



## Mesa Verde Signature Project Forum Report

### Summary

San Juan Unified held a Measure N Signature Project Forum at Mesa Verde High School on Wednesday, Oct. 29 in the library.

The Mesa Verde forum drew a crowd of 60. Staff delivered a short presentation seeking input and feedback regarding three previously proposed Signature Project ideas: An athletics complex that includes a stadium, a new cafeteria, and “curb appeal” that would bring an amphitheater, lighting and other enhanced campus features.

The audience was asked to move into two classrooms for smaller group discussion of all three Signature Project ideas. Both small group were asked to identify what program and academic needs each Signature Project idea would meet at the high school, and what features would be needed to accommodate those needs. Then, the groups were asked to go back into the library where staff reported out on the small group discussions. Finally, staff took questions and comments.

### Small group results

An informal poll (a show of hands) in the small group sessions resulted in all 60 participants indicating they wanted a synthetic turf field and all-weather track stadium at Mesa. The crowd indicated strong interest in a complex that included an aquatics center. There was some good conversation about a new cafeteria/student union and “curb appeal. Those project ideas did not receive support as Mesa’s Measure N Signature Project, however.

## **Key points (listed in no particular order):**

Why an athletic complex is needed at Mesa:

- To stay competitive/equal to other schools
- Attracts students/increase enrollment
- Community pride
- Student pride
- Place for graduation
- Junior football use
- Revenue generator
- Pool would allow for new water sport programs
- Water safety lessons

Needed features of an athletic complex:

- Synthetic turf and all-weather track
- Pool suitable for diving/swim/water polo
- Stadium with connections for lighting/press box
- Restrooms
- Weight room/Fieldhouse
- Meets CIF regulations

Why a new cafeteria is needed at Mesa:

- Need more indoor space at lunch
- Gathering area
- Not enough food options at Mesa
- Culinary courses

Needed features of a new cafeteria:

- Multi-purpose use
- Variety of food vendors
- Potential student union features – place to hang out at lunch and after school

Why a “curb appeal” is needed at Mesa:

- ADA access and lighting
- Need for orientation signs, campus maps
- Promotes community

Needed features of “curb appeal”:

- Lighting
- Walkways

- Amphitheater
- Cameras

## Questions and Answers

There were many questions and comments centered on when Mesa Verde would be able to get a Signature Project – particularly if the recommendation is an athletic complex. Parents with current students wanted to know if their child would see the benefits of the project. There was also some frustration voiced that Mesa has been promised a field since it opened, but they have yet to receive one. Some parents also expressed that the district needs to provide a positive project for Citrus Heights during a time when there is uncertainty surrounding Sylvan Middle School and other schools have declining enrollment.

### **Q: Why isn't there a hard and fast \$10 million allocation for each high school?**

**A:** All of our projects are different. Some will come in less than \$10 million, and others will be over that amount. The target is \$10 million per school but there will be some variations according to projects.

### **Q: Is the \$350 million from Measure N for all school sites?**

**A:** Yes, Measure N is being used to address needs at all of the district's 65-plus campuses. The Board allocated \$117 million of that \$350 million bond for the Signature Project Program.

### **Q: So does that mean we only get one project each?**

**A:** Yes, each high school will receive one Signature Project. However, a school might have other projects completed using Measure N money depending on the need. The Facilities Master Plan has identified \$2.4 billion in needs throughout the district and it has not yet been determined which will be addressed with Measure N.

### **Q: What is the timetable for Mesa getting a project?**

**A:** We are still working to determine the loading order for all nine Signature Projects. That process will include a discussion with principals, the Superintendent's cabinet, and the Board of Education. What we can say is that these projects will each take 18 to 24 months to complete once we break ground.

### **Q: Whatever decision the Board makes, when will the first project begin?**

**A:** Immediately – we'll be working the next day to get the first projects going. We think we can break ground on the first project in the Fall of 2015.

### **Q: Which school's project will be scheduled first? How is that determined?**

**A:** The Board will make the decision and that's based on a variety of factors that include input from principals; how much money already has been spent on that school and on what projects; what the school's needs are; the District's bond capacity (how much bond money we have to spend at that time) and how many projects the District can handle at once.

**Q: What kind of community outreach will happen during the CEQA process? Will you go out and discuss that process with the community?**

**A:** The CEQA process requires that we notify the immediate neighborhood – specifically if we’re talking about an athletics complex with sound and lighting. We certainly can do other community outreach for education about the project and the process.