. Secondly, I think the high school/elementary cafeteria will be a crowded and very chaotic place to be. Last but not least, I hate to say, but beyond any doubt, teen pregnancies will increase throughout the years. Ultimately my message to you is we have nothing to gain and much to loose by consolidating these two schools.”</p> <p><u>Dalen Higa</u>: “The reason that I don’t think that they should consolidate the school is because I think that there will be more fights then usual over boys and girls. The second reason that I think is a lot of girls and boys will get more sexually active because every student will be at same school or place. Another reason is the classes would be really full with students and it wouldn’t be easy to teach the classes for the teachers. One last thing that I think about consolidating the school, it wouldn’t let the teenagers get past puberty and it would give them problems if they are with the older students. That concludes my reasons why not to consolidate the school.”</p> <p><u>Josiah Adams</u> – 7th grade: “If our schools are consolidated, then our education is uncertain. Our learning environment would be unhealthy, leading to stress and unhealthy. A couple hundred students are a lot. In the future our generation will need to take charge. And this is why I am strong against consolidation.”</p> <p>These students were asked by the Chair what they like about their middle school. Students responses: intramurals, home room in the morning, that they were happy there due to strong connections with teachers, that it was small, the environment was healthy and not affected by influences facing students at larger schools.</p>

	<u>Kahuli'au Ka'ai</u> : (oral testimony only) This student feels that there would be less face to face class time with the faculty with consolidation. He commented how they also might need to let go of faculty.
Research regarding Other Hawai'i Island Schools	Ms. Bratt has worked on researching statistics from other similar rural schools on this island that have different K-12 configurations. She will write up a short report to summarize this information. The data may need to be scanned for the final report.
Small group discussions	Two groups were formed to discuss the current draft. The facilities report and discussion about questions sent that afternoon by Randy Moore was led by Janette. Randee and Sunny led the discussion about the social emotional narrative. -Each group leader took notes, which will be integrated into the next report draft.
Future: Where do we go from here?	-Discussion was held about next steps after the report is done, and if there will be movement to consolidate resources to improve educational opportunities for this community. -The positive impact of principal networking that has happened was mentioned. -Also mentioned were possible plans to shift some space usage concerning libraries on the Honomaka'u campus, with negotiations happening between the high and elementary. -The idea to have the SCC councils focus on creative ways to enhance education in Kohala was discussed. -Art said that there will be a hearing on O'ahu and some task force members asked about attending it. -Next step: Plan public meeting to gather any final testimony and share status of the report. Scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2009 6-8 pm at the Kohala High School cafeteria.
Meal of appreciation	-After the meeting, a meal was prepared by the school principals and Randee and shared with task force members and guests in appreciation for their work.
To Do's:	-Art will check availability of Mr. Moore on January 21 st -Sunny will send a summary of data from other schools -Randee and Janette will work on revisions and summary with major points – to be sent in January to the Task Force members -Randee will send notes and press notices re: upcoming public meeting