

Dear (School Name – Highlands and Foothill area neighborhood schools) Families,

I am writing to share some news with you about preliminary recommendations that have been provided about the future of schools in the Twin Rivers Unified School District.

A facility advisory committee reporting to the Superintendent (SFAC) comprised of 24 individuals representing families, teachers, classified staff, transportation, facilities, special education, early education, human resources, principals, police, and communications met this fall to consider Twin Rivers school facility program realignments and consolidation options from a variety of perspectives, including:

- Academic: current performance and trends, special education and English learner programs, preschool programs
- Community: partnerships, access, safety, equity and balance
- Facilities: legal compliance, appropriateness for programs, condition, enrollment capacity, expansion possibilities
- Fiscal: operational costs, revenue generated by enrollment and programs
- Operational: attendance boundaries, transportation implications, surrounding environmental factors, vehicle factors
- Programmatic: program expansion capacity, student demand

As you are aware, education funding from the State has been cut dramatically the past two years. In fact, we received \$1,573 (22%) less than expected per student this year alone. Like other school districts across California, we have seen the impact of these cuts in larger class sizes, loss of teachers and loss of programs. During these challenging budget times, we want to limit the reductions we are being forced to make. Closing an elementary school building can save approximately \$500,000, while accommodating students, teachers and programs to other sites. With an increase in enrollment at the schools receiving students, the school community will be able to better maintain programs and staffing.

After a series of meetings and discussion, the SFAC committee has recommended that the **Larchmont** campus be considered for closure and the surrounding elementary school boundaries be adjusted. In addition, it was recommended to broaden our students' junior high and high school options with the expansion of **Creative Connections Arts Academy** (grades 7, 8,9) at the campus west of **Highlands** and the **Westside Preparatory Charter Program** (grade 9) at the campus west of **Highlands** and/or **Foothill High School**. In addition the district is considering relocating **Keema Independent Study High School** to the **Campus Verdes/ Pacific High** campus. These are only initial recommendations and will be brought forward in a series of meetings for public input and discussion.

In your area, the public meetings will take place December 9th from 6-8 p.m. at the Highlands Cafeteria (6601 Guthrie Way) and on December 17th from 6-8 pm at the Foothill High School Cafeteria (5000 McCloud Drive). The SFAC committee has also made preliminary recommendations for realignments and consolidations that affect all areas of Twin Rivers.

We invite you to attend these meetings to provide your input on this process and hear about the possibilities for your students, and the North Highlands and Foothill neighborhoods. There are also a variety of communication options available if you can't make the meetings, including:

- Reviewing all the information on a special web site at www.twinriversusd.org (One of the Quick Links, *Facilities Advisory Committee*)
- Sign up for electronic newsletters related to Realignment and Consolidation from the web site www.twinriversusd.org (bottom of the page).
- Email comments accepted at SFAC@twinriversusd.org
- Written comments and ideas accepted at our school site.