



## Del Campo High Measure N Signature Project Forum Report

### Summary

San Juan Unified held a Measure N Signature Project Forum at Del Campo High on Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014 in the Cub Gym.

The Del Campo Forum drew a crowd of 39. Staff delivered a short presentation seeking input and feedback regarding three previously proposed Signature Project ideas: Campus safety features, 21<sup>st</sup> Century modernizations, and upgrades to athletic facilities (focusing on the Big Gym).

Because the crowd at Del Campo was relatively small, the audience was not asked to move into small groups. Instead, staff asked the full audience to gather together to identify what program and academic needs each Signature Project idea would meet at the high school, and what features would be necessary to accommodate those needs. Then, staff took questions and comments.

### Group discussion results

An informal poll (show of hands) resulted in 30 people indicating they would prefer 21<sup>st</sup> Century modernizations of classrooms, the performing arts center and other buildings. Nine people said they would prefer athletic facilities upgrades. There was no support for campus safety features as a Signature Project. However, many in the audience were interested in safety upgrades as a separate project.

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

Why Campus Safety features are needed at Del Campo:

- Limit access points
- Shade structures for students (maybe solar shade structures)
- Pool deck needs sanitary upgrades
- Security measures in case of campus lockdown
- Fire alarm is sensitive
- The campus suffers from water buildup/puddles

Needed Campus Safety Features:

- Gated entry points
- Gates/barriers between the adjacent park and the school
- Security cameras
- Shade structures
- Possibly solar shade structures
- HVAC upgrades

Why 21<sup>st</sup> Century modernizations are needed at Del Campo:

- Del Campo has facilities, they just need to be updated
- To enhance performing arts programs
- Support for music
- PAC is a transformed cafeteria. Needs acoustics upgrades
- Music/band room in poor condition
- Feeder schools have arts programs. Del Campo needs a program to accommodate incoming student needs

Needed features are needed with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Modernizations:

- Flexibility
- Technology capability that can be expanded
- Performing arts center seating
  - Some said seating could be moveable so that the space could be multi-use
  - Others said the PAC should not be multi-use, but dedicated to performing arts
- Orchestra pit
- Library with more space/books
- Tutoring space in library
- Current library feels like a computer lab. Tech important, but flexible space desired
- Classrooms need tech capabilities

Why athletics facility upgrades are needed:

- Can't seat whole student body in the gym
- Lacking storage space
- Acoustics are poor in gym and on field
- CTE path for exercise/science
- Need better facilities for PE

Needed features for athletics facilities:

- Sound system upgrades
- Seating in gym and football stadium
- Storage space
- Weight room
- Sound engineer for field PA system

## Questions and Answers

Audience members spoke on a variety of topics. One gentleman – a Del Campo neighbor - voiced a complaint regarding the stadium sound system. The man said a Memorandum of Understanding between the school and the neighborhood regarding the sound level is often violated. He suggested a sound engineer be hired to address the situation. Other commenters wanted to know more about Measure N funding, how much Del Campo would receive, and if multiple projects could be built at the school.

**Q: Will you please hire a sound engineer to make sure the PA system is not disruptive to the neighbors?**

**A:** That's something that we'll have to address separately from the Signature Project program. Staff will set up a meeting to discuss this with you at another time.

**Q: How much money does Del Campo get for a Signature Project?**

**A:** The Board of Education set aside \$117 million for Signature Projects at high schools. That averages out to \$10 million each (\$13 million minus escalation and contingency costs). We're asking high schools to identify the most appropriate project for their campus. Some will come in under \$10 million; some might go a little over. We're looking at that \$10 million price point as an average.

**Q: Del Campo doesn't have one big project idea like that. It might be \$1 million or \$2 million to upgrade our performing arts center. Do we need to find a \$10 million project to make sure we're making the most of our Signature Project opportunity?**

**A:** Staff is going to look at the appropriate scope for the project you choose. For example, if the recommendation for Del Campo is 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classroom modernizations, staff will design a project to upgrade multiple rooms/facilities under that concept. That would require a significant budget.

*\*Note: Trustees Pam Costa and Saul Hernandez spoke indicating that, as board members, they would remain open minded about multiple Measure N projects at a high school if the budget projections are really low. Costa noted, however, that it would be a discussion for the entire board to have.*

**Q: How will you ensure that the costs of Signature Projects are contained and they don't become too expensive?**

**A:** Every project will be planned out and budgeted. There will always be the chance of unforeseen costs that happen when you start tearing into walls and digging into the ground. Every budget will include contingencies. We are very diligent in our work to make sure the costs stay within budget.

**Q: Other schools – Rio Americano and El Camino - are asking for performing arts centers as Signature Projects. Would those be considered “district facilities” where other schools would share them? I guess what I'm asking is – is there a limit? Would the district build performing arts centers at those two schools and still upgrade Del Campo's PAC?**

**A:** There is not a limit on any particular kind of project. We would be open to building similar projects at multiple schools if those facilities have been 1) called out as a need and 2) has community/student/staff support as a Signature Project.

**Q: We love Cougar Canyon. The synthetic turf and all-weather track are great features. From (district staff's) perspective, is the stadium done now? Could bond money be used for further upgrades?**

**A:** We do not consider Cougar Canyon to be a finished product. We see the need there for more upgrades. Added seating is a big one. We can't say where that would be on the district's list of priorities, but bond money could be used for that at some time.

**Q: Can we use the money to buy new music instruments?**

**A:** The use of bond money is very specific. It has to be used to build structures. Instruments, books and classroom supplies are defined as “consumables” that cannot be purchased with bond funds.

**Q: Will there be another opportunity to offer feedback once District staff calculates costs and scopes of the recommended projects?**

**A:** Yes. Once staff has formed its recommendation, it will go to the Board of Education at a public meeting. The community is welcome to attend board meetings and there will be time for public comment. We will be delivering our recommendation to the Board of Education in the first quarter of 2015.

**Q: Does the facilities audit done last spring impact Signature Project decisions? Will the neediest schools be considered for the first projects?**

**A:** That will go into it, yes. Those evaluations will be a part of a complete package of data and information that we will take to the board.

**Q: What is the timeline for Del Campo to have a Signature Project built?**

**A:** We haven't determined that yet. After this forum, our staff will be working with principals, the Superintendent's cabinet and the Board of Education to determine a loading order for all projects. That timeframe will be included in our recommendation to the Board in the first quarter of 2015.