



Los Altos School District

Measure N and the 10th Site
Protecting Our Small School Model
September 24, 2018

Background

How It Began in 2012

- LASD Board of Trustees Goals
 - Address school capacity challenges
 - 10 schools on 9 sites
 - Student enrollment at highest point in 40 years, with over 900 additional students over previous 10 years
 - As many students as in 1970s with 12 sites
 - End discord between LASD and BCS, 5 year-agreement
 - Protect award-winning, high achieving schools by preserving the small school model
- Primary Value and Belief
 - What's best for all students, what's best for the community as a whole

How It Began in 2012

- The Plan to Achieve Goals
 - Community engagement and input to lead the way
 - Bring the community together to resolve complex problem
 - Solution must be rooted in community values and data, and balance divergent community perspectives

Step 1: Study the Issue

Superintendent's Enrollment Growth Task Force

Facilitator Asked Board to Develop Criteria for Committee Analysis

- Maintain small schools: less than 600 students as per board policy
- “Neighborhood” schools as much as possible—walking/biking distance for a large proportion of students
- Schools community resources : parks, fields, playgrounds, gyms, etc.
- Maintain small class sizes
- Ensure flexibility—change with the times and with changing needs
- Embrace sustainability, continue investing in energy efficient facilities

Step 1: Study the Issue

Superintendent's Enrollment Growth Task Force

- Diverse group of stakeholders found common ground and provided direction for the board
 - BCS, LASD, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, parents, teachers, administrators, community member representatives
 - Showed community ability to work together towards a solution
- Set precedent for robust data gathering and analysis

Step 1: Study the Issue

Superintendent's Enrollment Growth Task Force

- Provided direction for further research
 - Set criteria for solutions in order of importance
 - Agreed on a set of preferences for future proposals
 - Identified guiding principles
- Recommended 2 new school sites: One for BCS at unspecified location, neighborhood school ideally in NEC
 - “...finding a site for BCS should be the district’s first priority.”

Step 2: Evaluate Solutions

Facilities Advisory Committee

FAC diverse constituents worked with architect to evaluate, analyze and provide options to implement SEG's recommendation.

- Two sites deemed financially infeasible
- Coordination between LASD, BCS and local cities essential for joint-use and community benefits
- Prioritized/ranked projects to improve existing sites
- Evaluated pros and cons of various scenarios with a new site or using existing sites; did not provide recommendation

Step 2: Evaluate Solutions

Facilities Master Plan Committee

- Board Provided Direction for Facilities Advisory Committee in “Master Facility Planning Direction”
 - Due to public input, Board interest in pursuing two options
 - Preferred: site and build one new school and modify existing sites
 - Secondary: Utilize, reconfigure and/or expand current facilities without additional sites
 - Two top priorities for FMPC
 - Develop additional space to accommodate growing student enrollment, including a permanent solution to house the public charter school
 - Complete necessary repairs and improvements to existing school sites to address health and safety issues and improve parity in facilities across the district

Step 2: Evaluate Solutions

Facilities Master Plan Committee

- Provided analysis of various options for addressing growth, overcrowding, BCS campus
- Committee consensus statements:
 - Guiding principle to avoid closing or relocating a school
 - Preferred Option:
 - Purchase new site
 - Build new K-8 school for BCS on new site
 - Convert Blach and Egan to 6-8 middle schools
 - Strong, award-winning programs should not be sacrificed for facilities

Step 3: Finding a Site Collaboration with City of Mountain View

- Partnership yields site opportunity in NEC
 - Park and school in area that needs both; joint use for recreation
- Possible cost-effective land acquisition
 - TDRs yield up to \$79.3 million
 - Possible contribution of City park in-lieu funds up to \$23 million
 - Negotiated sale in process to avoid formal eminent domain
- Mountain View City Council's preference is neighborhood school at the new site
 - Council representation on 10th Site Advisory Task Force
- Opportunity may not come again

Step 4: Broadening Public Input

- 2012: Facilitated Breakout Sessions
- 2012: 10th Site Committee Forums
- 2014: Facilities Advisory Committee
- 2014: Facilities Master Plan Committee
- 2014: Voters Approve Measure N
- 2015: Facilities Master Plan Committee Report
- 2015: Strategy Engine Project
- 2018: Collaboration with City of Mountain View
- 2018: 10th Site Advisory Task Force
- 2018: Thought Exchange

All included diverse volunteers from LASD, BCS, Mountain View, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills

What Did We Learn?

Factors to Consider for Each Option

What Did We Learn?

Options that Arose from More Community Input

- Place BCS at 10th (or New) Site
- Neighborhood School at 10th Site
- No 10th Site: Reconfigure Existing Schools/Sites

What Did We Learn?

Factors to Consider for Each Option

- Traffic
- School Overcrowding (10 schools, 9 sites), future growth
- Flexibility Over Time
- Cost (Operational and Construction)
- Community

Traffic

- All community input forums and committees placed high priority on reducing traffic with any solution and evaluated traffic when analyzing options
- Top theme/conversation in ThoughtExchange forum was Transportation and Safety

Traffic will be studied in great detail as a component of CEQA process completed after property acquisition

Greentown Study 2012 (from SEGTF Report)

By School	WALK	BIKE	CAR	CARPOOL	OTHER	ABSENT	BUS
Almond	18%	15%	50%	13%	3%	2%	0%
Blach	11%	64%	16%	6%	3%	8%	0%
Bullis Charter	4%	7%	78%	11%	1%	1%	0%
Covington	14%	8%	64%	12%	2%	11%	0%
Egan	9%	40%	39%	10%	2%	2%	0%
Gardner Bullis	10%	7%	66%	16%	0%	3%	0%
Loyola	22%	9%	50%	17%	2%	3%	0%
Oak	20%	18%	40%	18%	4%	2%	0%
Santa Rita	no data						
Springer	29%	12%	36%	18%	4%	1%	0%
Top 3	22%	15%	43%	16%	4%	1%	0%
Total	17%	22%	45%	13%	3%	3%	0%

- Bullis Charter high rate commute by car: not neighborhood school, students district wide
- Gardner Bullis and Covington larger attendance area, longer distances
- Junior High students more self-sufficient, get to school alone more often

Greentown Study 2013 (from SEGTF Report)

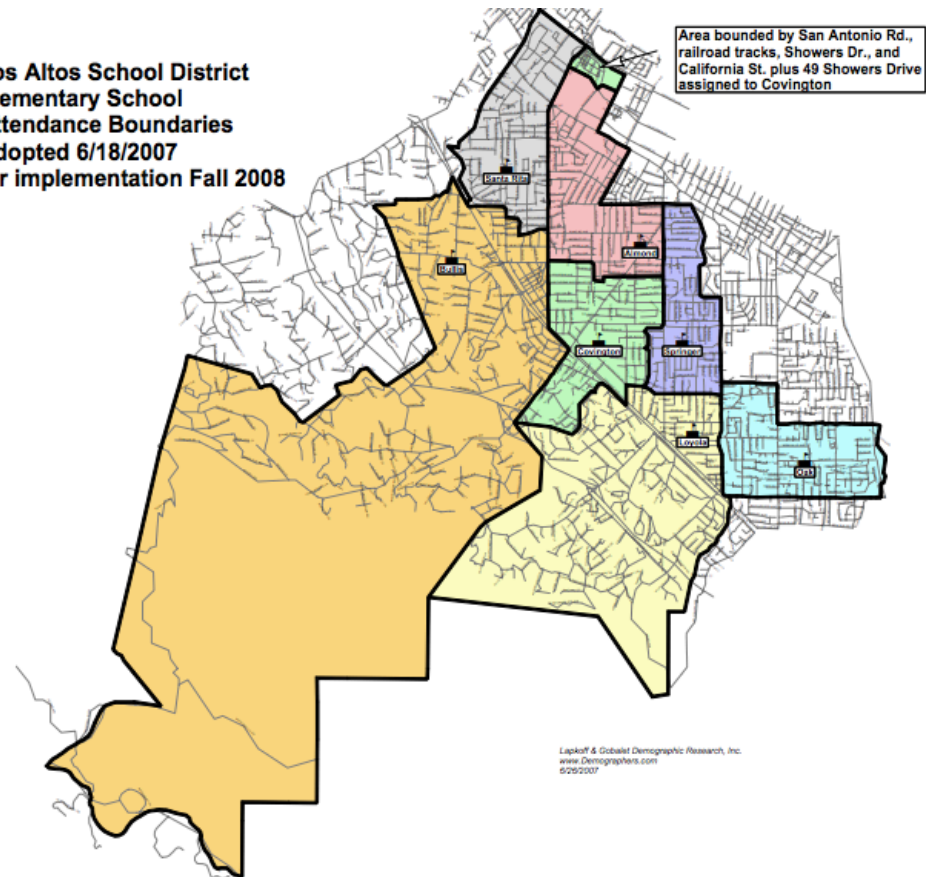
By School	WALK	BIKE	CAR	CARPOOL	OTHER	ABSENT	BUS
Almond	17%	11%	48%	21%	3%	4%	0%
Blach	10%	35%	38%	14%	4%	5%	0%
Bullis Charter							
Covington	14%	5%	66%	15%	1%	6%	0%
Egan	9%	31%	45%	15%	1%	5%	0%
Gardner Bullis	7%	5%	75%	13%	0%	4%	0%
Loyola	20%	3%	61%	14%	1%	11%	0%
Oak	16%	13%	40%	29%	1%	4%	0%
Santa Rita	15%	9%	59%	14%	3%	5%	0%
Springer	23%	8%	43%	21%	5%	4%	0%
Top 3	18%	11%	44%	24%	3%	4%	0%
Total	15%	13%	53%	16%	2%	5%	0%

Almond, Covington and Santa Rita have student attendance from NEC. While each one of these schools doesn't have the highest commute, the rates could decrease with a neighborhood school in NEC.

District Map

- Neighborhood schools aren't walkable and bikeable for all students

**Los Altos School District
Elementary School
Attendance Boundaries
Adopted 6/18/2007
for implementation Fall 2008**



Covington

- Most students within 15 min walk to school except students in NEC
- Greentown Study: Covington & Santa Rita have more commuters than Almond

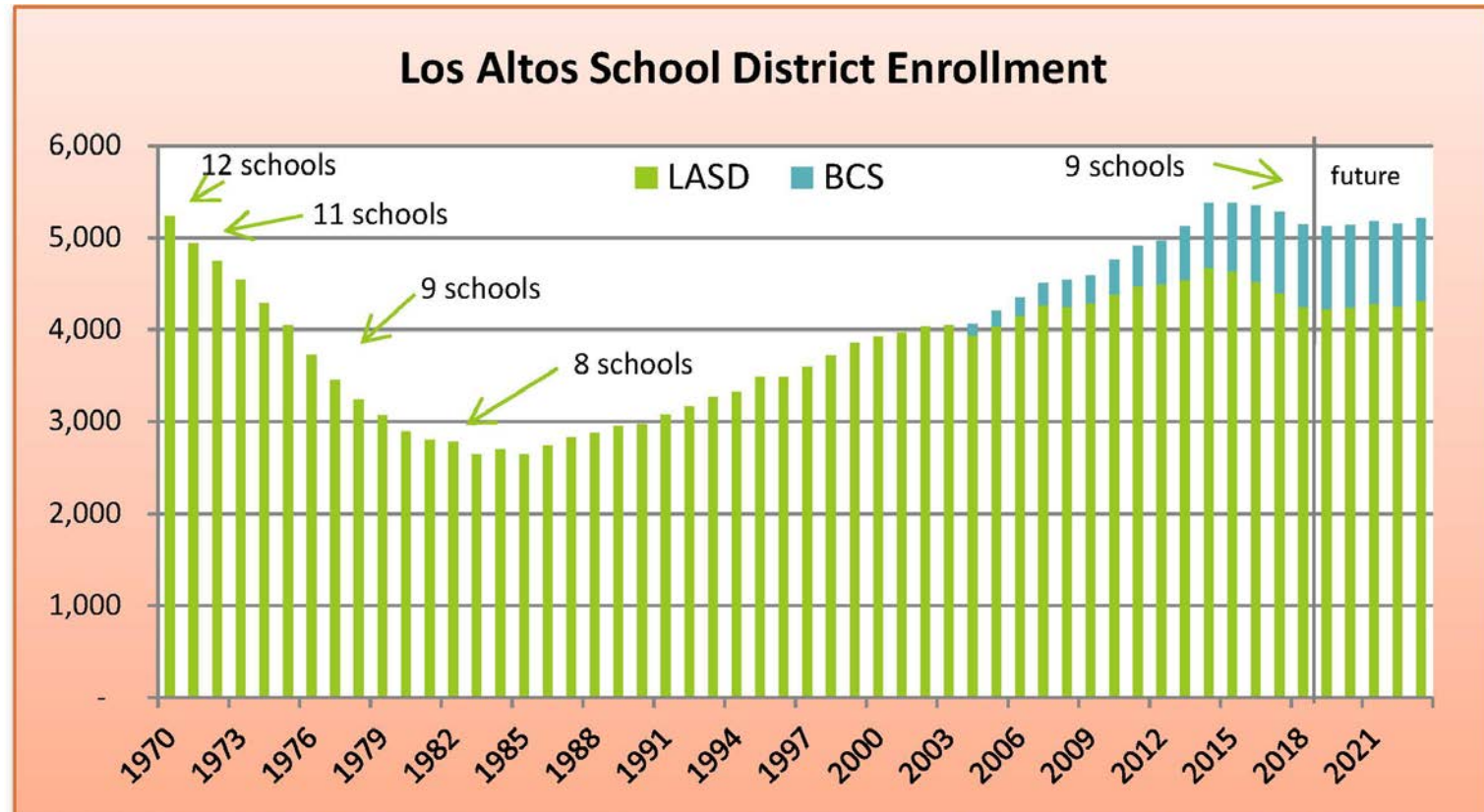
Santa Rita

- Nearly all students within 15-30 min walk
- NEC outside walk area

Almond

- Largest attendance area of 3 schools with longer than 29 min walk

School Overcrowding



- Current problem: 10 schools, 9 sites
- Current problem: Over 5,000 students, 1970s had 12 schools

Future Growth

- Proposed developments concentrated in the NEC area



- San Antonio East Center project (not included in demographer's forecast) since likely to be 20+ years in future

Flexibility Over Time

- Demographic and geographic shifts
 - May change school use
- BCS expand or contract
- Ongoing discussion of Junior High 7-8 vs. Middle School 6-8 model
 - Educational and school capacity factors
- Unforeseen educational changes at state level
 - (eg., Class Size, Transitional Kindergarten, All-Day Kindergarten, Pre-School)
- Financial constraints or improvements

Costs

- Construction costs vary depending on scenario
- Operational costs: \$800,000+; only applies if LASD runs a 10th school
- Land costs (for 10th site): under negotiation
- Some scenarios involve interim housing during construction (costs not yet determined)
- *Note: Costs shown for each scenario are rough estimates*

Opportunities

- New school means recreational facilities, park for community
- Partnership with City of Mountain View
- BCS needs a home: Measure N; Board direction since 2012
- Resolve shared campus and overcrowding
- Prepare for future growth
- NEC: current students cross El Camino; growth here

Challenges

- BCS-LASD conflict over facilities
 - 5 year agreement ends next year
- Closing schools
- Relocating schools
- Redistricting

Scenario

Neighborhood School at 10th Site

Traffic

- Depending on specific boundary, reduce (or eliminate) NEC students crossing El Camino
- Provide more walkability, bikeability for NEC
- Depending on how attendance boundaries are drawn, students from south of El Camino could be crossing El Camino into NEC

Growth, Overcrowding

- Neighborhood school in area of greatest growth
- May not resolve site sharing
 - Community and Board: avoid school closure
 - Where do we house BCS?
- More land to accommodate more students

Flexibility

- Could provide junior high amenities to allow flexibility over time
- Neighborhood preference vs. neighborhood school
- More space for growth over time
- Option to operate 10 schools over time

Neighborhood School at 10th Site (9 LASD schools scenarios)

LASD Jr. High or Middle School	\$70-75 mil
Land	TBD
BCS K-8 at Modified Jr. High	\$10 - 30 mil
Operational (Ongoing)	n/a

K-6 LASD School	\$60 mil
Land	TBD
BCS K-8 at Modified LASD Elementary	\$30 mil
Operational (Ongoing)	n/a

Either option requires relocating an LASD school to new site

Neighborhood School at 10th Site (10 LASD schools scenarios)

K-6 LASD School	\$60 mil
Land	TBD
BCS Build Out at Blach and Egan	\$85 mil
Interim Housing*	TBD
Operational (Ongoing)	\$800,000

*Interim housing for Blach construction and Egan construction, probably staggered.
This option would have the longest timeline

K-6 LASD School	\$60 mil
Land	TBD
BCS Share Single Site with LASD Elementary	\$85 - 90 mil
Operational (Ongoing)	\$800,000

Community Pros

- Gain school in area without one
- Recreational facilities, park for community use
- Mountain View City Council preference
- Second choice option from 10th Site Advisory Task Force
- FMPC: New school for LASD students
- FMPC: Retain small, neighborhood schools

Community Cons

- Scenario 1: Continue to site share
 - May not solve ongoing BCS-LASD facilities conflicts
 - Site overcrowding continues with site share
- Scenario 2: Locate BCS on vacated LASD site
 - FMPC: Moving a school perceived as closing a school
- Need to redraw school boundaries—complicated and unpopular

Scenario

Bullis Charter School at 10th Site

Traffic

- Largest car commute population
- School of choice, not a neighborhood school
- Largest school, possible growth
- Access via non-residential streets with greater capacity
- Less than one mile from one of current BCS locations
- Increase traffic in already busy area
- Maintains other neighborhood schools traffic patterns, less traffic at Junior High Schools (BCS moved)
- FMPC: Least traffic impact of top 3 Options

Site Overcrowding, Future Growth

- Solution to 10 schools on 9 sites
- Better ability to absorb enrollment increase at LASD schools with BCS at additional site
- FMPC: More land for student population

Flexibility

- K-8 school, junior high facilities, can be used for either elementary or junior high in future
- Possibility for 6-8 middle school model without BCS at Egan and Blach

BCS at 10th Site

Cost

K-8 BCS School (900)	\$75 mil
Land	TBD
Operational	n/a

Community

- FMPC Pro
 - Maintains existing school communities (none dismantled)
 - New site can provide community access to recreation (field, gym, track)
 - Portion of community believes intent of Measure N
- FMPC Con
 - Loss of opportunity for NEC school
- All Task Forces and Committees recommended BCS at a new site
 - (not all unanimous, but majority)
 - SEGTF, FMPC, Strategy Engine, 10th Site Task Force
- BCS could offer neighborhood preference for NEC kids

Scenario

No 10th Site

Traffic

- Scenario 1: Shared site (s)
 - Traffic status-quo or increase, depending on site sharing locations and BCS growth
- Scenario 2: Close or relocate school; place BCS at site
 - Relieve traffic at shared schools
 - Increase traffic where BCS is relocated
 - Substantial increase traffic at new location if BCS grows beyond 900

Growth

- Scenario 1: Shared site at Egan/Blach or Other Share Option
 - BCS growth could require more space, more shared campuses or strained campuses
 - NEC growth not addressed with this option
- Scenario 2: Close/ redistrict school
 - Ongoing capacity issues
 - BCS growth to 1200+ could require more than one site
 - NEC growth not addressed with this option
- Doesn't preserve small neighborhood schools: top community priority

Cost: Site Share

Egan/Blach BCS K-8 (900) Site Share	\$85 mil
Interim Housing	TBD

LASD K-5/6 site share with BCS K-8 (900)	\$85 - 90 mil
Interim Housing	TBD

Cost: Close LASD School and Redistrict

Close LASD Elem, Modify for BCS K-8 (900)	\$30 mil
Increase capacity at remaining Elem sites	\$10 - 15 mil

- What Board and community wants to avoid
- Potential loss of community support (incl. LAEF fund raising) if LASD school closed/relocated

Flexibility

Least Flexible Option

- Shared sites
- Close schools
- Redistrict schools
- No NEC site for current or future use to address growth in area

Community

- Avoid school closure top concern of community and Board
- Avoid disruption top concern of community and Board
- Desire from community to avoid temporary solutions; long-term strongly preferred
- Pursuing new site community and Board preference since 2012
- Doesn't protect small neighborhood schools, successful educational model for LASD
- BCS-LASD discord without long-term solution and ongoing facilities negotiations
- No joint-use opportunity for recreation or new park in NEC
- Potential loss of community support

Implications of Additional BCS Growth

Conclusion

BCS at 1200+ Students

Neighborhood School at 10th Site

- Relocate LASD School to 10th Site
- BCS at vacated site plus 1 - 2 LASD sites

BCS at 10th Site

- BCS at 10th site plus 1 – 2 LASD sites
- How many students at each campus TBD

No 10th Site

- Close LASD Elem, redistrict
- BCS at vacated site plus 1 - 2 LASD sites

1. Community comments
2. Board discussion
3. No action tonight, community conversation