



Encina Preparatory High Signature Project Forum Report

Summary

San Juan Unified held a Measure N Signature Project Forum at Encina Preparatory High School on Thursday, Oct. 30 in the cafeteria.

The Encina forum drew a crowd of six community members. Staff delivered a short presentation seeking input and feedback regarding three previously proposed Signature Project ideas: A community center with fitness/health/after school amenities, a synthetic turf field and all-weather track stadium, and upgrades to classrooms and outdoor learning space.

As a whole group, the audience was 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. Staff then took questions and comments.

Project conversation results

After the group discussion, staff asked if the group still believed a community center was Encina's top Signature Project idea. No one in the crowd objected at that time. Later, however, there was an overall feeling that Encina's campus could benefit more from broader renovations of classrooms and other amenities rather than putting money into one particular project.

Key points (listed in no particular order):

Why a community center is needed at Encina:

- Safe place for kids after school
- Water safety lessons
- Hub for community and school partners
- Extended learning for parents
- Establishes Encina as a focal point of the community
- Could establish nutrition education center
- A place to exercise and play basketball

Needed features of a community center

- Computer lab
- Swimming pool
- Tennis courts
- Basketball court – indoor
- Multiple and flexible rooms for learning/meeting
- A kitchen area with access to food
- Fitness area – in the 24 Hour Fitness mold – weights, cardio equipment, rock wall
- HVAC
- Similar to River City High in West Sacramento

Why a stadium is needed at Encina:

- To stay competitive with other schools
- Transportation. Many students don't have transportation to attend home games at El Camino
- Current field is not fenced or controlled.
- Can't charge for tickets because not a controlled space.
- School pride
- Physical education
- High community and student engagement requires good facilities
- Would support feeders
- Community could rent
- Graduation could be moved from the quad to the stadium
- Athletics provide life-long lessons

Needed features of a new stadium:

- All-weather facility
- Access to water
- Proper drainage
- Restrooms

- Bleachers
- Scoreboard
- Track that meets CIF standards
- Connections for sound system and stadium lights. Those features could come later

Why classroom and outdoor learning upgrades are needed at Encina:

- Students at Encina are “kinesthetic,” mobile and need outdoor space
- Positive support for student learning
- Flexible learning space will support different learning models
- Lower class size
- Affects every student

Needed features for classrooms and outdoor learning space:

- Access to technology
- Tablets not textbooks
- Couches/alternative seating in rooms
- Create connection from inside space to outside space
- Connect learning space to college learning space
- Space supports hands-on learning
- Mobility
- Lab space to support A-G courses

Questions and Answers

Q: What is the timeline for our project after a recommendation is made?

A: We are still working to determine a loading order for Signature Projects. Once we have a project ready to go, it generally takes 18 to 24 months. We have a process that includes going through the state architect and possibly California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Q: How much would it cost to do these projects?

A: It depends on what the final scope of the project is after we meet to make our recommendation. For Signature Projects we’re looking at an average cost of \$10 million. Some projects will be more, some will be less. It’s an average.

Q: Is the quad area big enough to build a community center or student union?

A: We can’t answer that right now. That would require some work to answer. There are several locations on campus where we could expand and build.

Q: We have a lot of needs at Encina. Is the Signature Project concept too narrow or a focus for our school?

A: The Board of Education set aside money for Signature Projects at all nine high schools. The concept is

to build something at each school that would bring pride for students, staff and the broader community. Our goal is to build a Signature Project here that can meet some of Encina's needs and at the same time meet that Signature Project concept. We have a Facilities Master Plan (www.sanjuan.edu/fmp) that outlines all of Encina's needs. We do want to address all of those needs over time.