

DRAFT

Kohala Complex Task Force Meeting

January 21, 2010

6pm – 7:20 pm

Task Force Committee Members Present:

Catherine Bratt, Janette Snelling, Lakme Nishme, Randy Golden, Wendy Nickl, Jean De Mercer Breese, Pam Mauro, Jolene Soares, Duncan Anderson, Dr. Peter Klapp, and Shiro Taketa

Art Souza, District Superintendent

Absent: Eli Laszlo-retired Principal, Kohala Elementary

INTRODUCTION:

Randy Golden, Chairperson

Brief description of task force meetings. Reads from formalize script (attached).
Chapter 8338 governs task force procedure.

Sign up sheet for testimony, written due by January 25th to Randy Golden or Janette Snelling.

- Purpose of meeting: to get community's final input and share task force findings
- Introductions:
Committee members
Art Souza welcomes Principal Danny Garcia, Kohala Elementary School
Randy Moore has helped with process, unable to come
- Eight Specific Areas became 3 major considerations:
3 major considerations
 1. Educational quality and opportunities
 2. Financial impact
 3. Social/Emotions implications

"What is best for students" governs decision by task force.

KEY FINDINGS of the Task Force:

(See power point presentation)

- 1.
2. Financial Loss will be detrimental to students, range of courses will be adversely affected
3. Why the middle school moved in 2001, students were underserved, allowed middle school philosophy
4. NCLB data indicates the 3 schools in varying stages of AYP, current momentum would be jeopardized if disrupted
5. NO physical space, space is already limited
6. Expansion of required physical infrastructure is problematic at both high and elementary schools

OTHER concerns:

Parking and traffic concerns

Most repair and maintenance has already been addressed

CONCLUSION:

- Consolidation will be detrimental to North Kohala students.
- Recommended to continue to look at ways to create better educational opportunities
- Eliminate unnecessary work for teachers and school

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Three (3) minute time limit

- Thomas Stuart: Kohala Middle School Math Teacher
Written and oral testimony
Strongly recommends the schools are not consolidated.
- Jacob Zane, President for Senior Citizens of North Kohala
Oral testimony
Save Kohala Schools
- Margaret Hoy, Kohala High School, Art teacher, SCC member, Department Chairperson
Written and oral testimony

Support task force conclusion, do not consolidation

- Linda Elliot, Hawaii Wildlife Center, President
Written and oral
Support task force conclusion, do not move middle school
Adjacent to Kohala Middle School-Educational opportunities
Collaboration after school programs, enhancing educational opportunities
Authentic learner opportunities
- Carol Fuertes, community member for over 30 years, three children, six grandchildren
Oral testimony-history of schools
Social emotional mix is not appropriate to consolidation schools, will lose valuable programs
- Richie Riggs, Kohala Middle School, Roots Advocates for Youth, Skate Park
Oral and power point presentation-photos –fun module-after school program
Students don't want consolidation, stick with tradition
- Raynard Torres, community member, politician
Oral testimony
BSAC program to keep kids off of drugs, recovering drug addicts. Middle school kids will not survive in the high school. Middle school students will be discouraged.
- Wendy Nickl, Kohala Middle School, teacher
Oral and written testimony
Consolidation would be detrimental due to lose of age appropriate classes
Close ohana atmosphere-consolidating will result in loss of advisory classes
- Heather Rodriques, 7th grader, Kohala Middle School
Written and oral testimony
Taking away all that is unique, intimidated by older students
- Makela Barsch, 7th grader, Kohala Middle School
Written and oral testimony
Space-Bumped and pushed
Consolidation is a bad idea.

- Kassie Kometani, 7th grader, Kohala Middle School
 - Written and oral testimony
 - Adjustment will impact learning
 - Disruptive, fights
 - Faster maturation
 - Schools should not be consolidated

- Erica Oreceillos, parent
 - Oral testimony
 - Support her daughter got at the middle school as an English as a second language made her successful. Keep the middle school.

- Jean De Mercer Breese, Teacher, Kohala Elementary, SCC Kohala Elementary Chairperson
 - Written and oral
 - Supports the Task Force Report

- Elodia LaMay, Teacher, Kohala Elementary
 - Oral testimony
 - Mistake to consolidation schools

- Marty Sunderland, prior teacher Kohala Elementary School
 - Oral testimony
 - Middle school should stay open

- Gary Lyons, Minister for Church of Christ
 - Oral testimony
 - Already doubling up classroom space, it will get worse
 - Access to complex for the community

- Elizabeth Bauer, Teacher, Kohala Elementary School
 - Oral testimony
 - Financial problem of consolidation schools

Announcement:

Free Flu shots from 12-2 for the next two Saturdays at the pharmacy

Thank you.

Next and last meeting of February 2, 5-7 pm
Report is available on DOE Website
Meeting adjourned 7:10 pm.