

KOHALA SCHOOLS CONSOLIDATION TASK FORCE MEETING

Tuesday 2-2-10 5-6 pm Kohala High School “Home Economics” Room

Present:

Community Member: Carol Yurth

Task Force Members: Catherine Bratt, Pam Mauro, Peter Clapp, Jean Demercer-Breese, Danny Garcia, Joleen Soares, Shiro Takata, Janette Snelling, Randee Golden, Lakme Nishie

Purpose: Review any testimony from 1-21-10 public meeting; review draft of report summary; any other needed discussion

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
High school written testimony	According to Pam, Donna Smith was sending in some high school written testimony. Pam to follow up as this was not received to date.
Support from public representatives	-Pam shared that she got something from Josh Green and we also have a letter of support from mark Nakashima, sharing he supports the decision of this task force.
Feedback about the report	-Janette shared she received some feedback from the West Hawaii Business Manager that she will email to Randee.
Importance of support and representation	<p>-It was asked about Mr. Souza’s feedback on the report; it was shared he supports our findings. Our report, once finished, will go to Mr. Souza, who will then create his cover letter and recommendation for the DOE Superintendent; it then goes to the BOE.</p> <p>-Shiro asked that we are able to see Mr. Souza’s cover letter.</p> <p>-Discussion centered on the importance of being represented by our Island BOE member if this becomes a topic at a BOE meeting. It was felt that it is not fair if this written report is submitted to the BOE and someone is not fighting for us.</p> <p>- Mr. Herbert Watanabe is our island representative, and his support is needed. A motion was placed by Shiro Takata that we ask Mr. Watanabe to come to the schools to visit and meet; the motion was seconded by Jean and all voted in favor.</p> <p>-It was discussed that Mr. Watanabe has not attended our meetings, so the Task Force feels it important to meet with him and have him visit Kohala prior to submitting the report.</p> <p>-Randee will call Mr. Souza to ask him the protocol about this, sharing that it would be best for him to visit the not this coming week (Feb 8-12) but the following week is better for Janette and some others. Sunny shared it should not conflict with basketball, which is very important as Kohala’s team is on top.</p> <p>-The group would like Mr. Watanabe to visit the campuses during the day and then meet with Task force members after school.</p> <p>-If Mr. Watanabe is unable to come here, members may want to see him in Hilo.</p> <p>-The request is that he come early in the week of Feb 16-19th.</p>
Other advocates	-Randee will talk to her friend who is a friend of Kim Coco. Sunny said she could talk to Karen Knudson, as she is on the board. We will ask if we could send the summary of the report to these people once we submit it to Mr. Souza. The Task Force also would like a member at the BOE meeting if this comes up for discussion.

<p>Land by Ag building</p> <p>Importance of more detailed financial data</p>	<p>-The group discussed the land behind the Agriculture building; Carol Yurth will check on who owns that property.</p> <p>-It was suggested we might need more detailed costs of what kind of funds are needed to move the middle school students and provide the infrastructure needed for the move, including space (land), movement or building of portables, and installation of utilities, etc. It was decided need more numbers.</p> <p>-Carol shared that a portable classroom costs a minimum of \$350,000- \$400,000.00 per classroom. She also will gather additional figures for us.</p> <p>-Discussion was held about the more realistic portables and the extended timeline for new construction projects, estimating a real building would take 10-15 years or more.(The library took 20 years to build; the high school has waited for a science building for over 20 years.)</p> <p>-It was suggested that our report ask the DOE what their plan is if they decided consolidation is in the best interest. The task force also would like to know what the DOE feels would be the cost savings of this move. The Task force would like to ask for the DOE’s cost analysis – what their plan and timeline is and how they will address community concerns.</p> <p>-Lakme is also looking at data in relationship to home sales and projected economic growth of this area. She shared that Kohala has done well compared to other areas, and that foreclosures in this area are low compared to other places in West Hawaii. Population here is not dropping. “When times are bad, everyone goes home...” And Kohala is home for many.</p> <p>-Randee asked Lakme to write up a paragraph about the stable population and any projected growth figures to include with our data.</p> <p>-Carol also volunteered to gather figures for us.</p>
<p>Reflection on the process</p>	<p>-It was mentioned by Ms. Bratt that even though this has been a lot of work, the process has been a healthy one which affirms the work of the complex.</p>
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>-Randee and Janette will meet Feb. 8th to work on the narratives and evaluate what data still is missing.</p> <p>-Randee and Janette will work with Mr. Souza to set up a meeting with Mr. Watanabe if possible, and let the Task Force know.</p> <p>-The revised report will be sent to all members.</p> <p>-Lakme and Carol will find data; Sunny will do write-up about comparable configurations. All will be sent to Janette and Randee.</p>
<p>Meeting adjourned</p>	<p>The meeting was closed at 6:00 pm, with a ahalo to participants and a special thank you for their willingness to meet with Mr. Watanabe if he can come to Kohala.</p>