Executive Summary
February 24, 2004

SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO HIGH SCHOOL AREA FEEDER SCHOOL GRADE RECONFIGURATION PHASE 2

Recommendation(s):
- Approve phase 2 of the San Diego High School area grade reconfiguration, completing the grade reconfiguration at Roosevelt Middle School to grades 6-8 for the Birney, Florence, Grant, McKinley and Washington portions of the Roosevelt attendance area beginning in the 2004-05 school year. Grant resident students will maintain their option to attend either Point Loma or San Diego High School area secondary schools, starting with the choice of attending Dana Middle School or Roosevelt Middle School at 6th grade.

Summary of Previous Board of Education Discussion and Action:
- Proposition MM planning included the provision of high school facilities to facilitate the implementation of a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 grade configuration in the Lincoln, Morse, and San Diego High School areas. On February 25, 2003, the board approved the first phase of the San Diego High School area grade reconfiguration of Roosevelt to grades 6-8 for the Brooklyn, Garfield, Jefferson, Kimbrough, North Park, and Sherman portions of the Roosevelt attendance area, and grades 7-8 for the Birney, Florence, Grant, McKinley, and Washington portions.

Summary of Key Issue(s):
- The completion of the reconfiguration of Roosevelt to a full grades 6-8 middle school is intended to produce benefits to teaching and learning through the implementation of a middle school curriculum for all 6th graders in the Roosevelt attendance area. Dana Middle School is forecasted to receive approximately 20 6th grade students from the Grant area due to the reconfiguration.

Fiscal Analysis:
- There is no fiscal impact for completing this grade reconfiguration.

Chief Academic Officer
Chief of Staff

“The mission of San Diego City Schools is to improve student achievement by supporting teaching and learning in the classroom.”
Introduction

This report is the second phase of the San Diego High School area feeder school grade reconfiguration to a grades K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 structure. It is recommended that Roosevelt serve grades 6-8 students from the Birney, Florence, Grant, McKinley and Washington attendance areas beginning in the 2004-05 school year. Resident Grant students will maintain their option to attend either Point Loma or San Diego High School area secondary schools, starting with the choice of attending Dana Middle School or Roosevelt Middle School at 6th grade.

Background

A significant goal of Proposition MM planning was the provision of high school facilities that would allow implementation of a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 grade configuration in the Lincoln, Morse, and San Diego High School areas. The completion of the new 30-classroom building at San Diego High School offered the opportunity to implement an initial step towards a 6-8 middle school and 9-12 high school grade configuration in the San Diego High School area. Due to higher-than-expected enrollment growth and the implementation of ninth grade class size reduction, which reduced the capacity of the new classrooms at San Diego High School, only a partial implementation was recommended for the 2003-04 school year. The previous action by the board on February 25, 2003, established a partial ninth grade at San Diego High School, a partial 6th and 7th-8th grade configuration at Roosevelt Middle School, and a partial 6th, 7th-8th, partial 9th grade configuration at Memorial Academy.

Currently, only 6th graders from the Brooklyn, Garfield, Jefferson, Kimbrough, North Park, and Sherman attendance areas articulate to Roosevelt. Sixth grade students from the rest of Roosevelt’s feeder area (Birney, Florence, Grant, McKinley and Washington attendance areas), currently attend their local elementary schools.

The impact of the completion of the reconfiguration recommendation on each area school is outlined in the tables below. The proposed changes are italicized and bolded. A map detailing the recommended grade configuration changes is included as Attachment A.
Instructional Implications

The recommendations support teaching and learning through additional implementation of the district-supported K-5, 6-8, 9-12 grade configuration for the San Diego High School area. With the opening of the expanded and rebuilt Lincoln High School campus in 2006-07, it will be possible to reassign a portion of the San Diego High School boundary to Lincoln and complete the grade reconfiguration process in the San Diego High School area. The remaining area 9th graders will be reassigned to San Diego High School.

Facilities Implications

Approximately 100 6th grade students from Birney, Florence, Grant, McKinley and Washington are forecasted to attend Roosevelt in 2004-05. Dana Middle School is forecasted to receive an extra 25 6th grade students from the Dana/Roosevelt optional area. Dana and Roosevelt have the capacity to accommodate their forecasted enrollment without modification or addition to existing facilities.

Budget Implications

There is no fiscal impact relative to completing this grade reconfiguration.

Public Support and Engagement Implications

District staff held a meeting of the affected principals and their Instructional Leaders on November 3, 2003. The impact of the reconfiguration on enrollment and facilities was discussed, and a date for a community meeting was set. Some principals had already held discussions with their parent groups about the reconfiguration, and the rest were scheduled to do so. It appeared that due to the first phase of the reconfiguration last year, some parents were already aware of the likelihood of changes for 2004-05.

A community meeting offering Spanish language interpretation was conducted on December 4, 2003, at Roosevelt Middle School. The meeting was noticed by letters in English and Spanish sent via U.S. Mail to the families of 239 5th grade students at each of the elementary schools that would potentially be affected by the recommendations in the 2004-05 school year. Meeting notice fliers in English and Spanish were also sent home with students attending the affected schools. Samples of the letters sent to affected families announcing the community meetings are included as Attachment B.

Approximately 45 people attended the meeting, which lasted approximately 1½ hours. Information about the grade reconfiguration was presented by Instructional Facilities Planning Department staff. Enrollment Options staff outlined articulation patterns and enrollment options and timelines for residents and nonresidents of the affected schools. Roosevelt Middle School
staff presented information about the programs offered at their school. Representatives from Roosevelt and Dana will visit their feeder elementary schools in the Spring to begin the process of pre-enrolling 5th grade students at their respective schools.

Families at this community meeting expressed specific concerns regarding the reconfiguration as follows:

- **Concerns were expressed relative to sixth graders attending a middle school.**
  Staff responded that 6th graders are largely self-contained for much of the school day, and that an excellent educational program is already being offered to 6th grade middle school students who currently attend Roosevelt.

- **Concerns were expressed relative to the distance to Roosevelt from the optional Dana/Roosevelt optional attendance area. Parents requested district transportation.**
  Staff responded that the district does not provide transportation to neighborhood schools, nor optional attendance areas. City bus transportation is available, and parents may be able to carpool with neighbors.

Most of the families who attended the meeting appeared to have had their primary concerns addressed.

**Board Policy Implications**

The recommendations in this report comply with board policies E-2050 (educational facilities), E-2150 (school choice), E-2300 (stakeholder involvement), E-2500 (community involvement), and E-2550 (adjustments to accommodate enrollment and program needs).

**Recommendations**

The superintendent recommends that the Board of Education approve phase 2 of the San Diego High School reconfiguration, completing the grade reconfiguration at Roosevelt Middle School to grades 6-8 for the Birney, Florence, Grant, McKinley and Washington portions of the Roosevelt attendance area beginning in the 2004-05 school year. Grant resident students will maintain their option to attend either Point Loma or San Diego High School area secondary schools, starting with the choice of attending Dana Middle School or Roosevelt Middle School at 6th grade.

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